



December 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters,

The reason we came to Africa was to plant churches, so the forming of a new church is always an exciting event. When we first came to Africa in 2013, we knew very little about how to do ministry in Africa and we were looking for a place to serve. God led us to the church in Ruti that had just had to shut its doors due to the terminal illness of the pastor. Most of the members had gone and for all intents and purposes, the church died. We came in with a fellow missionary and began to hold services to try to bring the church back. I pastored the church for over a year and then turned it over to a national leader. Unfortunately, the church didn't grow and the national never took the leadership to officially form the church.

Let me pause for a second to help you understand the situation. As we looked into the past of the church, we found that many people who were members were not eligible due to living in sin or not being Biblically married. There was also a lot of confusion concerning the property the church was on and I didn't feel like it was the proper time, or in my place, to form the church without laying a stronger foundation of teaching. I had hoped the church would be formed sooner, but God has a perfect timing that is not always ours.

Earlier this year, I performed the wedding ceremony for a man whom we have known and worked with for a good number of years. He is a Bible college graduate and was looking for a place of ministry. The pastor of Ruti left to be in another ministry, so the church was once again without leadership. Since we are no longer living in the area, this was a perfect situation for him to take the church ministry there and he has been doing a great job with the church. He called me several weeks ago and told me that it was time to form the church and asked for my assistance and attendance. So on November 18, we attended the official forming of the Ruti Independent Baptist Church. It was a real blessing to be a part and to see all those whom we have worked with over the years still continuing faithful in the church. Twelve people signed the founding document and the picture is of them cutting the cake together, a Ugandan tradition that must happen at every party.



I was also able to visit Rwanda and see the properties that were purchased. The church building is nearly complete in Nyagatare and we hope to have a building dedication and baptism in January there. Property was also purchased in Kigali and it is in a very good location so thank you for praying about that. We are praying that we will be able to build buildings on these properties sometime next year, and there is a lot of work for me to do teaching the national leadership as we prepare to get these churches started over the next year.



One of the other things my wife and I were able to do in November was have a marriage conference at the church in Mbarara. We had nine couples attend for the two day conference, and almost all have been married within the last three years. Helping these couples to understand how to have a Christ honoring marriage is an important part of building the ministry here and we hope that this conference will be the first of many to come.

December will also include a trip to Kasese to teaching a Bible institute on finances. I am looking forward to helping the young men there understand the importance of money and how to use it for God and His work. There is not a better time to teach about giving than during the Christmas season.

Thanks to all for your support and encouragement this year. We want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

In Christ,

David, Talia, Hope, Joy, Josiah, and Abigail Ruley

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