

## WEEK 5 REPORT FROM UGANDA

On Monday Morning I attended morning devotions at St. Paul's (Anglican) Cathedral with Bishop Amos Magezi and the diocesan staff of about 20 people, where Bishop Magezi had asked me to be the guest preacher. I preached on the temptation of Jesus. Afterwards I met with Bishop Magezi and we talked about a variety of topics for almost two hours.



With Bishop Amos Magezi

In the afternoon my good friend Rev. Kuruka Amutuhaire and I drove up to his family plantation to have lunch with his father, mother and sister. Kuruka's father, Fred Magezi, is Head of Laity for the Lutheran Church of Uganda. The plantation is about a 30-minute drive north from Ibanda. I also visited here two years ago.

On Tuesday morning Kuruka picked me up early and showed me around the diocesan property, which is very extensive. There is now a girls' secondary school on the grounds, Kibubura, which was not there two years ago when I visited, in addition to the coed primary school that was already there. We also visited the Child Development Center, which partners with Compassion International to provide many services to children. The diocese also has a hospital, a vocational training center for young people, a coffee mill and coffee warehouse. At the vocational training center, we saw young people being trained in accounting, construction, tailoring/sewing, hair dressing (for the girls) and agriculture.



**The new girls' secondary school**



**Touring the hospital with one of the doctors**



**The coffee factory where coffee is milled**



**Young men learning how to make bricks in the construction class**

After the tour, I led day one of four days of retreats on 7 Lessons for Living the Spiritual Life. Day one was for parish Lay Readers and about 120-130 people attended. After each lesson I always ask if anyone would like to share a testimony on that topic and always have a good response. These testimonies help to reinforce the importance of the teachings.



**Tuesday retreat at St. Paul's Cathedral**

On Wednesday the retreat was for Mothers Union and Fathers Union leaders, with at least 40 in attendance.



**Mothers Union and Fathers Union Leaders at the Wednesday retreat**

The Thursday retreat was for Heads of Laity at the diocesan and Parish level, with about 25 in attendance.

After the retreat, Kuruka and I visited the Marianne Foundation in Ibanda, which supports teen girls and young women, teaching them job skills such as tailoring/sewing, making hand bags and hair dressing. I also visited here two years ago. The foundation also provides a dormitory for the girls to live in, as many are refugees and some are single mothers. The Marianne Foundation operates a clothing store and hair salon, and we visited both. Moses Ahimbisibwe, who is chairman of the Education Committee of the LCU Southwestern Deanery, manages the foundation (and takes no salary) and Kuruka serves as chaplain for the girls.



**Visiting the clothing store**



**With Moses Ahimbisibwe and some of the girls**



Kuruka, our driver Bernard, and I left Ibanda on Saturday at 4:45 AM and drove to Kampala, about a 5 ½ hour drive, where we had some errands to take care of. Afterwards we drove to Namirembe Guest House for lunch. This guest house is on a high hill, on top of which sits the Church of Uganda's cathedral. The guest house is below the cathedral and serves church leaders and missionaries from abroad while they are in Kampala. I stayed there in the afternoon for some rest while Kuruka and Barnard ran more errands.

On Saturday evening, Kuruka and Bernard took me to Entebbe Airport, for the first of my three flights home and I returned home about 5:45 PM on Sunday. From the time I left Ibanda until I arrived home was about 43 hours.

Our ministry with the Anglicans was greatly appreciated and I was asked by many people to return.

Bill Oehlschlager