

**ACHOLI BIBLES DISTRIBUTED IN LAMOW REFUGEE CAMP**

**We are cut off...**

Marty and I have always done things together and this time was no different. Staring down at our positive COVID tests, we planned to do what others have done-pray and wait this out. And to ease the process, we planned to watch news or anything else that might distract us from our increasing discomfort and isolation that we knew was imminent.

BUT only a couple hours earlier, our TV and internet provider had undergone a national service outage, meaning our house would be silent. Worse yet, the same provider had also lost its mobile service, which now meant we could not communicate with anyone nor could we access news from the internet-our phones were as quiet as our TV and computers.

As minutes dragged on into hours, we began to realize how vulnerable we really could be without communication. But we did have a radio, used for signal checking our various radio stations when we travel. Soon we were connected again but news broadcasts were not positive, reminding us we might have days of silence; we did!

Thankfully, by day 3 service was restored and devices were connecting us to email across the world. But it brought fresh reminder of a reality we had known-radio is a lifeline for much of the world.

In our western world it has for a long time, seemed unfathomable that anyone could exist without a digitally connected world of multi-device hookups, streaming on multiple platforms, our automated artificial searching engines (AI) reminding us of the many things we don't need but should have...but that level of artificial communication has blurred the global reality, that most cannot communicate as we can.

In fact, the real world-the larger global community-has its fingers tightly wrapped around their beloved radios.

*Even in developed and media-savvy countries like South Africa, more than 90 percent of people listen to the radio.*  
(Source DW.com)

Our multi-language Bible Voice programming on various shortwave and FM radio stations continues every month; our goal to make Him known. Africans are indeed listening and encourage us with their kind responses each month. This listener to one of our *From the Valley* broadcasts aired over Liberian partner Worship FM, said it simply and succinctly:

*Please continue to share the gospel as it is opening peoples' eyes and helping them understand that Christ loves them.*  
Daniel from Liberia

**RADIO EVOLUTION**

From 1902 when shortwave radio first "spoke"(www.radioheritage.com), radio became critical to Christian outreach. Over time, shortwave gave way to AM (1920's) and then FM radio (1960's) became dominant. Internet radio emerged (1993) allowing computer users the opportunity to enjoy broadcasts with their laptops and eventually their devices. In 1999, Satellite radio joined the international broadcast community.

But even today, radio for Africa remains the predominant affordable medium for listening. Some radio broadcasters have added their programming to Facebook, Twitter or the APPS world to capture younger or different demographics. In fact,



**SHORTWAVE RADIO LISTENERS CLUB WEST BENGAL**

our Zambian partner One Love FM 104.1 can be heard on the Radio Garden App (free). Just download the free APP to your phone, from the App Store or Google Play and enjoy the sounds of Lusaka.

Regardless the platform, African Continent (1.4 billion) continues to listen to radio. Watch for future letters-I will be sharing opportunities to expand our radio reach into more African communities. We must take advantage of these open doors.

NAKYESSA UPDATE

The *good news* is our inaugural class of girls have progressed well with their 12-week skills improvement education in our rented store front makeshift classroom. The *bad news* is they don't want to stop. Teachers and students alike are supposed to go home. But they keep coming back to learn a little more...to talk a little more...to sew a little more...

And this week, local medical and police leaders arrived to encourage these girls with suggestions and safety tips how to prevent future inadvertent or otherwise misunderstood intentions that could jeopardize their life path.

Sometimes we take for granted that everyone just "knows" how to protect and prevent. But often they do not, and usually after being victimized, their education begins. So, it was exciting that invited community leaders arrived and took such interest in these girls. In fact, one leader expressed her appreciation, reminding us she had never before been invited to address young girls such as these. I don't wonder why they want to stay...

This 12-week (plus) equipping class concluded with a small graduation for our 6-girl class and it was held in the Nakyessa Church that we had constructed in 2018. We intended a humble exercise for 25 people including families. (*The rented graduation gowns put the exclamation point on the ceremony*). Instead, the 25 became 60 people, arriving to congratulate the girls and view the newly fabricated samples they had created. There was considerable excitement in the village church as families witnessed the new skills their once victimized girls had just acquired.

Most exciting was their new hope! And that was evident inside the Church, where spiritual meets practical in wholistic Gospel reality.

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*  
Jer 29:11 NIV

CONSTRUCTION

But our teachers must prepare for next classes and in the new building now well underway. Within a week the roof will be on; after that the toilet facility will be ready and later in August, the solar power will be installed.

COMMUNITY GRATITUDE

These are days of increasing painful restraint, in every corner of the world. In Uganda, drought has just killed many in the north; food prices have skyrocketed as have fuel process (7000 sch per litre = \$2.42 CDN) in a place where a good wage is \$300 per month.

I had recently shared the need for a generator to enable our local friend Pastor James to continue his rural crusade outreaches; I shared the need for a community roof so village security might be strengthened and I shared need for a soap-creation building.

This week we have received funding for the generator AND the community roof-thank you so much for this huge and sacrificial support in the face of our own challenging times. Please continue to pray about the soap building (\$3,500).

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LIFE ESSENTIALS

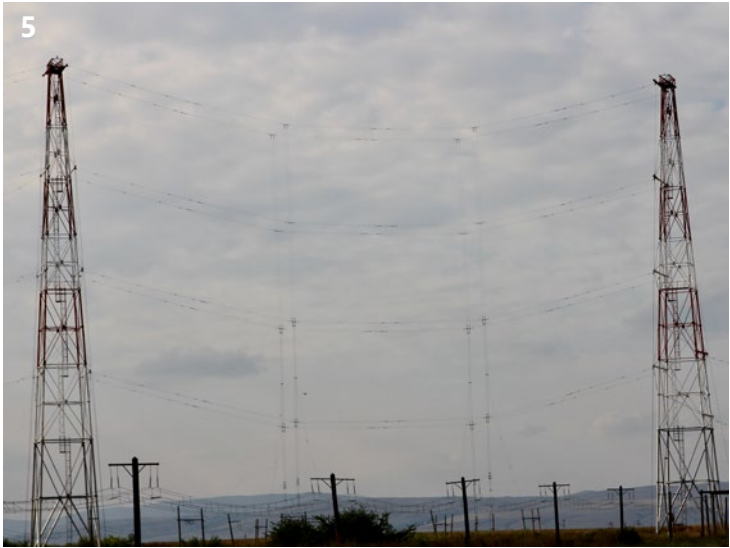
Interest among East African pastors for our Life Essentials equipping continues to grow. In recent weeks we had the privilege of equipping leaders from one of Uganda's largest denominations; from a major East African men's mentoring ministry and leaders from Uganda's Bible Society.

Within a few days of that, we hosted a group of South Sudanese refugee pastors who happily made the 12-hour journey to our Mukono Centre. Group leader Pastor Edward immediately sent a video greeting and gratitude for this unique equipping opportunity for his pastors within the East African Baptist community, explaining he never attends a meeting without his Life Essentials Study Bible and he wants the same blessing for his friends.

Dr Getz has clearly touched a supra-cultural nerve with this very unique QR coded study Bible. In a world where it's difficult to sometimes get agreement among local churches or leaders, this study Bible has seamlessly crossed borders and tribal customs; our recent classes held students from Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan and within those countries, from Baptist, Pentecostal and Independent believers, not to mention tribal mixtures of Luo, Karamojong, Baganda and more.

Somehow, differences are not different when everyone looks at Jesus. Study around the Word of God simply erases all the unnecessaries...as classes conclude, some have requested longer study for more days. I can certainly understand why-it's a taste of heaven!





1 PASTOR MARTIN HAS TRAINED 180 LEADERS WITH HIS LIFE ESSENTIALS BIBLE

2 PASTOR EDWARD SENDING GREETING AND GRATITUDE

3 GALCOM'S COMPASS UNIT UNDERGOING REDESIGN FOR LIFE ESSENTIALS

4 RADIO COMMUNICATION LIFELINE DURING DIGITAL CRASH

5 SAMPLE SHORTWAVE RADIO ANTENNA SYSTEM

6 MEASURE OF A WOMAN CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

7 NAKYESSA VILLAGE CHURCH

8 FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD IN NAKYESSA CHURCH

9 CHRISTIAN LEADERS RECEIVE LIFE ESSENTIALS TRAINING

10 50% OF OUR COFFEE DESTROYED IN FLOOD (BLUE ZONE)

11 PAUL (LEFT) DISTRIBUTING BIBLES TO MENS BASKETBALL TEAMS IN KAMPALA

FIRST CHALLENGE

Our 15-acre coffee plantation continues to supplement these classes as it was intended. But a recent flood destroyed almost 50% of our producing trees, setting our sustainability dream back about 18 months. If the Lord brings this to mind, please pray about a gift of support for pastor equipping. We need \$12,000 over the next 18 months. Although costs are reasonable, those costs (travel-food-teaching staff-materials) need to be covered, until our coffee can be replanted and revive.

NEXT CHALLENGE

This need is for prayer. Let me explain...

The Life Essentials Study Bible features a compilation of 1,500 teaching videos created by Dr Getz and all are accessed by the QR codes found within the identified principles-excellent resource for those with internet access like city pastors.

But rural pastors (who are the clear majority in Africa) cannot access internet affordably or easily. And they really do need the equipping Dr Getz provides. We have been communicating much with our friends at Galcom who have assured us they can adapt their new COMPASS unit- a solar powered missionary-to enable Dr Getz’ teaching but in audio format. Their COMPASS requires a redesign and while their team is capable, they are a small team with big projects.

I would ask for prayer for our friends at Galcom to successfully complete their prototype for our November classes where we might introduce this to rural pastors. This will eliminate the need for internet support and will revolutionize their study capability. That alone can transform African churches when their pastors become equipped. Please pray about this need!

BIBLES & MORE

Refugee Pastor Martin has been busy, sharing our gift of Acholi Bibles to refugees in the Lamow camp. He is waiting for the 2,000 special Galcom solar powered radios/Bibles and as soon as we can get over the bureaucratic hurdles, they will be on the way. Please pray about this logistical logjam.

And our own Kampala-based Paul has just received the full and final support to complete the distribution of 300 Bibles to the elite men’s basketball league in Kampala where his “Our Saviour” team competes and ministers each week. Paul’s next goal is for Bible distribution to the nation’s top female basketball players-he needs 250 Bibles and is waiting on the Lord for that even now. We would appreciate prayer for this need as well (\$10 per Bible).

COVID CONCLUSION

My electronic communication silence and eventual 2-week medical pause served as reminder of a scripture I had known for so long...

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Rom 8:38,39 NIV

Long before any form of audio or visual communication existed, He was communicating with us, reminding us of Biblical reality; in Christ, we are never cut off from Him-a truth found in His Book. If the world around us could just know this same reality...imagine!

We must make Him known!

Don

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