

## Maine 2 Mityana Mission update and prayer letter

Revd Charles and Beth Bradshaw ~ Mityana, Uganda

January 22, 2014

*“Yet among the winged insects that go on all fours you may eat those that have jointed legs above their feet, with which to hop on the ground. Of them you may eat: the locust of any kind, the bald locust of any kind, the cricket of any kind, and the grasshopper of any kind.” (Leviticus 11:21-22)*

Dear partners in Prayer and Mission,

Happy Epiphany! **The Lord has shown forth his glory!**

The past 6 weeks have been a season of firsts: Beth and I ate grasshoppers: fried, with onions. We spoke to an audience of more than 1,000 at the Youth Conference. We celebrated our first Christmas and New Year’s in Uganda. After the Christmas Day services we watched one of the Bishop’s goats give birth, putting the finishing touch on the day’s festivities. On New Year’s Day I baptized a child named Michael Moses, my first Baptism on African soil. I took on new roles as piano teacher and computer skills instructor. Beth and I have had two tutorials on slaughtering chickens. We haven’t done it solo yet. We’ve been more like the operating room nurses, boiling water and holding the flashlight.

When I wrote on November 18 about the upcoming Youth Conference, many of our friends asked us to report on the outcome. The Conference began on Monday, December 9, at the Mityana Secondary School not far from the College and the Cathedral. I had expressed some anxiety that the posters were sent out to the parishes only 3 weeks before the Conference was to begin, but 800 young people did register before coming, and when everyone showed up, the head count was around 1,130.

I have never been to a conference quite like this. Every day, except the last, began at 5:30 am with a run in total darkness through the hills, over uneven ground, followed by calisthenics on the soccer field. Morning and afternoon were times of worship and lengthy teachings: one on the dialogue between Christian faith and scientific knowledge, and another comparing the biblical revelation of Jesus Christ with the teachings of the Q’uran; and on stewardship, including environmental stewardship. One day there was free AIDS screening; on another, a blood drive.

The second day, after lunch, our assignment (Beth’s and mine) was to give a 90-minute talk on Christian ethics.

When our turn came, we didn’t feel adequately pre-

pared, but the Holy Spirit carried us. People afterward described our talk as “grace-filled.” Evidently it struck a chord with the audience, and many of the subsequent speakers referred back to the points we made.

The Healing and Deliverance service at the Youth Conference began one evening after sunset. With the single blinding floodlight shining in our eyes, all I could see were silhouettes moving around us, most of them dancing, some writhing on the ground. The amplified music was so deafening that I couldn’t tell whether the words being sung were Luganda or English. I found a place to sit, away from all the movement, and prayed: “Lord, if you’re in this, give them, give us, whatever it is you have prepared to give, in the fullest measure.” It seems the way to go to battle against Satan is to sing praises to Jesus, and dance. The service ended at 2 a.m., by which time we were home, fast asleep. The next morning the Conference leaders said 30 of the young people had been delivered of demons.



*The Charity Worship Team led the music for the Conference*

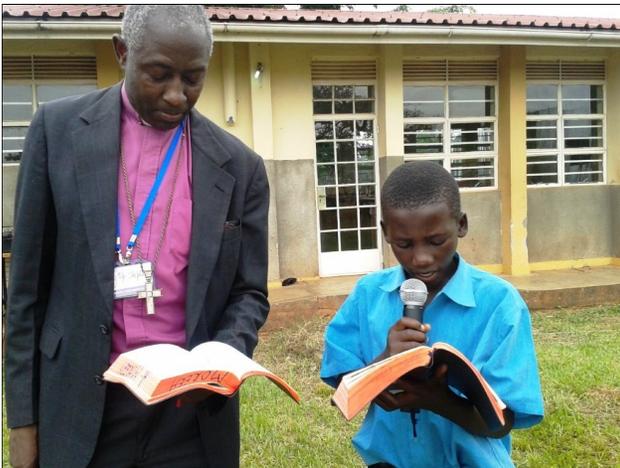
Three thousand five hundred trees had been donated. We planted about 600 on church lands during the Conference. The rest we sent back with the youth to plant in their home parishes. On the final morning, instead of the run, we all walked into Mityana town and picked up rubbish, sharing the Gospel, as we worked, with the bewildered townspeople, and then coming together in the main market where a visiting priest from the US preached a sermon, supported by an amplifier on a sound truck.

Since then, we have had long days, teaching short intensive courses in music and computer skills, mainly for students during their long vacation from school. We promise another email in a day or so telling how that went, and requesting your prayers. We have had little time to process all that we've been seeing and experiencing. That Youth Conference in early December seems like ancient history now, but I thought it was important to describe it to you, our friends and supporters in the US.

Faithfully,

*Chuck + Beth*

More photos from the Youth Conference



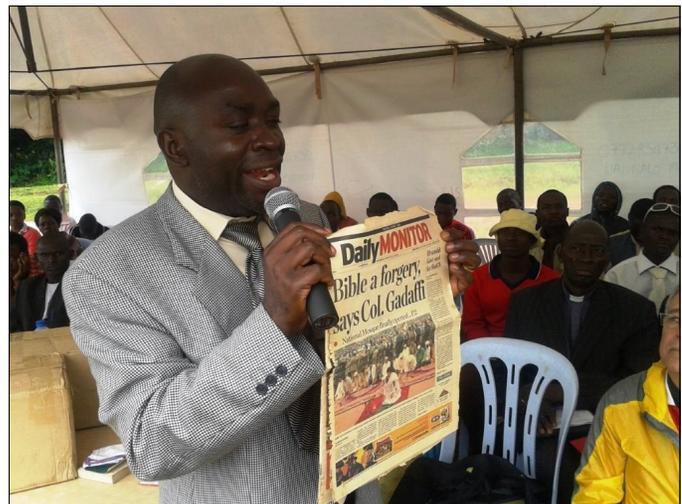
*A young man gets coaching from the Bishop on reading Scripture in public.*



*Giving our talk on Christian ethics*



*The youth arrive from their villages. When you come to a Youth Conference in Uganda, you bring your own bedding.*



*Brother Musa summarizes the contrasts between the Bible's and the Q'uran's teachings about Jesus. The headline on this back issue of the Daily Monitor reads: "Bible a forgery, says Col. Gaddafi."*