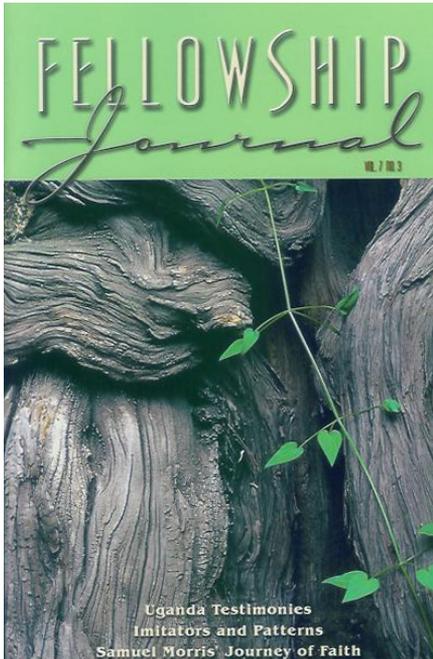


# FELLOWSHIP *Journal*

VOLUME 7, NO. 3 • MAY 2008



## Contents

Testimonies  
from Uganda

Being an Imitator  
and a Pattern  
to Gain Christ

Samuel Morris  
and His Saga  
of Faith

Published by the Church in Cleveland Literature Service.  
3150 Warren Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44111  
Telephone: (216) 251 - 8832 • Fax: (216) 476 - 9699

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# Table of Contents

Report from Uganda	4
Trainee Testimonies	7
Two Full-timers' Testimonies	16
The Experience of Christ in Philippians: Message 33 Imitators and Healthy Patterns	19
Watchman Nee on the Local Church	25
Samuel Morris (Kaboo)	27
Marriage in God's Plan (reprint*)	35

\*due to problems in the previous issue, it seemed desirable to re-present the article with corrections

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.” (Matthew 24:6-8)

Representatives still remain of that generation that witnessed the rebirth of Israel in 1948 (the “fig tree” sending forth its “leaves” in Matthew 24:32).

How much time is left for us to do the work of the Lord before we must stand before Him? How much time do we have to mature and bear fruit that we might offer to Him on that Day?

“Abide in Me and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you, unless you abide in Me.” (John 15:4)

“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58)

# Uganda Africa

An update to the churches

March 2008



Page 1 of 3

## Continuing the Lord's interest

Throughout the New Testament the Lord's heart of love for the people and His intense interest in man is revealed. It can be seen clearly in His earthly ministry but especially visible in the continuation of His ministry through His disciples. It was not long after selecting the twelve disciples that the Lord sent them out as apostles to proclaim the gospel. Shortly after this, the Lord sent out seventy two more disciples. Then after His death and resurrection the Lord appears to His disciples and charges them to go out as His witnesses to all the nations. The Lord is seeking more disciples who will share in His burden and commission.

In January, we began to reconsider our labor and were touched by the Lord's heart of love for people. In the past 4 weeks we made a concerted effort to pray for people and go out with the gospel. During this time we brought the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to over 1,200 people. Over 400 of those people received follow-up care (shepherding) through personal one-on-one fellowship and Bible studies. The saints are encouraged as they witness first hand people becoming disciples of the Lord as the fruit of their labor. To witness a Makerere University student brought to the Lord through the gospel by Simon Sserubiri (one of the trainees), check out [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or [www.googlevideo.com](http://www.googlevideo.com) and search title, "The power of John 3:16".



**High School Ministry**—every week students from Old Kampala Senior Secondary School gather together for a Bible study at a hostel near the school. Patrick Eyoku—a full-time serving brother, is seen ministering to them.

*The Gospel—the power  
of God unto salvation*



**Power of John 3:16**—Simon Sserubiri a participant in the ten-month training preaches the gospel to a Makerere University Student. See the entire interaction on [googlevideo.com](http://googlevideo.com)

**A welcomed visit**—A University student (left) prays with two sisters from the ten-month training who shared with her the good news of Jesus Christ.



**Ivan Kadoko**—a brother serving full-time in the church, preaches the gospel to a man at Freedom Square.



**Shepherding**—Some new members of the church enjoy a time of recreation and games after the Sunday morning church meeting with some brothers from the training.

# Uganda Africa

An update to the churches

March 2008

Page 2 of 3



**Ephesians Experts** (left to right) David Ssemplijja, Mark Mangau, Richard Kanya, Eva Nabalime, Sarah Kukunda, Sarah Tenywa, Victoria Nankya, and McBen Abaasa all successfully memorized and recited the entire book of Ephesians! Wow! That's letting the Word dwell in you richly.

## Laboring with Christ according to vision

In order to effectively serve the Lord it is important to have a definite vision or mission. Once the vision is clear all the resultant prayers, plans, and activities can then be measured for their effectiveness in accordance to that vision.

In January brother Vern Yoder visited and conducted a leadership training. After this training, the saints serving full-time and those in the ten-month training developed personalized mission statements based upon their vision. This has helped to refine their labor and even caused them to pray more specifically. Overall more people are hearing the gospel, being baptized, receiving personal care, and attending the church gatherings. Let us all pray that all the saints would continue to cooperate with the present move of the Spirit.



**Shirley Tomes** - Shares with children in the Naguru community one Lord's Day morning.

## Experts of Ephesians

As ambassadors of Christ we represent Him in our work, living, and words. How can we represent the Lord without knowing His Holy Word? How much we need His words to be part of our very constitution.

An important part of the ten-month training is to impart into the trainees a love and appreciation for the Bible. Participants in the training are in the process of reading through the entire Bible. In addition they have been memorizing the book of Ephesians chapter by chapter since the start of the training (August 2007). In January 2008, eight brothers and sisters successfully memorized and recited the entire book of Ephesians- all six chapters! To catch a glimpse of their enthusiasm for the Word, check out [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) or [www.googlevideo.com](http://www.googlevideo.com) and search "**Ephesians 4 recited**" by McBen Abaasa.



**Rejoicing**- Full-time serving brothers and sisters rejoice with those they have brought to the Lord as they prepare to take another step for the Lord through baptism. *Above*- New ones preparing to get baptized enter into prayer with saints from the church prior to their baptism.

# Uganda Africa

An update to the churches

March 2008



Page 3 of 3

## New Service training- spreading the church

Community leaders and pastors from several communities come together every Tuesday afternoon for an eight week training concerning leadership in the church. The burden of this time is to help leaders in other congregations within Kampala city to see that they are part of the church and to be a healthy example for the saints to follow.

Brother Emmanuel Lubuulwa from the Kireka community has taken what he has learned from these trainings and is now conducting a training with about 15 core members in the congregation which he leads. His burden is to bring those serving saints in Kireka into the same vision of Christ and the church that he has.



*Community Leaders-* from small congregations throughout Kampala gather every week for a leadership training.



Vern Yoder with McBen Abaasa and and Sam Lucinda (2 trainees) at Jinja



*Training in Kireka-* Emmanuel (Emma) Lubuulwa shares with core members in Kireka community.



Nigel Tomes with wife Shirley and son, Jesse

## Much Appreciated

In January brother Vern Yoder visited Uganda. During his visit he conducted a leadership training for the trainees and full-time serving saints. In addition he provided personal shepherding to many of the brothers and sisters and ministry to the church. His ministry was well received and appreciated by all.

Then this month, Nigel Tomes visited with his wife and son. During his visit, Nigel carried the ten-month training classes and worked with the full-time serving saints. He also ministered during the service training for pastors and visited several church communities. Thank the Lord for the visitation of brothers Vern and Nigel. What a blessing their labor and ministry has brought to the church!

## A special thanks...

*Tina and I would like to personally thank all of you for your ongoing love and support for us and the work of the Lord here in Uganda. Our spirits were refreshed by the love of the saints during our visit to the USA in December. As we enter our 4<sup>th</sup> year of labor here in Uganda, we pray the Lord would establish some solid pillars to carry the church on into the future.*

**ugandankeith@yahoo.com**

Keith and Tina Miller PO Box 10704  
Kampala, Uganda, AFRICA



# Testimonies of Those Participating in the Ten-Month Foundational Christian Leadership Training in Kampala, Uganda



I am the first-born in a polygamous family made up of 12 children, one father and four mothers. I was raised up with a strong Catholic background, but I became a born-again Christian through Keith Miller's gospel outreach at Makerere University.

In August 2007 I received a scholarship to participate in the ten-month Foundational Christian Leadership course. I began with much eagerness to learn from the Bible, of which I knew almost nothing. I am now proud to say that I know something from it. I am glad that I now can recite the whole book of Ephesians and Philippians without even opening the Bible. I am also happy that I can recite some other verses from various books of the Bible from memory. Much more, I am happy for the love I now have toward fellow Christians and even unbelievers, many who show signs of believing in Christ soon.

Now out of love I can preach the gospel of Christ. I cannot idly sit in the brothers' house without being concerned with what is taking place on the campus, my area of labor. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere; therefore I cannot just sit on what I have gained in the training and leave people to perish in their sins. What affects them directly affects me indirectly.

I am thankful to Keith Miller for his labor at our campus and in Uganda. The population of hell has been reduced and this has brought joy to the angels in the heavenlies. I treasure and love seeing people get saved. I pray the Christ who began a good work in me will complete it until the day of His return. Your brother, **David Ssempijja**



When I was presented with the opportunity to join the training, I first spent a great deal of time contemplating if I really needed it. I felt I was knowledgeable enough on spiritual things, and my spiritual state was not worrisome. I imagined what the content of the training would be, and I just saw myself putting a check against everything. But the Lord prompted me to join the training anyway.

Now eight months into the training, I am the most grateful person. On one hand, these have been eight months of experiencing Christ as I never have hitherto in my life. But on the other hand, it has been a period of shocking realization! I never knew myself until this moment. The Lord's spotlight has been most strong on me, exposing my shallowness, ignorance, corruption, weaknesses, and failure. The disappointment on my part after discovering I was not as good as I had supposed was heart-rending. It seemed like all along I had maintained a false impression of myself. Before the training, I considered myself a positive addition to the group. Within a few months of its commencement, I was not sure of that anymore. It looked like everything about me was wrong! My thought, attitude, desires, living, conduct, plans and ambitions: everything in my human life just showed how narrow, and self-centered I am. I was ashamed, humbled and at times embarrassed.

However, realizing who I am made me recognize how much I needed Christ. Till now, I had neither valued nor loved Him that much. He is now a million times more precious than I can tell! Now I delight in pursuing Him to gain Him. I want to be found in Christ! He is my life, my righteousness, my joy, my peace, my delight, my way, my end. For me to live is CHRIST!

My heartfelt appreciation goes to the saints who have been the Lord's instrument in helping us to grow in Christ. Outside of brother Keith and sister Tina, my heartfelt gratitude goes to brother John Myer, whose books, *Solid* and *Swimming with the Sharks*, have been a great benefit. I can't forget Mzee ("older man") Vern Yoder, who always leaves us more focused and purpose-driven with each visit he makes. My appreciation also goes to brother Nigel Tomes ("History is important!") for giving us an invaluable insight into church history.

Above all, my appreciation goes to the saints in America, who in a way have been the backbone supporting God's work in Uganda. Your sowing is not in vain. At best we are eternally grateful, but the Lord Himself will reward you suitably. Your brother, **Mark Mungau**



I had just finished my law course apart from one exam, which I had failed and would need to retake. While studying, I heard singing outside my hall of residence. I went down seemingly to my friend whom I needed to talk to, but found myself sitting down to listen to the music being sung. A flyer was passed inviting me to a Bible study. The following Saturday I came and loved the word being spoken.

Before I came to the ten month training, I was just a person who was born again, loving Jesus, and going to church. That was all there was to my Christian life. But when I joined the training, I got the understanding that there is work to do for my God, and therefore God is looking for workers! It is in this training, for the first time in my life that I came to know the vision of Christ and the Church, the goal of God! My eyes were opened to see what is the heart of God, His will, desire and plan for mankind. Thank You Jesus for revealing to me Your precious plan for mankind! Now I know and have a vision for my life—Christ and the Church. Now I'm a Jesus lover, and one who is a visionary for the work and interest of God, one whose goal is Christ and the Church. Therefore this goal I pursue, this goal I lay hold of! "I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called me upward" (Philippians 3:14). God bless you. Amen! **Sarah Kukunda**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I salute you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord! This is Stella extending regards to you in appreciation of your support during this period of training for the service of the Lord. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all for the spiritual material and financial assistance you have offered that has enabled the success of the training.

Through the training I have been able to read the entire Bible within a short time. Preaching the gospel was such a hard task for me but it has been simplified and it is now my pleasure to share the gospel with categories of people without fear. I have learned to analyze Biblical truth through the Crucial Truth lessons. I would have missed all these had I not joined the training.

I pray that the Lord may draw many to Himself through me and may the good Lord richly bless you. **Stella Esenu** (part-time participant)



Before joining the training, I felt it was the Lord that said, “You’ll serve Me wherever you’ll be.” As to what service involved and how I could carry it out was unclear to me – I needed to be equipped.

In the training,, studies on growth in life and crucial truths (a study in the book of Romans) changed the view of my life, especially regarding my union with Christ. Two other classes, *The Vision of the Church* and *The Practicality of the Church*, helped me appreciate the Church. I felt like, “Wow! This is something worth dying for.” Now I’m beginning to see the Church expressed and practiced according to the Bible.

In the training we enjoy the Lord together by singing and praying every morning. I’ve learned how to enjoy the Word in prayer and by proclaiming it. I’m learning how to pray, asking from the Lord. I’ve also learned some new things like exercising the spirit.

I have learned to study the Bible, make outlines, and speak what I’ve gotten. Learning how to use tools like a concordance has also been helpful. Reading through the Bible, memorizing two books in the New Testament and a survey of the Old and New Testaments have greatly helped my knowledge, familiarity with, and understanding of the Bible. I’ve also learned how to preach the gospel more effectively and take care of people personally. It’s a joy watching people grow. I’m learning to recognize the Lord’s work in people.

Brothers from the U.S.A. and Canada have ministered to us, including Vern Yoder, Titus Chu, Nigel Tomes, and Randolph Mann. I can simply say we have received from each a unique portion of Christ.

I’ve also been exposed to many books which continuously renew my mind, enlarge my view, and change my thoughts concerning both personal life and service to the Lord. Books such as *The Normal Christian Life*, *Love Not the world*, *Changed Into His likeness*, *Journey of Life*, *A Living Sacrifice*, and many others have had an impact on my life. I’ve appreciated the church life and I love it. I’ve appreciated my having eternal life and being a member of the Body of Christ. Surely, I feel like everybody ought to know about this. I’ve gained more appreciation for my life and time and also more appreciation of all the saints.

Recently I thought, “Even if Keith and Tina were to leave right now, what I’ve obtained so far leaves me with so much indebtedness that I can’t sit back and live my own life.” Honestly, this is just what I wanted and needed. I’ve been equipped. I’m ready to serve the Lord—wherever I’ll be. Your brother, **McBen Abaasa**



First and foremost, I would like to thank God Who predestinates our future. I did not know that after my studies at the university I would be in such a wonderful training. It has truly changed me. I used to have a shallow mind, but now I feel refreshed in the Word of God and in a number of spiritual matters.

During the eight months thus far, I have managed to read the whole Bible, something which brings me joy as I am now conversant with the truths of the Word of God. This goes hand in hand with the Crucial Truth Lessons we have learned during the training whereby I find it easy to interpret what the Scriptures mean.

There are also a number of lessons concerning the vision of the Church which are about Christ and the Church (as we are one Body). The Church History class has taught me about the experiences that the first church went through, especially touching sections about martyrs who died so that the Word of God might reach me. The Growth in Life class has not only shown me how a Christian should behave before God and others, but it has also nourished my spirit, soul, and body, as it is full of practical lessons.

When it comes to preaching the word of God, I have learned how to elaborate the Scripture to unbelievers by cutting the Word straight and using illustrations that help them know Christ and turn to Him. Preaching the word of God has enabled me to realize the importance of memorizing Scriptures. I now use them during gospel preaching and in shepherding others.

I have learned how to make mission statements and to be faithful to fulfill my objectives. When it comes to music, day by day I have learned new songs, and being an instrumentalist I have gained a lot.

I respect and send my appreciation to all who have supported us, especially our brother Keith Miller and Mum Tina, together with the saints in the U.S.A. Your brother, ***Samuel Luzinda***



After I came to the training, my life changed. Being a young Christian I did not know much of what it meant to love Jesus, but this year (2007/08) has been a turning point in my life. There is absolutely no basis in my background that would have caused anyone to say, "George Peter will one day yearn to be a servant of the Lord." Accepting Christ

as my personal Lord and Savior meant going to church on Sunday. Reading the Bible to me was for curiosity, but I preferred someone just reading a few verses to me. Being in a Christian training was not a thought that ever crossed my mind. I thought life was all about getting a good university education.

However, the training motivated me, inspired me, and challenged me not only to yearn to know more each day about Christ, but also to love Him as a personal friend with whom I love to cooperate in accomplishing His desires. I have learned to make the church my home, and the Lord has taught me to be sensitive toward other people—those in the church life and those that are not yet in the church life. I now have a desire to assist those who have not yet received Christ to believe in Him and to at least reach the level I have reached in experiencing Christ. Jesus is so sweet. Actually there is a lot more than I can put down on this paper, but my life has been changed. I love the Lord more than ever, and I thank the Lord for giving me a new family of brothers and sisters who are very loving, caring, and inspiring. May God bless all who are involved in making the training a reality. I can never be again the old George with those old earthy ambitions and desires. Your brother, ***George Peter Ngogolo***



I began to value this training more highly when we started the Crucial Truth class in the book of Romans. The way salvation came alive to me, the subjective and objective aspects of our salvation and the accomplished work of Christ, left me in total amazement and appreciation. From then on everything became alive to me.

As a man, sometimes you feel that you have got your own ways of doing things and your ego, of course. But now living for others is very important, appreciating other human beings, and considering others' feelings is something I have learned regarding how the Lord treats us, how He comforts us, how He speaks to us and how He loves us (Philippians 2:4-6).

I have seen the truth related to Christ and the Church. All along I thought the Church belongs to individuals or a group of people, but now it is very clear to me from the books of Ephesians and Romans how Christ loves the Church and how it is practical today. Acts gave me a clear view of the Church. Brothers Titus, Keith, and Nigel were really profound in expounding these matters to us.

Gospel preaching is now something of enjoyment and, by the way, it enlivens the spirit! The more you lead people to salvation, the more you feel complete and alive, and the love for these little ones in the life of Christ also increases. It is a sweet experience. How about the church life? This is something Uganda has missed since the first missionaries came in the late 1800's, and this is what people have been longing for. I enjoy it, and I think many others do also.

Nevertheless, I never used to be a happy man. Now when you see me you can tell something of joy and enjoyment are with me, for I have found the secret of living (Philippians 4:11-12). Your brother, ***Richard Kamyia***



Praise the Lord!!! I thank the Lord so much, Who gave me this opportunity of being in a Christian training such as this. I have learned a lot from it. For example, I've learned how to preach the gospel with boldness and confidence, how to lead people to Christ, how to shepherd others, and through this I've gained many friends. I've learned crucial truths from the Bible, how to present them to others in an inspiring way, how to pray, and how to read the Bible. I've been able to learn and understand many Scriptures from the Bible by memorizing them, and now they are part of me! I have learned how to live with others, how to share with others, daily how to deny myself, to help others according to the need, and to appreciate everyone the way he or she is. It has helped me so much to realize the vision of a Christian, which is Christ and the Church.

I've been changed inwardly in ways that my life now can also affect other people. For example, one time I had gone home to visit my mother, and then all of a sudden, in the middle of the conversation, she said to me, "I wish your sister was like you." Then I asked her why, so she said, "Because there's something in you that is not in her." Then she told me, "When your sister gets her holidays from school, I want her to go with you for your meetings."

I thank all the people who have rendered everything they could to make our training successful. I am so grateful for everything, including the financial support (the books, Bibles, clothes, gifts, sparing time to come and visit us) and, last but not least, we appreciate your prayers so much. THANK YOU VERY MUCH! May the Lord Almighty bless you abundantly with spiritual blessings. Your thankful sister, **Victoria Nankya**

The training has helped me to memorize some verses in the Bible which before the training I could not memorize. The training has also helped me to know the truth which is in the Bible, especially regarding who is Christ and what is the Church. Before the training I did not know, but now I am able to explain them to others, and bring them to Christ as well.

The training has also helped me to read the whole Bible, a thing which I had never dreamed or thought about ever before. Through reading the Bible, I have also been able to receive help and understanding as being led by the Holy Spirit. I think that one day I will stand in the midst of a big congregation of people and preach to them and many unbelievers will be led to Christ. I have also learned how I can live Christ. Praise Him! **Annet Kasemiire** (part-time participant)



God always seemed near, available, and reachable, but for some reason I never really got to know Him that personally and intimately. There was always something lacking. I'd pray every day, read my Bible, go to church without a miss, and yet God was not as near as I always felt and thought He could be. I had one desire: to know and love God. Yet I didn't know how to do it. My nights and mornings were spent crying, begging God to let me know Him. The lives of many of my friends and others who lived God were testifying to me that there had to be more than just going to church, reading the Bible, and praying; yet I could never find what it was. My mother's life was a true example of a life truly lived out for God. Her relationship with God was personal and intimate, loving, calm, assured, peaceful, and free of struggle. I longed to know this God who was so real to other people and yet absent to me.

In the eight months since I joined the ten-month training I have found Him who my soul delights in. I have known a very personal relationship with Him. He is more than my Creator, Savior, King—He is a Brother, a Friend, a Confidant. He is everything I dreamed He would be, only now He is a true reality. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for making it possible for me to find this treasure I was looking for; thank you for giving me a chance to find God. I love Him more and live every day of my life for Him. May my God richly bless you for helping others like me find the truth and happiness you have found. I love you. Your sister in Christ,  
***Sarah Tenywa***



When I first heard of the training as a paramedical student, it sounded more as further education and an opportunity to gain knowledge and uphold my Christian lifestyle and prestige in society. I remember that all I could say when asked why I wanted to leave my job and join a Christian training was, "I want to know more of the Bible." This was because I had not read enough to exhaust it, its Author being God. I was so puzzled how hidden its secrets were to be. I thought it to be a logical compilation to help me live right within society and reason things straightly.

It came as a surprise to me when after a few lessons I realized how empty I was because I had such little knowledge about the Bible. On one hand, this came with a realization of how ungodly and sinful I had lived my life. I had claimed I had been a well-behaved boy. This aroused my

conscience to self-awareness. Due to such painful frustrations I decided to take heed to all the training sessions. The frustration still occurred all the more as I tried to avoid it.

On the other hand, I began to realize a lot of new things no pen can exhaustively illustrate; things so simple yet so profound. Firstly, the realization of man created in God's image... Wow! This created the very basis of my appreciation for humanity. Secondly, the full view of the vision of the Church based on scriptural writings opened up a new world of vision I had never heard of or experienced. I just could not believe it. This boosted my diligence to open and read my Bible more than ever. The more I read, the more I discovered this training was more than I could have ever expected. I could not wait for the time when I would be able to share all this with someone else.

The most enjoyable aspect of the training for me had to do with being used by the Lord to shepherd others. I saw the power hidden in Scriptures which even the most gallant, tough, and stubborn university intellectuals could not withstand. I witnessed people shedding tears as they heard the Scriptures being read to them. They listened as if they had never heard them before. Others stared in amazement at what was written in the Bible, their questions being answered. I even received text messages from various people about their experience with the Bible-reading schedule. I witnessed new people attending both the Matthew Bible study and the Lord's table meetings with amazing testimonies of why they came: they met brothers sharing the word. Others told stories about how their life was being changed through the various Bible studies. I have seen newly saved ones baptized. Likewise, other experiences have opened up my mind with new realizations of who Christ is in my life. With these came my own testimonies in the group Bible studies. I couldn't have ever imagined myself speaking such things before this training. Every morning brought new experiences of the Lord with new understandings of who God is through song, prayer, and even the presence of the brothers in the house who made much of this possible. I have learned how to turn to my spirit, spread the gospel, serve the church, maintain joy, live by faith and prayer, and likewise love the Lord.

As I write this I realize I am not only an average student with a Christian lifestyle, but also a true Jesus lover ready to stand for His testimony wherever I will be. I will spread the gospel of Christ, for He is the only treasure abiding in me, and with this life-changing experience of the truth I will live to testify to all I will ever meet. For if I know how to be with Christ, I know He will be with me. Though I came to the Bible with curiosity and doubt, I have touched the divine blessings in the training, the truth of life in Christ. With this I have set Christ as my solid-rock foundation for all my life. Thank you brothers for your aid. ***Simon Sserubiri***

## Testimonies of Two Who Are Now Serving the Lord Full-Time



I grew up in a family that was staunchly Protestant. I didn't really like it because the way I was treated never matched my thought of what Christians should be. My mother left me at the age of 3 with a step-mother who piled blame after blame on me. I experienced no love, comfort, or peace. I had no one to comfort me because even my elder sisters had just escaped from such mistreatment. In fact, I hated anything to do with Christians.

It was after a very long time of suffering that I joined my sister in Kampala where she worked, and I began to live with her. Every Sunday she convinced me to go with her for services at the Miracle Center, where the 'savedees' (born-again Christians) met.

Recalling all my past experience, I hated it so much! I never wanted anything to do with Christianity; I wanted to be on my own. The concept in Uganda was and still is that when you get saved you get answers to all your problems.

I got "saved" at the Miracle Center and I waited for a miracle, but in vain! Each time we went there was singing, shouting, and praying for mainly material gain without any real experience of the Lord or even reading of the Bible.

In September 2006, I met brother Keith and his wife Tina who helped me come to the realization of what being a Christian really means. I felt like I had never known God, I had never loved Him! I was nowhere near Christianity! I had never read the Bible before; I didn't know how to pray! They helped me start reading the Bible and taught me how to pray. But the most exciting thing was learning how to preach the gospel, though it was one of the biggest challenges!

I experienced all this in the training after meeting Keith and Tina. This was like getting my life back together which was stolen from me by my family. I told my sister about the training. First, she became mad at me because I was helping her in a small retail shop, but I had touched something very precious and no matter what, she could not stop me from being in the training full-time because I had already made the decision.

While I was in the training last year, I preached the gospel at the university. I made much effort in shepherding many sisters in the girls' hostels. Some I met during that time of gospel outreach at the campus are still meet-

ing with us for the Lord's table meeting. I brought a number of sisters to the Lord and baptized them. I lived in the sisters' house, which was also amazing. I am still living there now while serving full-time.

I now have a family I am able to love and in which I am loved; I now have a mother and a father. Basically it is as if I never had the past. Mama Tina treats us just like her own children. I have never regretted meeting Keith and Tina. I pray that the Lord will continue using them in this way. They introduced me to the truth and brought me to salvation and rescued me from perishing. Their staying in Uganda will be in my prayers each day that passes. May God have mercy on us all.

*Lauryn Kamusiimegrey*



Since we started having mission statements, there has been a sense of belonging to the Church. I have a feeling that there is a much clearer sense of direction now, and the encouragement outweighs the challenges.

**Challenges** have been found in the preaching of the gospel to those already religiously conceptualized believers who find it difficult to realize the simplicity of enjoying the Lord or the church life. We have also sought permission to do certain things like post banners, hold events, etc., but we have been rejected.

We have also had an emphasis on taking care of people one on one, the challenge being that if one person is taking care of 20 people on a personal basis, not only is it time-consuming to include other scheduled practical church matters, but there is also the fear of giving each person insufficient care compared to if we were only caring for, say, 10 or less saints.

Sometimes even nature hasn't cooperated as it's rainy season, when rains go all day long, and allow for such things as mosquitoes that hinder our rest.

**Encouragements** are many in this labor, however, as the Lord has kept us healthy physically, and in love and fellowship with the saints. The gospel has been going out throughout the week, and the Lord has put people in our hands. Personally, I have a database of more than 100 people, out of whom I am in contact with more than 20 on a weekly basis for personal care.

I have helped to baptize around 20 people, although I have witnessed over 60 baptisms here near the campus. We have organized events at certain neighboring high schools. *(continued on next page)*

At the school brother Michael serves at, we recently had 150 students in attendance, where we prayed and some students gave their lives to Christ. At the school that I go to with Rachael and Sarah every Wednesday, we estimate to have reached at least 100 students, of which 20 are attending our weekly Bible study. Five of these also come to my home meeting. We meet at my house as we go through the book of Acts together. Sometimes I feel far spent, as more than 15 people flock to my house every week for care. But praise the Lord, I am able to give that which the Lord has given me.

We are still going to the business school every Thursday for our GBS (Group Bible Study), which averages 15 student attendees. We are looking to God for more grace as He is thrusting and pouring us out. A possibility would be making a week have 8 days, with one day off!

Among those we have shepherded, we hope some will attend an upcoming three-week training to help them grow and come to share our vision that the number meeting here in Kampala would grow to thousands! I am considering seven of those I am taking care of now for this time.

I know our music is improving every day as we learn together in grace. We have confidence that people's hearts are touched. Every week we review what was done and consider how we might improve.

My future is held in the Lord's hands, and I hope that He allows me to get married in the near future, or to go back to school for more personal training which I hope may profit the church here.

The Lord grant you grace and peace from God our Father, and even to those that have the same cause in this world of seeing our love, Christ Jesus, come back. Greetings to them.

*Solomon Pius Muyinza*

We thank the Lord for His move in Uganda. May the Lord bless all those who serve Him with faithfulness. Those in North America should be aware of the challenge many Ugandans now face as they confront the current food crisis. In some areas thousands are engaged in a desperate struggle to survive. The situation is not so severe in Kampala, but those already living on very little find themselves hard-pressed to pay prices that have risen significantly in recent months. May the Lord bless His work to accomplish His desire and hasten the day of His reign upon the earth!

# THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS

## MESSAGE THIRTY-THREE: IMITATORS AND HEALTHY PATTERNS

### **Philippians 3:15-17**

15 Let us therefore, as many as are full-grown, have this mind; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, this also God will reveal to you.

16 Nevertheless whereunto we have attained, by the same rule let us walk.

17 Be imitators together of me, brothers, and observe those who thus walk even as you have us as a pattern.

### A WALK ACCORDING TO OUR MEASURE OF CHRIST

According to Paul's word in Philippians 3:15, there should be a number of believers who are mature or perfected. Paul's following word, however, is even more encouraging, for he tells us that if we are otherwise minded, God is able to remove whatever is veiling us so that we might be brought back to treasuring and pursuing Christ! How good this is! This is to have the mind to pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ has called us upward (v. 14). When we have such a mind, we walk so as to gain Christ, and this walk results in a testimony. We walk according to what we have gained of Christ. Our walk is determined by the measure of our attainment in Christ (v. 16).

When a brother oversteps the boundary of his attainment in Christ, it damages the church life, for his refusal to walk within his measure is rebellion. Most rebellious brothers are very "good" brothers, for they remain in the church life instead of going to the world. But because they do not realize what their boundary or rule is, they present a problem in the local church. Instead of enjoying Christ and walking according their measure, they insist on walking beyond their "rule." It is this "beyond" that becomes the problem!

We all need to learn to function within the measure of our maturity in Christ. For instance, if our portion enables us to speak for the Lord a certain amount of time, then we should restrict ourselves to that limit. Many, however, either go beyond

their measure, or they do nothing. If a brother's portion is to speak for three minutes and he speaks thirty, then those three minutes ministered life, but the other twenty-seven ministered death! The rule, or measure, to which we have attained should determine our operation and regulate our living.

Today some go beyond their measure when they pick up a phone to tell others who is right or who is wrong, even though the Lord has not raised them up as apostles or prophets or committed any such thing to them. When brothers do something beyond their measure such as this, it causes damage. There is too much talk about who is or isn't "in the flow" by those who instead should be simply enjoying the wonderful measure of Christ they possess.

#### LEARNING TO OPERATE WITHIN OUR BOUNDARY

I am a grandfather, but that does not mean I have the right to treat everyone else's grandchildren as mine. My boundary is the children and grandchildren of my own household. No matter how mature I am, I cannot freely approach the children of others. Too many today no longer pursue Christ, but instead they pursue something of the religious world, being joined to their self-life. Because of this, they find it easy to harm churches they are not even related to. This is why Paul says we should walk according to the rule to which we have attained (v. 16). What is this rule? It is that we

only care for Christ! When we are all uniquely focused on simply gaining Christ, there are no problems. Problems arise when we attempt to gain something other than Christ or act beyond our measure of Christ.

#### PATTERNS WE MAY IMITATE FOR A HEALTHY WALK

In verse 17 Paul reveals that for such a walk, we have patterns we may imitate. In order to imitate such patterns, we need to have a learning spirit. Not only do we need to walk within our boundary of Christ for a testimony, we also need to continue on as learners for the rest of our lives. Therefore he says, "Be imitators together of me, brothers, and observe those who thus walk, even as you have us as a pattern."

The word "imitator" is a crucial word. Paul tells the believers that they have him as a pattern, as well as those who walk as he and his companions do. (Here Paul uses the word "walk" once more.) The believers should become imitators of Paul, those with him, and even others who walk as he and his companions do. We should imitate such persons, for they are patterns for us.

#### PAUL'S BROADNESS

Paul tells the Philippians that there are others who are patterns besides he himself and those with him. What determines whether someone is a pattern? It is that they walk even as Paul and his co-workers walk. What a grand view the

apostle Paul possessed! On the one hand, he instructed us to restrict ourselves to freely walk within our measure. Then, he instructed us to learn from him as a pattern. He goes on to say, "Learn not only from me and those with me, but also from everyone who walks in this principle."

Paul did not feel as though any church or work belonged to him. He saw himself as exercising but one part in the Lord's ministry. He was carrying out his part in the work of ministry, fighting for the Lord's testimony, and for others to walk within it. This is why he told them to walk as imitators of any who walked in the same principle that he and his co-workers walked. Paul realized that the Lord had one work of ministry and that, while he was carrying a portion in that work, he was not that work in its entirety. The Lord's work is organic and not institutional.

#### MANY WORKERS, ONE WORK

Many servants labor within the field of the Lord's work. For instance, at the time of Paul the Lord also had others such as Peter, John, and James. Throughout history there have been some such as Martin Luther who were greatly used by the Lord. Today there are likewise many serving ones laboring in the Lord's one work. What is this work? It is the work of the New Testament ministry. Within the Lord's one ministry, there are many workers formed into work groups. In essence, there is only one work,

which is the ministry of Christ. All the Lord's workers in their various groups are laboring towards the same goal: that we may all gain Christ. We should be aware that many are struggling towards the same goal. Therefore, we should take any such person we come in contact with as a pattern.

Paul was really a great person to give us such a sweet verse. He surely was a marvelous pattern, but he did not consider himself the exclusive pattern. He may have truly been the greatest servant the Lord used in His New Testament economy, but as perhaps the greatest servant, he was able to see things in this light. He could say, "No matter how great or useful I may be, and no matter how much revelation I have been granted, I am not enough. In fact, though it is fitting that many should co-labor with me, even we together are not enough. There are yet many others who are walking, functioning, and operating in the same principle." I am very touched by this.

It is easy to become narrow, feeling as though we follow a Moses or Joshua. Paul, however, didn't see it that way. He saw that there were a number who walked as he did, and that the believers in Philippi should take them as patterns as well. Rather than fearing some might snatch the believers away from him and place them in their "pocket," Paul realized the Lord had many whom His believers might take as patterns so that they might gain Christ.

## THE NEED FOR SUCH PATTERNS

All those who serve the Lord should be such patterns. Whenever you see the Lord's servants, they should be those whom you can imitate and hold as patterns. Realize that there are others as well who are operating in the same principle.

Many among us labor full-time for the Lord. Perhaps they cannot all boldly declare, "Be imitators of me," but they should be able to say, "For the sake of gaining Christ, I avoid certain things and I am desperate to pursue in this particular manner. In such things you should learn from me!"

## THE NEED FOR A LEARNING ATTITUDE

Paul never claimed to be perfect. We know, for instance, that he was given a "thorn in the flesh" to keep him from boasting in his revelations (2 Cor. 12:7). Even though he had such a weakness, he told people, "Be imitators of me (as well as those who walk in the same manner)." In order to really observe such patterns, we need to possess a learning attitude.

The Greek word translated "imitate together" has the thought of making visible something that is invisible. When the visible is present, the invisible is also present. For instance, when Brother Lee was once asked about Watchman Nee, he answered, "Brother, you never

know that man." In other words, Brother Nee was someone you could meet, but at the same time you would not know him merely by being in his presence, because he was a spiritual man. (Another time that he was asked about Brother Nee, his comment was, "It seems the Lord led him to go through the most sufferings." These were the only two comments I ever heard Brother Lee make about Watchman Nee in a casual setting.) The word for "imitate together" has this sense: even though there is something that can be grasped, there still lies something beyond your grasp.

## IMITATORS BY MEANS OF AN ORGANIC PROCESS

The word "imitate" denotes a relationship between a copy and the original. In this case, the process is organic. We can consider seven areas in which we become imitators of those who are patterns: to imitate in life, in love, in deeds, in labor, in operation, in pursuing, and in focus. All of these are crucial in our Christian life. Thus, even when the patterns are not present, something of their riches can be seen in those who have become their imitators. True patterns should not feel bothered if they see themselves imitated by others.

In Greek, "to hold as a pattern" means to take as a model for your behavior. A person may be a good model or a bad model, but what the right person learns can be something positive in either case.

WORTHY PATTERNS  
MAKE AN IMPACT

One authority, Gerhard Kittel, tells us that the term for holding as a pattern can also mean the impress of a blow. It is an outward mark or mold that can be used to shape other objects. Anyone who is such a pattern makes an impact on others! If such a person is with a church (bang!) those with them love the Lord; (bang!) they become consecrated; (bang!) they become rich in the Word; (bang!) the whole church becomes revived. If you have such a pattern among you, how good that is. It is a tragedy when there are no patterns for the young people to follow. Young people need to look up to someone. This is why they declare someone is their hero and imitate that person. It is a sad thing if you look around and find no one you can imitate.

Even at my age, there is still the need of patterns to look to. I still consider how Brother Lee and other older ones who were with him handled things and behaved, for they are my pattern. We should not boast in how free we are. We should be free to have a pattern, not free to be wild. When a person finds someone who is a proper pattern, that is a real blessing.

We do not need more teachers, we need more patterns for our young people in pursuing, serving, and in giving one's life to the Lord. We need those who make an impression as with a mallet! When

such a person is with others, those they are with *will* love the Lord, and they *will* pursue Him. If you are such a pattern, others around you become different. The change will not be due to your ability to impart knowledge, nor is it a matter of others imitating your mannerisms and so on. Things such as this may be unavoidable, but they are not the important thing.

THE IMPACT IS DUE TO  
WHAT IS SEEN IN THE PATTERN

The learning we are after is not something outward but something inward. Such learning comes about when someone sees something divine and powerful, something that changes the meaning of his existence and remolds the manner of his living.

A pattern operates upon other people because of what can be seen in the pattern. When others see him, they are drawn, and something is instilled in them. How I am bothered when I see co-workers who are not attractive in this way!

Because I am seventy years old, I can no longer run about as I speak, but I believe there is still something in me that affects others. The workers and the elders should be those who affect others. Rather than being like a teacher who goes home after class, we should be like the professor who has received a "revelation" of the subject and possesses it. He does not simply teach points; he presents something that has affected him deeply, inspiring others

to lay hold of what he has seen. A proper serving one should be such a pattern to the saints, someone whose person is worthy of imitation (1 Thes. 1:6-7). Pray for this!

#### HEALTHY PATTERNS INSPIRE

Paul admonished Timothy (1 Tim. 4:12) and Titus (Titus 2:7) to be such patterns, and Peter also told the elders that they should be patterns to the flock (1 Pet. 5:3). To be such a pattern is an organic matter. In the Body, there are servants who do much more than merely give messages. When others are around them, they become inspired. People are attracted to them and strengthened when around them.

#### A HEALTHY CHURCH LIFE REQUIRES HEALTHY PATTERNS AND A HEALTHY FAMILY "TRADITION"

The patterns in the church life affect how healthy the church life is and how well the saints grow. The church life is like a family, and the health of a family is based upon that family's tradition (see 1 Cor. 11:1-2; 2 Thes. 2:15; 3:6). If the tradition in a locality allows for the criticism of others, then that church life will be unhealthy. If, however, the tradition in a locality does not allow for gossip and criticism, that church life will be healthy. Things such as this depend upon the patterns. A healthy pattern can often decide the growth of the saints. If

the saints in your locality are not healthy, instead of complaining, ask yourself whether you have been a proper pattern to them. If there are a sufficient number of proper patterns in the church life, the situation will improve and growth will take place. Therefore, look unto the Lord that you may have the kind of existence that is able to affect others' growth and usher in a healthy family "tradition."

May we walk in this way until the Lord comes back. We should be imitators of healthy patterns and become healthy patterns to be imitated, particularly in the visions and revelations that have been delivered to us.

For example, Brother Lee was such a pattern for us in consecration, in his desire to live for the church, in his labor to become fully equipped for the Lord's service, and in his receiving of the Lord's commitment, and his faithfulness in carrying the Lord's burden. (Commitment is what the Lord charges us with; burden is the operation that comes out from that commitment.) Seeing what riches he entered into, we should also enter into the riches that we likewise may become so rich in Christ. This is how we should become imitators of a proper pattern.

How rich this portion of Philippians is! We must thank the Lord for the Word. – *Titus Chu, spoken in May 2004 to those in the one-year labor.*

## Watchman Nee on the Local Church

*What follows are selected quotes on the matter of the practice of the church within localities taken from The Collected Works of Watchman Nee (published by Living Stream Ministry). Volume and page numbers follow each selection. If possible, the reader is encouraged to read the messages from which these selections were taken to understand them more fully within their context.*

What is a church? A church receives all whom Christ has received in one locality. God is not as concerned with those who live in Shanghai receiving the brothers in Nanking or Chungking as He is about them receiving the brothers in their locality....We cannot say we receive those who are the same as us, while we do not receive those who are not the same as us. We cannot fail to receive one whom the Lord has received for any reason; otherwise, we are not the church. (56:272)

There are many advantages in having the city as the unit of the church. Although not all the cities in the Bible have walls, cities historically experience the least amount of changes. There should only be one church in the city of Foochow, yet it can have seven or eight meeting places. All seven or eight places are under the same administration of the one church, and there is only one set of elders and deacons for this one church. A city, a town, or a village is the sphere of administration of a church. When speaking of the province of Galatia, the Bible refers to the churches in Galatia (1 Cor. 16:1). But in regard to Corinth, Ephesus, Thessalonica, and the seven cities in Revelation, the Bible speaks of the church in each locality; the names of the churches are derived from the names of the cities. In England there are two cities which are very close together; they have two churches. In the United States, New York City is composed of three former cities which were combined to form one greater New York City. Before they were combined, there were three churches, but after they were combined, there should only be one church.

The local church is the highest administration on earth; it is directly responsible to God. If a problem occurs in a locality, the church can only try to deal with it by itself; there is no higher place of appeal. Other churches can only give their advice. (41:37-38)

What relationship should a worker hold with the assembly? In the assembly a worker is the same as other brothers who are holding other jobs. Whether the brothers who hold other jobs make money or lose money has nothing to do with the church. For example, George Muller set up an orphanage. This work had nothing to do with the church. Likewise, the condition of a worker has nothing to do with the church.

For the students at Cheloo University to have their own table is unscriptural. Only the church in Tsinan is qualified to represent Tsinan. Cheloo University cannot be a unit upon which a table is set. If one stands on the ground of the church in Tsinan, he can break bread. In God's ordination, every church is directly related to that locality alone. The purpose of this is to maintain the oneness. Is the church that every Christian attends a church in the locality, or is it a church that is smaller than the locality?

...Many people want to replace the church with the work, but the work can never replace the church. I should not expect God's children to belong to me. If this is not the case, may the Lord forgive me. I am a brother in Shanghai. If tomorrow I go to Nanking, I will immediately become a brother in Nanking and not a brother in Shanghai.

I hope you will not demand believers in Shanghai to leave this and that organization in a negative sense. You have to talk positively about the local church. Whoever has been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and has been regenerated by the Spirit is in the church in Shanghai. There should be no discrimination of any kind. Our heart needs to be enlarged to include all the believers in Shanghai. May all the workers be clear about the nature of our testimony and the practice of the local church. (43:577-578)

God dislikes the fact that man can be misled to think that there must be centers on earth. Therefore, He put Jerusalem aside and made Antioch the place from which the apostles set off for their work (Acts 13). It was not Jerusalem. This avoided the misunderstanding that the church in Jerusalem was the mother church, the headquarters church, and that all the other churches were subordinate churches and branch churches....

If any assembly acts independently or makes free proposals, these acts and moves are not of God. At the same time, we must see that every church is directly responsible to the Head for what it does. We can easily become biased. This is why we must maintain the balance in the truth. (22:111-112)



### **Samuel Morris (Kaboo)**

**1886, near the coast of southern Liberia**

Hung over a wooden cross-tree, his back lacerated by countless whippings by a poison thorn-vine, Kaboo, a sixteen-year old prince of the Kru, hung nearly unconscious. Still they whipped his open wounds. No longer able to stand up under the torture, he waited for death. His father, a conquered chieftain, was forced to leave him with the victor until he could come up with the required ransom. Kaboo's father even had to supply one of his slaves to be present at Kaboo's beatings so that he might receive a daily report of his son's sufferings to insure he wouldn't lag in his efforts to raise the ivory, cola nuts, rubber, and other goods demanded. It didn't seem possible, however, that he was going to be able to meet the exorbitant ransom. What waited next for his son was to be buried up to his neck in the sand with his mouth filled with honey to attract the ants who would eat him alive. Kaboo's only hope was that he would die before he had to face that.

Suddenly a bright light flashed around him like lightning, and a voice commanded him to rise and flee. His ropes fell off and he was instantly strengthened, and though he had nothing to eat or drink for some time, he was able to run in a great burst of speed to escape his stunned captors. (At the time he knew nothing of God or Jesus, but ever afterward he would commemorate every Friday with a fast to remember his deliverance.)

He hid in the hollow of a tree until nightfall. His back, which had been shredded by the daily lashings, no longer pained him. He realized he had been healed. He knew he could not return to his family, for he would simply be recaptured. He dared not be seen by anyone, for there would be a reward for his return. That night, amazingly, the light that appeared earlier shone around him once more, so that he was able to travel at night through the jungle. After weeks of traveling in such a way, he found himself at a coffee plantation on the outskirts of Monrovia, the one place where he might be safe from recapture.

He was given a job working at the plantation, having met a fellow Kru tribesman there. One day Kaboo observed this boy, who had learned of Jesus through missionaries, kneeling down with upturned face and hands. When Kaboo asked what he was doing, he said, "I am talking with God." "Who is 'God'?" Kaboo asked. The boy replied that God was his Father. "Then," Kaboo said, "You are talking with your father." Ever after that, Kaboo referred to praying as "talking to my father."

That Sunday Kaboo heard Miss Knolls, a Methodist missionary, speak about Paul's meeting Christ on the road to Damascus. He was thunderstruck, for Paul's experience matched his own experience in the enemy village. Little by little he learned of the gospel message, as well as how to read and write English. Kaboo gladly received Jesus as His Savior. Much of the mental scarring that resulted from his recent captivity, however, remained with him. (It had not been the first time he had undergone such treatment.) He desired to return to his people to share with them the gospel, but suffered from intense feelings of inferiority and inadequacy, and craved vengeance. Night after night he struggled in prayer, until one night, after he had prayed and returned to the sleeping quarters, the Lord delivered him, once more flooding his surroundings with blinding glory. Afterwards, he felt as light as a feather, and his burden was lifted. He began shouting, awaking everyone in the bunkhouse. To him, this was the moment he really experienced being received by his Father as a son. Even though he knew little of the teaching of the Holy Spirit, he had experienced the Spirit in a way that would set him apart for the rest of his life in service to God.

Miss Knolls gave Kaboo the name “Samuel Morris” upon his baptism, after the man who had made it possible for her to come to Africa as a missionary, since Kaboo was the first “fruit” of her labors there. For the next two years Kaboo/Samuel lived in Monrovia, taking what work he could, and speaking with all the missionaries he met to know more of the Christian life. He led another fellow-tribesman to the Lord, who had been a fellow-captor and had witnessed the flash of light and sound that accompanied his escape. Samuel began to feel concerned before the Lord for the souls of others, and on one occasion, after pouring out his heart as he prostrated himself all night before the Lord, fifty young men were soon brought to the Lord!

Another missionary introduced “Sammy” to the fourteenth chapter of the Gospel of John, in which he learned that the Holy Spirit was present and at work upon the earth as a living Person. He was deeply affected at this news. Sammy spent all his available time seeking to learn more about the Spirit from missionaries. One day, in exasperation, one of them, Miss MacNeil, told him that she had no more she could tell him about the Holy Spirit. Sammy then asked, “Who knows more?” Miss MacNeil replied that she had personally received much help on the matter of the Holy Spirit from someone named Stephen Merritt. Sammy then asked where he lived, and when she told him he lived in New York City, Sammy declared, “I will go to see him!”

With his newfound understanding of the Spirit, he walked to the harbor at Robertsport, trusting that the Lord would provide him with the needed passage to America. There was a ship anchored offshore, a small three-master, and a group of her men were rowing ashore. When they arrived Sammy told the captain, “My Father told me you would take me to New York to see Stephen Merritt.” When told his father was in heaven, the captain gruffly replied he didn’t take passengers, and certainly not crazy ones! The next two days, Sammy remained at that place, addressing the captain as he came and went, praying every night for the captain to take him on board. Finally, on the third day, the captain, seeing he was a Kru, and assuming he knew something of sailing, asked him what he wanted for wages, for the previous night two of his crew had deserted. Sammy simply asked for passage to America, and the captain agreed to take him on as part of his crew. (Unknown to him, though, Sammy knew nothing of sailing!)

The crew was typical of such a trading ship, as was the captain. Upon boarding, Sammy found the cabin boy lying helpless on deck, having injured himself so badly he could not walk. Sammy knelt down and prayed,

and the boy was immediately healed. Discovering Sammy had not eaten since Thursday night, and it being Sunday, the grateful cabin boy provided him with food. When the captain found Sammy didn't know anything about sailing, he decided to return him to shore, but the cabin boy begged the captain to let him remain, and Sammy promised he would work every day to earn his passage doing whatever he was asked. Thus he began his voyage to America.



Sammy was the only black African on board, and most of the crew were prejudiced against him. It was a harsh life, filled with violence. Every day brought some kind of rough treatment at the hands of the others. The cabin boy wanted to work above-deck, and knew Sammy was better suited to his work rather than the more physically demanding work of a sailor. Therefore they traded duties, much to Sammy's relief. His work was still not without hazard, however. The captain, for instance, being drunk, once struck him unconscious. Upon coming out of it, however, Sammy arose and went about his work as cheerfully as before. He spoke to the captain about Jesus, and knelt down and prayed for him. The captain, somewhat sobered, bowed his head as well. That was a beginning.

Soon afterwards a severe storm broke upon them, and the ship's caulking gave way so that the boat began leaking badly. All available bodies had to man the pumps continuously for two weeks before they could reach land, including Sammy. When offered rum along with the others to dull the pain, Sammy replied his Father would give him the needed strength. Though frail in body, he endured with the strongest of them.

After the ship was repaired, rum was passed out in celebration, and a fight broke out between two of the crew. One brought out his cutlass and

was about to strike down the other, when Sammy interposed his body and simply said, "Don't kill." This very member of the crew had told the others that he was going to kill Sammy, for he had a particular hatred for those of Sammy's race. He had killed others. Facing Sammy's gaze, however, he could not strike and simply lowered his sword and returned to his bunk. The captain, having arrived with two pistols to quell the disturbance, found the crew quiet with Sammy still standing there, having turned back the most dangerous man of his crew with nothing but his faith. Strongly moved at the sight, he went with Sammy below and prayed to receive Jesus as his Savior, the first of many who would come to Christ on the voyage.

The continual fighting among the crew ceased. When Sammy prayed or sang, the rest of the crew respectfully listened or even joined in. Often the entire crew, having learned from Sammy the gospel songs he had learned in Liberia, would join in to sing with him while they worked. The man who had threatened Sammy's life took ill one day and seemed near death. Sammy came to his bunk and prayed for him and he recovered. This man, who had killed others and who had promised to kill Sammy, now became his friend and protector.

A few more stops were needed before the boat could complete what was necessary before striking out for America. The captain was aware that his ship would attract those who would want to loot her. One day as the loaded rowboats returned with what they had gotten from trading on shore, they were suddenly attacked by swift boats intent on stealing their ship and cargo. Their leader had recently succeeded in another such attack, and had put to death the entire crew. The captain, however, was forewarned by a signal from a look-out in the crow's nest, and waited until the attackers drew close before opening fire. This bought them enough time to reach the ship, where an all-out battle ensued. Their leader was killed as he climbed onto deck, demanding their surrender. The captain ordered Sammy into the captain's quarters and to lock himself inside. From there he could hear the gunfire and cries of the men in what was a fight to the death. A breeze came up that caused the ship to roll, preventing it from being easily boarded. He heard the chains of the anchor raised, the tramping of boots above and the sounds of body after body being cast overboard into the sea. Finally, at nightfall, he heard the crew come down to seize the looters who had rushed down into the hold and had been trapped below. After the captain finally signaled Sammy to open the door, he staggered in and collapsed, severely wounded. Sammy dragged him to his bunk and dressed his wounds as best he could and began to pray. The captain revived as he was praying, and told Sammy that if the Lord had not sent the breeze, they would have all been killed,

having been outnumbered ten to one. Sadly, a number of the crew had been killed in the fighting, and Sammy was kept busy caring for the wounded and praying for them.

Sammy's constancy of faith and cheerfulness in the face of all suffering totally changed the atmosphere aboard ship. Cursing nearly ceased, and most claimed to have found Christ. Ever afterward, that crew became unusually close, like a family, rather than what it had been: a loose collection of individuals merely bound by profit.

When they arrived at New York harbor, the crew put together an outfit of clothing from whatever they had and gave it to Sammy. Many among the once-hardened crew wept openly as Sammy took his leave. He was the first one down the plank, and seeing a man walking by, called out to him, "Where can I find Stephen Merritt?" It happened to be that this particular man had stayed at the mission run by Mr. Merritt, and easily replied, "I know him—he lives over on Eighth Avenue, on the other side of town. I'll take you to him for a dollar."



The docks were three miles from where Stephen Merritt lived, yet the first person Sammy met in that part of New York City knew him. How real are the Lord's arrangements! Furthermore, Sammy did not have a penny to his name, yet he went with the man, trusting that the Lord would provide the dollar he agreed to pay. Eventually they reached the

place, and the man told him, "There is Stephen Merritt, that man who is putting his key in the door." Upon hearing this, Sammy walked up to Mr. Merritt and proclaimed, "I am Samuel Morris. I have just from Africa to talk to you about the Holy Ghost!"

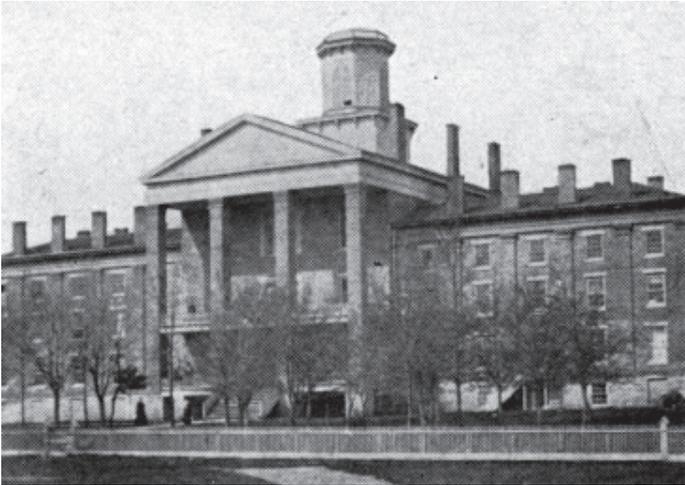
Brother Merritt, somewhat taken aback at this, asked Sammy if he had any letter of introduction, but Sammy simply replied that he hadn't had time for that. Since he had to leave at that moment to attend a prayer meeting, Stephen asked Sammy if he could wait at the mission, where he would be taken care of until he returned. When the man who had shown Sammy the way asked, "Where's my dollar?" Sammy simply said, "Stephen Merritt pays all my bills now." Stephen kindly paid the man and left for the meeting.

When he returned, he was amazed to find seventeen men on their faces surrounding Sammy, praising the Lord for His salvation. On his first night in America, he was already bringing people to Jesus! Upon arriving at his house, Stephen announced to his wife, "O, Dolly, this is an angel in ebony!" She was surprised and asked, "What are you going to do with him?" He simply replied, "I am going to put him in the bishop's bed," and he showed Sammy, who had never before slept on a mattress, how to get into the covers. That night Sammy asked Stephen to kneel and pray with him. During that brief time of prayer, Stephen Merritt experienced the Holy Spirit as he never had before.

Not long afterward, Sammy was sent to Fort Wayne College (later Taylor University), a financially-struggling institution in Indiana of which Stephen Merritt was superintendent. His presence soon changed the atmosphere of that campus, making it one of prayer and increased consecration. It seems that everywhere he went, revivals took place, and many, including avowed atheists, were saved, revived and inspired to give their lives to Christ. A Samuel Morris Faith Fund was begun for Sammy's financial need, but he never accepted anything from it, saying it was God's money. That fund, begun with a five dollar bill from a poor butcher, grew to become a means to move that university to a new campus and even provided for Sammy's firstfruit in Liberia, a fellow tribesman baptized Henry O'Neil, to be brought to America to be educated, and his return to Africa.

Sammy had never been of a strong physical constitution, even though he had survived torture and extreme hardship. During his second winter in Indiana, however, which was exceptionally harsh, he caught a severe cold. Not long after he led a congregation singing "I love to tell the story of Jesus and His love," he passed away (May 12, 1893). He was 21 years

old. Henry never had the opportunity to see him before he died, but did arrive years later to also attend Taylor University. Some of those who had known Sammy eventually traveled as missionaries to his homeland to preach Christ to his people there.



Taylor University's president and close friend Thaddeus Reade stated, "Samuel Morris was a divinely sent messenger of God to Taylor University. He thought he was coming over here to prepare himself for his mission to his people, but his coming was to prepare Taylor University for her mission to the whole world. All who met him were impressed with his sublime, yet simple faith in God." This young man—tribal prince, long-suffering captive, and recipient of divine rescue and saving grace—sought to point others to his unseen yet very present Lord, even as he himself sought by simple faith to further know the Spirit who had so wondrously delivered him. – *John Berglund*

Sources:

Baldwin, Lindley. *Samuel Morris*. Minneapolis MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1942.

and [www.taylor.edu/about/morris/story.shtml](http://www.taylor.edu/about/morris/story.shtml)

"Many came from a distance to see Samuel Morris and to talk to him, but he had no time for mere gossip. After the customary greeting, Sammy would hand the visitor the Bible, opened at the chapter he wished to study, and would ask him to read aloud. Sammy undertook to have the entire Bible read to him in this way." (Baldwin, op cit., 61-62)

## ABANDONED

Utterly abandoned to the Holy Ghost!  
Seeking all His fullness at whatever cost;  
Cutting all the shorelines, launching in the deep  
Of His mighty power—strong to save and keep.

Utterly abandoned to the Holy Ghost!  
Oh! The sinking, sinking, until self is lost!  
Until the empty vessel lies broken at His feet;  
Waiting till His filling shall make the work complete.

Utterly abandoned to the will of God;  
Seeking for no other pathway than my Master trod;  
Leaving ease and pleasure, making Him my choice,  
Waiting for His guidance, listening for His voice.

Utterly abandoned! No will of my own;  
For time and for eternity, His, and His alone;  
All my plans and purposes lost in His sweet will,  
Having nothing yet in Him all things possessing still.

Utterly abandoned! 'Tis so sweet to be  
Captive in His bonds of love, yet so wondrous free;  
Free from sin's entanglements, free from doubt and fear,  
Free from every worry, burden, grief, or care.

Utterly abandoned! Oh, the rest is sweet,  
As I tarry, waiting, at His blessed feet;  
Waiting for the coming of the Guest divine,  
Who my inmost being shall perfectly refine.

Lo! He comes and fills me, Holy Spirit sweet!  
I, in Him, am satisfied! I, in Him, complete!  
And the light within my soul shall nevermore grow dim  
While I keep my covenant—abandoned unto Him!

*Anonymous*

# *On God's Desire and the Picture and Reality of Marriage*

*On February 24, a number of young couples from the Cleveland area churches came to meet with the saints in Lorain, Ohio. During the time, Mike Samulak shared the following with those present. This article is reprinted here with apologies for mistakes contained in the previous issue.*

In Genesis 2:18, God says, "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make him a helper as his counterpart." The phrase, "It is not good for man to be alone," gives us a little window into the purpose of the creation of woman as man's counterpart. Man is already on the scene. Adam has been created. Something, however, in the heart of God, did not want to see man alone. So He felt it was good for man to have a helpmeet, a counterpart. The word "counterpart" indicates something that would match man. This word was an echo of His own desire towards mankind.

He had formed from the ground not only man, but also every animal of the field and every bird of heaven. The Lord brought all these things He had made to man to see what the man would call them, and whatever Adam called something, that became its name. It wasn't just to see what man would call them, but to demonstrate that man needed a counterpart, and that God likewise was searching for a counterpart.

A dog may be man's best friend, but a dog cannot be man's counterpart! I had a dog growing up that I loved to the uttermost, but the appreciation I had for my dog pales when compared to the appreciation and love I have for my wife! There is no comparison. He was a good help, but he was not my match as my wife is. How many animals God must have

brought before Adam! After a period of time, Adam realized there was no hope that any of them might become his counterpart (2:20). Therefore, God caused a deep sleep to fall upon man and He took a rib from man's side and with it built a woman! Remember, all the animals and even man himself had been made from the ground. Woman, however, was made out of what was taken from Adam. In this way, woman was truly a match for Adam, for she was built from something taken out of Adam himself! God had to take something out of man in order to produce something that would match man. When Adam saw her, he had no doubt she was the one who was his match. Therefore he exclaimed, "This is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh!" (Gen. 2:23)

The presence of the woman changed everything for Adam. The Bible even tells us that "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." Now that he had his counterpart, everything for man became different.

This is the picture in Genesis. From what we see throughout the rest of the Bible we can infer that the statement "It is not good for man to be alone" expressed something in God's heart for His own existence. Our God does not want to be alone! Many people ask why they were made. They were made because God does not want to be alone! We were created in the image and likeness of God for this purpose (Gen 1:26). We can love because God is love. We seek righteousness because God is righteous. There is a match. Just like a glove is made in the image of a hand to contain a hand, man was made in the image of God to contain God. People may try to fill themselves up with other things, but only one thing can satisfy man according to what he was made for, and that is God. Other things may seem to fit, but they don't really match. Thus, man keeps looking for something more than what he already has. What he is really looking for is God. When God comes into man, man finds he matches God.

At the beginning of the Bible, God gave us this picture of a couple so that we might see how much He desires man to be His complement. In the whole universe there was nothing that complemented God. Although He was perfect in Himself, He desired someone with whom to share everything. As a husband I can say that if my wife were not with me, nothing else would be so satisfying. God gives us this picture to show us what is on His heart.

Zechariah 12:1 tells us that God stretched forth the heavens, laid the foundations of the earth, and formed a spirit within man. I was intrigued

as a child with how immense the universe is. To my mind, God gave us the universe to give us some hint of what eternity is. But nothing in this vast universe matched God until He got this little man on this little speck called earth in the vastness of the universe.

As we have seen, God built the woman out of something He took from man's side as man slept. After Jesus suffered on the cross and died, His side was opened when a soldier pierced it, and blood and water poured forth (John 19:34). It was the very element God took out of Adam that He used to build for him a woman. What God is after is not just one individual, but many who together become His church, which the Bible tells us is His Bride (Eph. 5:22-32). How did Christ produce the church? It is seen when He was pierced on the cross, when out flowed blood and water! Before we can match God, sin has to first be taken care of. That was what the shedding of Christ's blood was for: so that we could be redeemed and be brought back to God. Through the blood, everything that does not match God is taken care of. In addition to blood, water also came out from the Lord's side as He "slept" on the cross. Water signifies the Spirit (John 7:37-39). Today, God is building His dwelling place in Spirit (Eph. 2:22). It is by His Spirit that He is working His very self into us. It is by His Spirit that He is building us into His counterpart, by adding all His elements into us! Now we can see how God and His church are able to match each other so perfectly. Can you believe what is in store for us as human beings? He gains His Bride by means of what He accomplished on the cross, and by what He is accomplishing today within us as the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17-18).

God is doing a building work today among His people by His Spirit. This is how He is gaining His Bride today. Perhaps some of the places we can most readily see this are found in Revelation. In 19:7 we read, "Let us rejoice and exult and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and the wife has made herself ready." There is the matter of us getting ready as His Bride. Just consider how much preparation and growth is involved before a wife and husband arrive at their wedding day! In Revelation 21:2 we read, "I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband." Then in 22:17 it states, "The Spirit and the Bride say 'Come!' And let him who hears say 'Come!' And let him who thirsts come and take the water of life freely." Here we can really see the Husband and His Bride speaking together as one. They have the same cry. Come to the water of life and drink freely! How marvelous it is that we will eventually share in all God is as His counterpart.

In Genesis 1:26 God said, "Let us make man in our image and according to our likeness, and let him have dominion..." The heart of our God has not changed. From the very beginning this is what He has been after. He has been after a counterpart, a match, a bride, with whom He could share all that He is and all that He has. But it is not that we would simply be a queen in His palace, living in the lap of luxury. As His Bride we also share His authority! The universe is out of order. It is in disarray, in chaos. Even unbelievers recognize this. The Bride is made up of those who come back under the Lord's Headship, bringing the universe back into order. As His Bride, we share in His authority and exercise His dominion to bring the earth and universe into order.

This can be seen between a husband and wife in their own household. When there is disorder between a husband and wife, there is disarray. The kids feel it, anyone who comes over feels it, and even the dog feels it! But as the two become one flesh by joining the Lord on the cross, something wonderful is produced. A proper marriage manifests the work of the Spirit. When we are filled in spirit and come under Christ's headship, we are headed up and we take part in heading up the chaotic situation around us. The universe suddenly looks a bit brighter! Romans 8 tells us that all creation is longing for us to be headed up and to express God's authority as God's full-grown children. Creation is standing forth on tip-toe, wondering, "Where are you? Come on! Let's go! We need you to be in order so we can be released from the curse that has been brought upon us by this fall." The fall of man did not just affect man; it affected the whole universe. When we come back under the authority of God, God's authority begins to have its place on the earth so that God is no longer only the God of the heavens but also the God of the earth. Why? Because there is a couple on the earth saying, "Yes, Lord. We take You as our Head, and we accept the order You have established." When Christ has such a Bride, everything is brought under His feet, and this dominion stretches even to "every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." In this way, all things will be brought under God's authority.

The simplest unit, the beachhead, that the Lord begins with is the household, which is centered around the couple. We may think of ourselves individually as the units, but each one of us is actually only a half. Each one of us needs our counterpart, our complement. This picture of the two halves being brought together and becoming one flesh in Genesis should remind us daily of God's purpose. The more we see this, the more we should be able to say, "Yes Lord. It does matter how I spoke to my wife, and how she took it." So often we find we receive the supply of God

just by saying, "I am sorry." As my wife and I are together, we experience Christ in a particular way. I couldn't experience Christ in such a way by myself. (Alone, we all seem fine. A guitar by itself may seem tuned, but once it is matched against other instruments, it may find it is way off!) The Lord thus gives us one another to help us along the way, to be brought back into order, so that together we might be a testimony that shines out among men. Mankind is longing for peace, and true peace is found when we are brought back in line with God's purpose.

When someone comes and sees the testimony of two individuals becoming one flesh, something in their heart says, "Yes. That is what I know is right. That is what I also want." They may not fully understand that such a marriage is the fruit of God's work, and you yourself may not even recognize that your marriage is such a testimony. In John 17, however, the Lord prayed that all his believers might be one that the world might believe. There is a testimony to the world when man is back in order and oneness is displayed. It is not just that we all buy one another a Coke so that we all might get along and "sing in perfect harmony," putting aside our differences until it is convenient to bring them back! This is a real oneness that only the work of the Spirit can produce.

I think we all can testify that Satan has "done a number" on this thing called marriage. He does not want marriages to produce what God intended, for when people see something of God's work between a husband and wife, they are amazed by such a relationship, and are drawn to the very thing that established it. My wife's friends, when she was young, always preferred to come to her house rather than to have everyone over to theirs. Why? Because there was something they sensed that was found in that home. God was at work in her parents' marriage, and that little taste drew her friends in. They may not have been able to say it was God, but that became my wife's realization. A marriage in God's plan displays to others something they are longing for and looking for, for it displays the relationship that God is longing for and looking for with them.

- Mike Samulak