



Mission Update

News from Renaissance Outreach Ministries

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Fear not, I bring you good news!

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” so says the angel to the shepherds in Luke 2:10.

Good news is something we all need and get too little of. Our media is filled with stories of crime, wars, political infighting and more. A steady diet of TV news shows leaves the listener filled with discouragement. At times, we can only say, “Come, Lord Jesus!”

Our cry to Jesus is indeed the first step. The good news is that Christ has come for the first time in a stable in Bethlehem. The angel tells the shepherds who were the social outcasts of the day that there was good news. That news is hope.

The news arrives in the dark of the night. The skies are black except for the twinkling of the multitude of stars that shine ever so brightly on a Judean hillside where there is no artificial light. Suddenly a brightness shines about them. It's not the natural light of night stars or the moon; it's Heavenly Glory that comes with the angel. And the news is cause for celebration.

The light of Christ is an antidote to the frustrations of the world. It counters the darkness that permeates our daily life. When things seem hopeless in this world, the light of Christ comes to remind us that we have nothing to truly fear.

Christ is in control! I Peter 5:8 tells us “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. (NIV). Scripture tells us that we have an enemy, but in Christ we also have a protector as well as an advocate before the Throne of God.

The good news of Christmas is that we indeed have a wonderful savior who saves us from our sins as well as helps us to fight against the powers of Satan. Yes, the Devil is real. Society often tries to pretend that Satan is just a figment of our imagination. But look around you and see the evil in this world Where did



this evil come from? It wasn't God's plan for us. Instead, the archangel who rebelled against God became the leader of the rebellion that fights against God and His creation.

The Devil makes his presence known in many ways. But so does God. A spiritual dimension does indeed exist. It may be beyond our sight, but it is still present and working hard in this world.

God enters an angry and dark world by becoming one of us. He walks with us, talks with us, teaches us and takes the penalty of our sins with him. He has a name. The Greek name is Jesus, but his Hebrew name is “Yeshua” which means “He saves.” He is indeed the one who saves us from ourselves as well as our mortal enemy the Devil himself.

Christmas is the time when we remember that God did not forget us. Instead, God gives us the gift of His son to bring joy, hope and salvation to us in this dark world. Merry Christmas!

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News and stories about the work of Renaissance Outreach Ministries

Rev. Jan L. Beaderstadt, President
be.kultraining@gmail.com—(989) 254-1279

Rev. Carl Q. Litchfield
Secretary—(269) 275-5296

Ron Simpson, Treasurer
P. O. Box 121, Greentown, IN 46936
rsim780194@sbcglobal.net

Renaissance Outreach Ministries is a non-profit ministry with a 501(c)3 classification. All donations are tax-deductible. Financial data available upon request.

Uganda offers teaching opportunities

One of the advantages of being a small ministry is that we can quickly respond to needs when they arise. While large missions need plenty of time to make policy decisions, Renaissance Outreach can quickly respond to particular needs. This is especially true when it comes to training clergy and laity in developing nations.

Renaissance started out in Africa 20 years ago. By invitation in 2000, we began working in Bangladesh and eventually India and Nepal. Now we're back in Africa part of each year.

Rev. Jan L. Baderstadt, president of Renaissance Outreach Ministries worked in eastern Uganda from 2001 to 2007. Now the opportunity to return to this east Africa nation to teach at the newly organized Trinity Theological College in Kampala has opened up.

These days, Nepal is safe for visitors, but for Christian missionaries the window of opportunity is closing. After 2008, Nepal was wide open for Christians to come and teach and share the love of Christ. Today, new laws passed from the Nepali parliament under pressure by fundamental Hindus has made such work very difficult. Missionaries are often arrested and quickly expelled from the country. Church leaders are sometimes jailed.

Uganda has become Renaissance's *Plan B*. While we continue to work in Nepal and support the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas, we know that we must have an alternative location. And God as opened the door to Uganda.

Uganda welcomes Christians

Uganda is primarily Christian. But it's under attack from Islam. Countries such as Saudi Arabia and Libya under Col. Khadafi have been setting up mosques and Islamic schools in an attempt to change the country to an Islamic one.

When Idi Amin was president and dictator of Uganda in the 1970s, his goal was to make Uganda an Islamic state. His efforts did not succeed, but it did open the door to outside influences. There are Islamic schools in the country that are teaching jihad. To date, the country is only 12% Muslim. Through tricks and deceit which includes outright financial offerings, Islam is growing.

Islamic leaders, flushed with petrodollars, are offering free loans to people



Training pastors in Uganda.

if they convert to Islam. It's usually done in the form of Islamic banks. When people can't pay the money back, they are given a choice: go to court or convert to Islam.

The government of Uganda is primarily Christian including a Christian president. There is full freedom of religion in this country. Uganda is a strong supporter of America and its war on terrorism.

Rev. Baderstadt will be teaching in Kasese and Kampala, two major cities in the country. Kampala is the capital of Uganda. The Anglican Church has opened Trinity Theological College under the leadership of Dr. Sams Kironde-Kigozi. Highly educated, he holds dual citizenship with USA and Uganda. Rev. Baderstadt will be teaching as a guest lecturer on leadership and Old Testament.

While the college is Anglican, students will be coming from all denominations, a requirement of Renaissance Outreach Ministries. The Ugandan government has passed a law that all churches in the country must be registered and that all pastors must possess some degree of theological education in order to lead a congregation. This has been done to help eliminate fraudulent churches and leaders who wish to use the Gospel to exploit people for money.

Rev. Baderstadt has received invitations for October 2020 to come to Kenya to conduct some short seminars. This is part of the work of Renaissance.

Training pastors and church leaders is the primary goal of Renaissance Outreach Ministries over its 20 years. We continue to follow God's call.

CLUB 100 APPLICATION

Yes! Please enroll me as a member of the Club 100. I want to be a supporter of the Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. I agree to give \$_____ a month/year (circle one).

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