



SPREAD OF GRACE

STUDY  BELIEVE  PREACH

Quarterly Newsletter – Fall 2022



Musings from Mike

It is a busy season for SGM right now. Since August, we've had teams in Uganda, Mexico, and Kenya. In November we have a team ready to go to Sierra Leone. All the while, we are watching the Lord raise up the Otema Pastors Training Center and open the way for two potential new training groups next year. During the few weeks I have between Kenya and Sierra Leone, I am working hard to plan for 2023, recalling **Prov.16:9, "The heart of a man plans his way, but YHWH establishes his steps."** In other words, we can plan all we want, but the Lord is in charge of this. As "planning" is fresh on my mind right now, I think it's important to let SGM supporters know what some of this planning entails:

First, I'm putting together our teaching schedule for 2023 right now. Praise the Lord, we've seen more committed teachers this year, and I'm excited that several of them want to continue! **Second**, our board developed 1-to-5-year goals over the summer, and it is exciting to see some of those being achieved already. For example, we are hoping to start two new training groups: 1) for Ugandan pastors near the Otema Center and 2) for Congolese pastors. **Third**, we are working on a strategy to complete the Otema Center and pass it over to Ugandans ASAP. In fact, we would like to give supporters of the Otema Center an opportunity to join us in dedicating the building in 2023. Lord willing. **Finally**, we have two practical opportunities for you to help us in the year to come. 1) Check out our student resource wish list and either purchase a resource or ask others to help with the following link https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/10TVN4ALVDLYP?ref=wl_share. 2) Consider helping with our new "teacher's fund," which can enable us to send more teachers to more SGM trainings.

As always, we thank you for your partnership in the gospel as we equip pastors to study, believe, and preach the Bible. I sincerely hope you are encouraged by the articles that follow, written by several folks invested in the work of SGM.

Compelled by Christ's Love,
Mike Miosi, SGM Executive Director

Why SGM is Important

I've seen many well-intentioned ministries over the years struggle to make a deep or lasting impact with the people they are seeking to serve. I think what sets Spread of Grace apart from so many others is its focused mission to train and equip national pastors and church leaders. Men who have received training by SGM's teachers and have demonstrated that they can "rightly handle the word of truth," then go on to carry the torch into their local communities and congregations.

I've seen God bless these efforts tremendously. Student attendance increases often in the midst of hardship, new mission fields open up as requests from nationals come in and God faithfully provides, false teaching is refuted and rejected by people who once embraced it, God's Word is proclaimed, and people are saved!

As a board member, it has been a blessing to be given the opportunity to participate in what God is doing in places that I may never even visit.

Dave Warfel
SGM Board Member



How the Lord is Working in Uganda



As I considered the most recent SGM trip to Uganda, I was deeply encouraged in the work God is doing through our brothers and sisters there. One thing I am consistently struck by is the hunger for the Word the pastors and ministry leaders have. As the church is assailed from within and without by false teaching, the pastors in Bweyale and Kitgum have doubled down on their desire for Biblical truth. As we taught through 34 books in the Old Testament in Kitgum, the students were attentive and excelled in their exams. They expressed their excitement and desire to bring the teaching back to their churches, and use it in the planting of other

congregations. The brothers in Bweyale, following exhortation from Pastor Joe Fauth, doubled down on their commitment to Biblical truth by committing their finances and bodies in seeing the Otema Center finished. I was able to witness the careful exposition of 1 Corinthians 15 from Pastor Kennedy during the Sunday school hour of his local church, which is a clear fruit of the training SGM puts towards studying, believing, and teaching the Word.

Personally, because this was my second time going, it afforded relationships to deepen and an affection to grow that can only be explained through the work of God's Spirit. When I went with Mike in 2021, everything was new. The food, the sights, the sounds, and the smells was a lot to take in. But this year, I was generally familiar with what Uganda had to offer by way of "tourism." God allowed, because of this familiarity, time and effort to be put into deepening relationships with dear brothers in Kitgum and Bweyale. I was able to share my hobbies and experiences through photos and stories. I am still able through What's App to share with my dear brothers what is going on in northern PA. One thing that stuck out to them was that I hunted. I recently sent a photo of the deer I was watching just out of range of my crossbow. In response, they sent me a photo of the honey they were harvesting. My love and affection for these brothers laboring in rural, forgotten places has deepened and I long to be with them again. Praise God for the work He is doing in Uganda.

Joshua MacClaren
SGM Instructor



Otema Center

We praise the Lord for the continued progress on the Otema Pastoral Training Center in Bweyale, Uganda. It is not only a one-of-a-kind building in terms of its purpose, but it is truly a beautiful building! The quality of the building has impressed everyone who has visited the site. On October 24 we celebrated the completion of a bore hold well which will help to provide water not only to the center but to the surrounding community. We partnered with "In the Garden Missions" who provided the well to us at no cost!

Currently the workers are finishing the outside of the building with plaster and paint. We hope to begin construction on the perimeter security fence next week. Local pastors are contributing both financially and manually by constructing a border fence which will help to provide security for a future caretaker residence, garden, and sustainability project.

Praise the Lord for the financial provision to date! We are still in need of the funds to finish the conference and kitchen area of the building as well as funds to provide bookshelves, tables, and chairs. Should you desire to provide funds to help to meet these needs, please visit our website or send your donation to SGM and mark your donation for "Otema Center."

Joe Fauth
SGM Founder

If you are interested in donating toward the Otema Center, please go to:
<https://www.spreadofgrace.org/page/otema-center-donation-page>

Marathon Mission to Mexico & Sierra Leone

The role of the church in God's redemptive plan is irreplaceable as the source from which believers are built up in their most holy faith and prepared to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a dying world. The question arises, how can the church fulfill her role with men who are ill-equipped to lead this divine organism? This is where the ministry of Spread of Grace arrives on the scene of rural areas where pastors with little or no opportunity to be trained for the work of the ministry reside and seek to teach the Word of God.



The rural area of southwest Mexico served by SGM brings in individuals who are surrounded by Catholic and Pentecostal influences that distort the truth of Scripture and the saving message of the Gospel. For some of these men, Spanish is not their primary language which makes the work more difficult for them and other sources of training more difficult to access. As the attendees from this area of Mexico were engaged, with around 40 men and women including the ones for whom Spanish is a second language, these individuals blossomed in their understanding of what it meant to accurately preach and teach expository messages. This group of indigenous men and women poured themselves into the study often working for hours after the 7–8-hour teaching times had concluded. Additionally, the focus of Ephesians brought each of these face-to-face with Scripture. This led to discussions on the requirements for a man in leadership and the proper teaching roles of women teaching other women. Several of these aspects were in direct conflict with what these dear brothers and sisters had been taught was appropriate. This could have caused great angst and even abandonment of the SGM efforts, but it did not. The care with which these matters were brought forward and the love and delicacy of the teaching which examined and re-examined every contra-biblical perspective was met with humble acceptance and great growth in Christ because these attendees submitted themselves to the truth of Scripture. The church in this region is being mightily strengthened through the efforts of SGM.

The rural nature of western Kenya was much like that of Mexico only rather than Catholicism, the issue of false teaching here was the radical extreme Pentecostalism known as the Prosperity Gospel Movement. The influence of charlatan men and women teachers has created a massive pursuit of this false gospel because of the felonious allure of financial gain. In a country that is much less affluent than the western world this false hope has a great draw. The teaching of SGM took upwards of 60–70 men and women and brought them into a head-on confrontation of this untenable false teaching with its errant connection to the sign gifts which are no longer in operation. Each of these false doctrines was exposed for what they are alongside of the truth of Scripture. Biblical truth from 1 & 2 Timothy pushed each man to consider his qualifications for the office of elder and forced them correct false assumptions regarding pastors, elders, overseers, bishops, and teachers. Additionally, the proper roles of women in ministry were illuminated from the Bible. Both of these aspects brought a contrary response in some individuals hearts and minds, much like Mexico. Yet, it was the consistent, careful, and loving preaching of the Scripture that won the day and the hearts of the attendees. Men who would have adamantly opposed these teachings in favor of their traditions were drawn under the authority of God's Word to see the error of their false ideologies. Additionally, many who had no idea how to accurately study the Bible were carried to a point of great accomplishment further preparing them for deeper study in preparing to teach God's Word. The joy of seeing these brothers and sisters come into greater understanding of and submission to the Bible was invigorating.

The immense need of this type of ministry in rural areas is undeniable. The more rural an area the greater the need to help the men of the church grow in their understanding of and obedience to Scripture because of the lack of training resources. This need also exists in the urban areas of these countries because of the abominable influence of heretical teachings which fill many of the churches. It is a rich privilege to engage in such a ministry and one that will always carry a deep and abiding presence in every individual who participates as a student or teacher for in truth, we are all students under our Master, Jesus Christ and all to His glory and honor.

Scott Basolo
SGM Instructor