



African Evangelistic Enterprise (Uganda)

Mbale Back to God Mission 2015 Report

Dates: 4th to 13th September 2015 (and an extension of 14th to 19th September to reach Schools)

1.0 Introduction

AEE Uganda carried out its annual major city-wide mission in Mbale Municipality from 4th to 13th September 2015, with an extension running up to 19th September to cater for the schools. Pastors had been rallied from across denominations during the mission setup phase and more than 15 senior pastors served as members of the Mission Steering Committee. Overall AEE was able to get a buy-in from the local church with regard to doing the mission together. Stratified evangelism is a new concept for many pastors. Most of the mass evangelism campaigns that go on in Uganda are championed by international evangelists who bring in a lot of money and conduct one big open-air meeting running for at least four days and a pastors'/believers' conference. With that in mind, some of the pastors did not believe that Stratified evangelism was the right way to carry out this mission until they saw it happen, with very good results. The scope of this mission covered a geographical radius of 6km from Mbale town centre, and the Gospel was preached to all social groups in the town, including the day population, who come to the town to do business.

The theme which guided our proclamation was “Come Let us return to the Lord”, Hosea 6:1. In the following sections we present a brief on the mission activities carried out, feedback we have received on the impact of the mission, challenges experienced in this mission project, and proposed way forward.

2.0 Mission activities

The gospel was preached in word and deed. The following platforms were used to proclaim the word of God to the people of Mbale: seven Gospel rallies, preaching in churches, reaching 64 schools and nine institutions of higher learning, prisons ministry, a boda-boda¹ cyclists luncheon and leadership dinners. Additionally, we held an interdenominational all-night prayer meeting at the beginning of the mission, street cleaning event, dental and medical camps, and one to one evangelism. These activities helped amplify our mission visibility and consequently drew many people to the rallies at the seven stations where they were held.

Evangelists who participated in this mission include Rev. Paul Wasswa Ssembiro – the National Team Leader, Ps. Simon Peter Emiau – head of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Ps. Titus Oundo – former head of Deliverance Churches in Uganda, Bishop Edward Muhima – retired National Team Leader of AEE Uganda, Dr. Kedrace Turyagyenda – Commissioner in Ministry of Education, Engineer Rogers Semugooma, and Lieutenant Colonel Nelson Ahaabwe of Uganda Peoples Defence Forces, Mr. Edward Gaamuwa, Mrs Carol Kermu, Mr. Peter Kasamba, Rev. Justus Miwanda, Rev. Captain Titus Baraka, Mr. Oscar Kagonyera, Good

¹ A boda-boda is a motorcycle taxi. It has become the largest form of transportation in Uganda. There are 8000 boda-boda cyclists operating in Mbale municipality.

News Choir, Mr. Herbert Twina, and Off-Tu-Mission, among many others. We appreciate the sacrifice of time and resources given towards this mission.

The local church mobilized resources on the ground including platforms and Public Address Systems which were used at six rallies, motor vehicles, accommodation, and money to meet various expenses. The steering committees did a commendable job of setting up all these events, and ensuring that they all took place during the mission. 20,487 decisions for Christ were registered, 15,000 of these coming from the 64 schools which were reached. AEE wishes to highlight and appreciate Scripture Union – Eastern Region Team, who coordinated the schools outreach. The table below shows numbers of people reached and commitments registered at the different events.

Event/Mission activity	Numbers in attendance	Registered Commitments to Christ
Town Cleaning	2000	2
7 Gospel rallies in the suburbs of Mooni, Musoto, Nakaloke, Namakewkwe, nauyo, Namataala and Maluku District Administration	4388	683
Door to Door in the areas above	100	33
Boda Boda cyclists Outreach	230	30
Leadership Dinners for Civic leaders, Business leaders and the Armed forces	230	28
Dental and Medical Outreaches	383	10
Church Outreaches	5000	70
Schools Ministry; 50 primary schools, 14 secondary schools, 5 tertiary institutions and 4 Universities	37,685	15,487
Prisons Ministry	865	30
Workshops for Pastors and another for Women.	215	25
Total	50,851	16,398

3.0 Impact of the Mission

In the previous section, the number of decisions for Christ has been reported. Clearly by the numbers, it can be said that this mission has made a significant contribution to church membership. The impact of this will with time be seen as these new believers are nurtured in their faith. Additional areas of impact brought about by the mission include the following:

- i. Our town-cleaning activity sent a clear message to the municipality leadership. We observed that there was a marked difference in the cleanliness of the city between Saturday 5th September when the church cleaned up the streets and Monday 14th

September. Several spots in town which formally had heaps of trash were clean as the attached photographs reveal. On a related note, we believe that this act of cleaning the town had a prophetic significance – the town was ‘spiritually cleaned’ as a result of the mission.

- ii. The churches in Mbale are more unified after the mission. The mission gave them an opportunity to realize how much can be accomplished for the Kingdom of God when churches come together to evangelise their city. The interdenominational all-night prayer meeting that brought many pastors together to seek God, in an Anglican Cathedral was a significant land mark. However, there still remains some level of disunity among church leaders owing from some church planters having broken away from their parent church without a blessing.
- iii. The Church in Mbale now has a new concept and imagination of how to do effective urban evangelism. Two weeks after the mission, we are still receiving reports from Mbale of how positively different the mission was carried out. We believe that future efforts of evangelizing Mbale by other churches and organizations will draw from our mission implementation experience.
- iv. Sixty people filled AEE Uganda partnership cards, Ug. Shs. 227,000 was given and 1,130,000 pledged in support for the ministry. We know that as we keep in touch with each of these people, more resources will come in and we will have more people we can call upon for missions in neighbouring towns in future.

4.0 Challenges encountered

These are some of the challenges we had to deal with during the mission:

- i. Some of our events were overshadowed by electioneering which is happening this time of the year in Uganda, as we gear towards presidential and parliamentary elections at the beginning of 2016. Unfortunately, some of the members of the Steering Committee decided to join elective politics two months before the proclamation week. Inevitably such a decision affects the mission field and subjects all deed activities to carried out to dual interpretation – to show the love of Christ or influence people to vote for the pastors who are part of the mission project.
- ii. Uganda Christian University and all schools opened the week beginning Sunday 13th September when most of the evangelists had returned to their homes. Having set the mission dates months before, we committed a smaller team to reach schools in the extended period. We believe that if schools had been in session in the week beginning September 6th, we would have seen more conversions and spent less on accommodation.
- iii. Thirty percent of our expected income was not realized. We had to scale down some of the activities we had planned to do, especially medical outreach and radio programmes.
- iv. There are some churches which did not participate in the mission, mostly because they do not work with some of the churches which participated in the mission. There are some Pentecostal churches which refuse to work with any mainline church.
- v. One choir member at one of the rallies fell from the platform and hurt herself. By the end of the mission she was still on treatment.

5.0 Follow up plans and Appeal

To conserve the fruit of the mission, we will do the following:

- i. We are contacting all people who made commitments in the mission through text messaging and email, to give them encouragement.
- ii. We will continue to offer support to the regional Scripture Union who working through chaplains and patrons of Scripture Union clubs in schools will nurture the new believers in schools.
- iii. We will conduct a new-believers one-day conference on October 17th 2015 in Mbale.
- iv. We will hold a pastors meetings to discuss lessons learned and how to consolidate what was achieved in the mission.
- v. It is becoming more urgent that AEE acquires its own Public Address system. More than 15% of the expenditure went towards hiring the sound system for the main four-days rally.
- vi. We appeal for support towards publication of tracts and follow up materials for use in evangelistic outreach. We intend to produce such in the five main languages in Uganda.

6.0 A word of Appreciation

We give praise and thanks to the Lord who enabled us to carry out this mission. We are so thankful that none of our activities was disrupted by rain over the 16 days. Glory be to God for all He drew to Himself. Additionally we wish to thank the following categories of people and organizations:

- i. The family of African Enterprise International , members of AEE, staff, friends and partners in ministry for the financial support.
- ii. We thank the Bible Society of Uganda, LIFE Ministry, Scripture Union and RUN Dental for partnering with us in executing this mission
- iii. We thank all churches in Mbale who gave financially towards this mission, and those from Kampala including St. Francis Chapel, All Saints Cathedral, Worship Harvest, St. Andrews Bukoto, St. Kakumba Chapel, .
- iv. We thank all the Associate evangelists as mentioned above
- v. We thank all members of the Steering Committee, chaired by Bishop Andrew Mutengu of Word of Faith Ministries
- vi. We thank Mbale diocese who gave us space at the Community Centre which served as our coordination office and place where all meals were served.

We pray that all who made contributions openly or behind the curtains will be immensely rewarded by the Lord.

7.0 Stories and Testimonies

Boda Boda Outreach

Lukiya Moses a Boda Boda rider in Mbale town: “Coming here and listening to the word of God made me feel loved. Every day people call us names and criticise us but no one ever tells us what God thinks about us”.

The meal we shared wasn’t a lot but gathering with all these other riders made me realise our impact as Boda Boda riders in Mbale district. After receiving Christ he said he was going to let go of his bad habits and be a Boda Boda rider that seeks to please God and his clients.

Prison Outreach

The greatest testimony was of a lady called Christine Namutosi 34 years and her husband that were arrested 2 years ago and detained at Mbale Prison on the theft allegation from Christine's boss. She consented to the crime with her husband who was later released.

After her husband was released, she was filled with a lot of bitterness, and she blamed God for everything that had happened to her, many people tried to preach to her the gospel but she couldn't listen to them.

Before our visit to the prison, Christine hated reading the Bible and attending prayers at the prison Chapel, instead she quietly planned to avenge her boss when she got out of prison. To add to her bitterness, she soon got news that her husband had re-married. She vowed never to forgive him and that's when the team from AEE visited the prison.

"God has transformed my Life in prison, I entered this prison a bitter person, full of hatred and un-forgiveness, but now I feel like the bitterness and hatred has been melted away, I feel like am a brand new person", she says.

Comments from participating Church Leaders;

Rev. Juliet: (St. Andrew's Anglican Cathedral)

"People committed their lives to Christ and those already believers, their commitment to serve God was re-ignited. There was a sense of unity among the different denominations; to the end that relationships across denominations were and continue to be cemented. We are also deliberating on forming an interdenominational team of Church leaders solely focused on Evangelism."

Pr. Sitaati: (Pastor Global Harvest Ministries)

"There's a great desire for continuity of such a joint effort, and Pastors who for whatever reason didn't participate are regretting and longing to have been part. This mission had an unusual impact even amidst political campaigns."

Bp Richard Peke: (Senior Pastor Heaven's Gate Church & Coordinator of Mass Choir)

"The mass choir composed of choirs from numerous churches, that formed for the purpose of ministering at the Gospel rallies has chosen to stick together and continue doing joint music ministry together. They are recording a music album of songs they composed for the mission. The town cleaning activity also sent a strong message throughout the entire town. The Pastors are already thinking of similar events on an annual basis. People who received Christ are already registering their presence in local Churches for further church follow-up."

Dr. Katungyi: (Medical Officer in charge Namataala Health Centre IV)

"The medical outreach made the local poor very happy and feel very valued. The dental outreach was great that up till now there are more demands on us the health fraternity for the service. We wish as healthcare providers that the outreaches were spread to all the other Health Centres."

Isaac Kagoda (LIFE Ministry/Campus Crusade coordinator East & Northern Uganda)

"It was a unique and superior strategy. I have never seen such an outreach to people who have always been left out by other Gospel missions; for instance the civic leaders. This is a lasting challenge to the body of Christ to come together and do great exploits together more often."

8.0 Conclusion

Mbale back to God mission was a big success. Many people came to the Lord. The church has a lot of work to do – following up the new converts and nurturing them in the faith. AEE is committed to walking this addition journey with the church leaders. We believe that what was shared with the people of Mbale has helped to bring the church closer together and prepare the populace for the coming elections. With hearts that have been reconciled to God, reconciliation with one another across political party divides is achievable. As we continue to evangelize the cities of Africa, we appeal for support to acquire a public address system which can address at least 5000 people, and support towards printing Gospel tracts and follow up materials in five dominant local languages.

Town Cleaning Event



Boda-Boda Outreach Pictorial



Leadership Dinners Event





Gospel Rally Event



Schools and Universities Ministry



