



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

July/August 2008

Serving God through International Education

DR. JIM BEARSS, PRESIDENT

DOUBLE SUMMER ISSUE!

*What a summer this has been! The reports on **Uganda** and the **Philippines** will thrill your heart when you see all that God is doing in the lives of faithful pastors and students. Hold on to your hat and get ready for a joyful ride! Read and rejoice in the Lord!*

UGANDA: PEARL OF AFRICA

*Teaching pastors and leaders in Uganda exceeded all my expectations. **Dr. Allen Monroe**, EPI (Equipping Pastors Internationally) invited me to join him in Uganda, and I am so happy he did! We experienced three great teaching venues during my 19 days away from home. In 3 four-day Leadership Conferences, we taught large groups of pastors and wives in the cities of Jinja, Tororo, and Kumi. The ministry in each place was very well received, and I have been invited to return next year for more teaching.*

*After each conference, the pastors gave us feedback on what our ministry meant to them. The comments were quite complimentary and encouraging to us. Here is an email that I received **today** while I was composing this newsletter. "Praise the Living God dear Dr. Jim Bearss!! I cannot forget the messages you preached in Jinja and I am praying so that God may pave the way for you to come and minister to our Pastors and Leaders again." (Pastor Martin Kabirigi)*



PHILIPPINES: PACIFIC PARADISE

*When you think of the Philippines, you probably think "heat and humidity." **Correct!** But also think, "Godly men and women eagerly studying the Bible!" Our ministry there included a four-day Bible Conference and classroom teaching at the **Word of Life Bible Institute** where I taught "Elements of Bible Study" and preached an evening series of messages in chapel on "The Sufficiency of the Word of God."*

***Dr. Wayne Vanderwier** (center, very yellow shirt!), founder and director of OIC (Overseas Instruction in Counseling), invited me to teach with him at his annual Pastors & Workers Conference. This is an important, ongoing ministry OIC offers to pastors and wives designed to strengthen them in **Biblical Principles of Personal Ministry**. Wayne invited me to teach again with him at the 2009 conference.*

THEY SAID THAT!

Many kind and gracious comments and notes of appreciation were given to me from the pastors and students. These remarks serve as confirmation that God is using **On Target Ministry** to accomplish our goal of teaching faithful men who will be able to teach others also. I ended up giving my Teaching Outlines and PowerPoints to dozens of pastors who will use this material over and over in their churches and personal ministries. This is multiplication of ministry!

Here are just a few of the many comments we received:

- I am so thankful to God for bringing you here to share your knowledge with us through His Word. God is good, all the time!
- Glory to God for what I have learned in this conference. I am thankful to God for your life and for how He uses you to bless so many others. Thank you for coming here to teach us.



- Praise God for the ministry He has entrusted to you. I am so blessed by how you really dig deep into the exposition of the Word of God. I am excited to use your teaching in my life and ministry. Thank you for challenging me to dig deeper.
- I have definitely been refreshed and equipped with the exposition of Scripture you did during the conference. You have this gift of preaching and are truly being used of God to train many “Timothys.” Keep on doing what you are doing!
- I was facing issues on bitterness and bad attitude, and I have been praying for God’s direction and guidance in addressing them from God’s Word. I had been reading my Bible a lot, but when I attended Dr. Jim’s seminar, my prayers were answered. I was rebuked and challenged to change for God’s glory. I am totally encouraged by your godly example.

- You have tremendously ministered to my spiritual needs. I do not regret attending this four day conference, even though I had to take a leave of absence from my job at the Supreme Court. This conference was unique and tremendously enriching. Please keep coming back and equipping me and many more Filipinos to be used of God for His glory. Thanks a lot!

On my last night in the Philippines, the Word of Life student body and staff members assembled outside my door and serenaded me! I joined them on the porch as they expressed their appreciation for our ministry to them and for the teaching.

One student made the best comment ever, **“I have learned from Dr. Bearss that when I study the Bible I should not find things that are not there!”** That says it all! I had told them in class to “stop putting words in God’s mouth,” and reminded them to “let the Bible speak for itself.”



ANNA BETSY SAYS "THANK YOU!"

"Thank you for your prayers for Kristine, James, and me as we waited for Jim to return home from overseas ministry. It's hard to be alone for so many days (38) but God was our strength and His grace was sufficient day-by-day. God used this time to draw all of us closer to Him. It is good to have Jim home safe and sound! After hearing his report of all that God is doing in the lives of the men he is teaching, we know that our efforts on the home front were well worth the sacrifice. God is always being good to us and He faithfully meets every need we have.

"Also, thanks to all of you who are faithfully praying for our house to sell. We have had several repeat 'lookers' and that encourages us. Keep praying. I know God has a plan, and we are waiting on Him."



UPCOMING 2008 SCHEDULE

- Aug 29-Sept 1 Family Camp, Camp Fairwood, Westfield, WI
- September 14 Lakeview Baptist Church, Dundee, OH
- September 21 Arlington Heights Baptist, Arlington Hts., IL
- Sept 24-28 Northwoods Missions Conference in Wisconsin
- October 26 Ripon Baptist Church, Ripon, WI
- Nov 1-14 Graduate School, Alexandria, EGYPT
- Dec 13-18 Port-au-Prince, HAITI (tentative)

*In addition to this travel and ministry presentation, I will be writing new courses for my teaching in **Egypt and Jordan 2009**. Pray that God gives me wisdom as I prepare these important lessons that will teach and train pastors worldwide.*

HAITI BIBLE INSTITUTE UPDATE

*The **Target Date** for teaching the first class of the Haiti Bible Institute is **May 4, 2009**. Our **Goal** is to have all the pastors sponsored by the end of 2008. So far, eight pastors have sponsors. Praise God for this response! Attached to this newsletter is a commitment form that you may use to **Sponsor a Pastor**. Please look it over and prayerfully consider doing this. For a small investment in a faithful man, you can make a huge difference for the cause of Christ in Haiti. Join together with the eight sponsors who have already invested in the teaching of faithful men who will be able to teach others also.*

ON TARGET MINISTRY

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*We stand in the service of the sovereign
God, whose purposes cannot fail,
whose words do not fall to the ground,
and whose people shall be saved.*



PICTURES WORTH 1,000 WORDS

*Attached to this newsletter are more pictures from our ministry trips to **Uganda** and the **Philippines**. God was so good to us giving us vital ministries in these strategic places. We also praise God for keeping us in good health and for helping Jim cope with jet lag: he crossed **20 Time Zones July 14-17!***

And as always, we want you to know how deeply we appreciate your faithful, fervent prayers and your loving financial support!

Dr. Jim & Anna Betsy Bearss

SPONSOR A PASTOR IN HAITI

Print this page and mail it with your support to **On Target Ministry**,
2130 Grand Avenue #3, Des Moines, IA 50312. Thank you for your
investment in this valuable and worthwhile project! Read on!



Announcing the Haiti Bible Institute

Opening May 4, 2009

On Target Ministry is committed to providing a fundamental Bible course of study for the faithful pastors in Haiti. These men minister under conditions of extreme poverty, and yet they serve the Lord with enthusiasm and determination. By teaching them the Word of God we will strengthen them in the faith and boost their confidence in God and His Word, thus making their ministries even more effective for the glory of God.

You are invited to participate in this marvelous opportunity that will certainly impact the entire nation of Haiti for the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Who can help?** Individuals, Churches, Sunday School Classes, Bible Study Groups, Organizations. *Any person / group can sponsor a pastor!*
- What is the cost?** We can provide a 4-year accredited Bible education for a Haitian pastor for a total cost of \$3,200.
- What is the commitment?** To ensure that we are able to finish what we start, we are seeking sponsors to commit to giving \$800 a year for four years.
- When are funds needed?** Ideally, the first installment should be given by the end of 2008. This will allow us to make the necessary arrangement in advance of the starting date of the school.
- Why are you doing this?** The pastors in Haiti have no opportunity to attend a traditional Bible College. By teaching them using the proven method of modular education, we can guarantee they will be equipped to carry out their ministry with knowledge and confidence.
- What if I can't support a Pastor all by myself?** **Good news!** We also have a **Haiti Scholarship Fund** you can contribute to. When the fund grows to \$3,200 we will use the money to support one pastor and start saving for the next pastor!

Your Name or Organization: _____

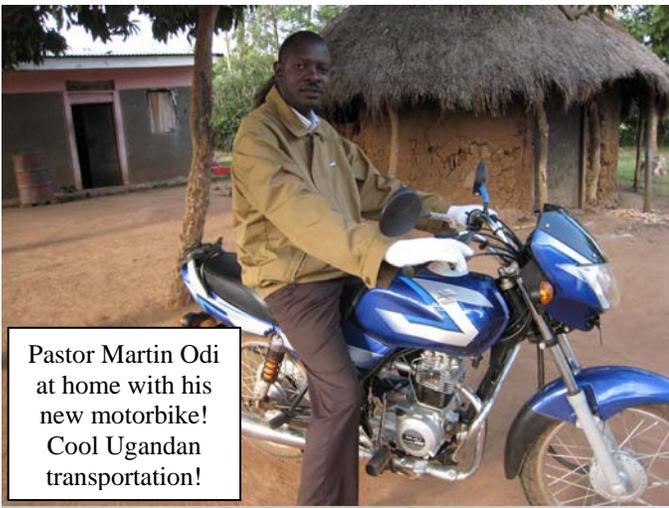
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

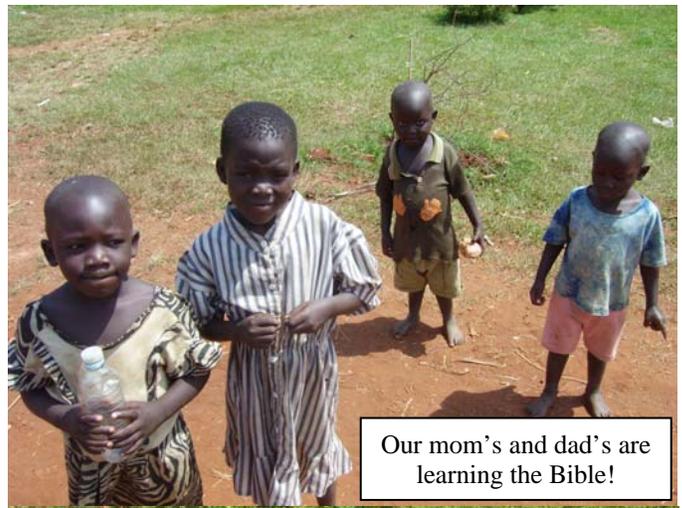
_____ **YES!** I will **Sponsor a Pastor** for \$3,200 over the next four years.

_____ My **first check** for \$800 is enclosed! [OR] _____ ...will be sent by _____, 2008.

_____ Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to the **Haiti Scholarship Fund**.



Pastor Martin Odi at home with his new motorbike! Cool Ugandan transportation!



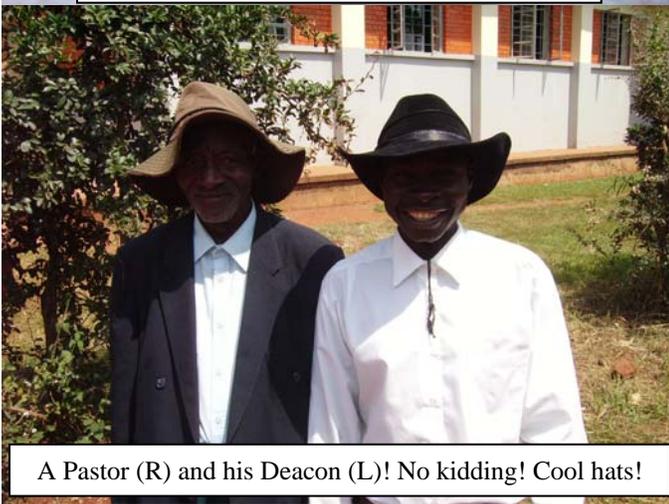
Our mom's and dad's are learning the Bible!



In Uganda, it is customary for women to kneel when speaking to their pastor.



Tea Time in Uganda!



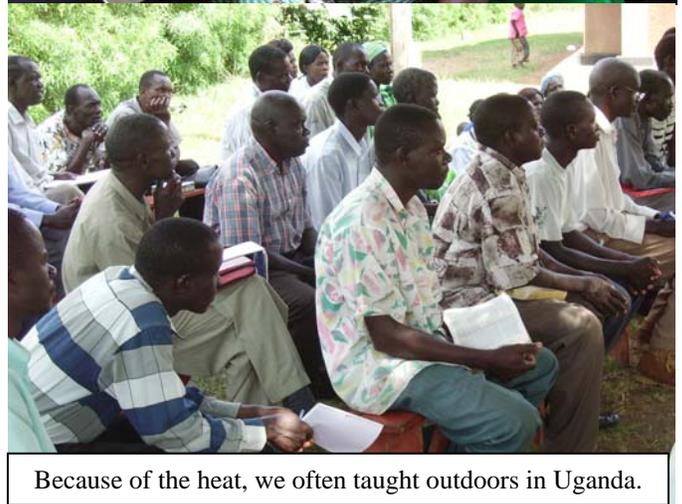
A Pastor (R) and his Deacon (L)! No kidding! Cool hats!



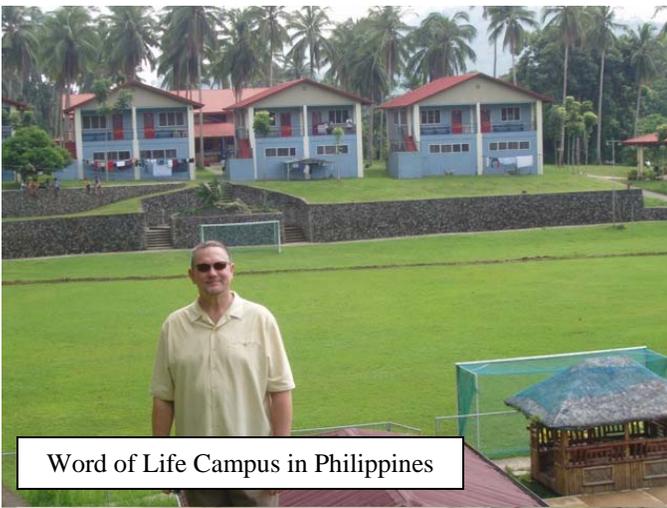
My daughter, Kristine sends *Beanie Babies* for me to give to the children.



Another happy *Beanie Baby* recipient!



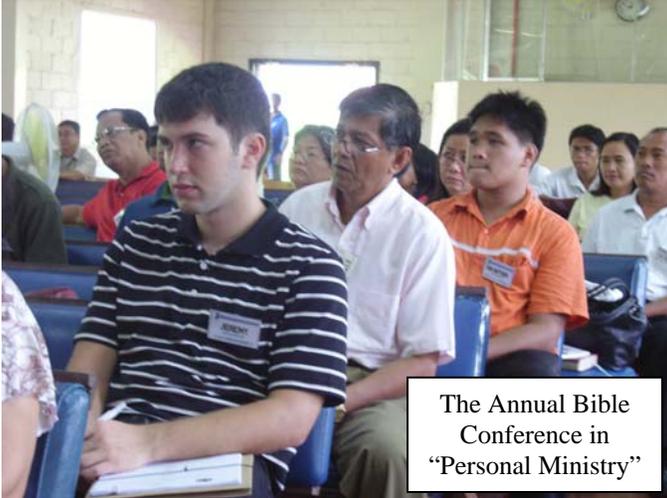
Because of the heat, we often taught outdoors in Uganda.



Word of Life Campus in Philippines



New Word of Life classroom building set to open in January 2009.



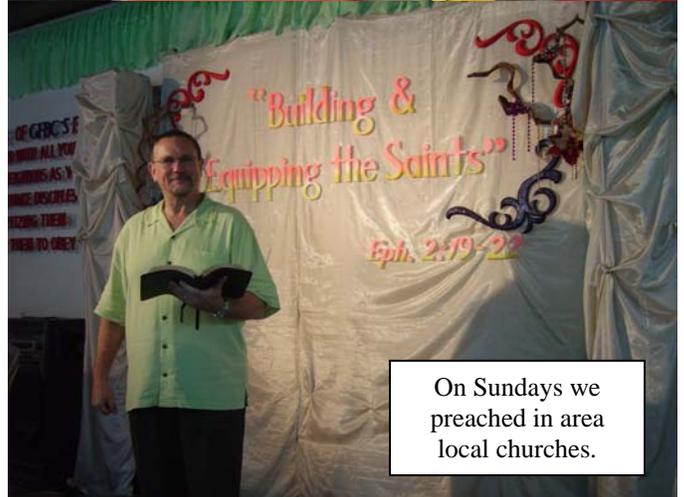
The Annual Bible Conference in "Personal Ministry"



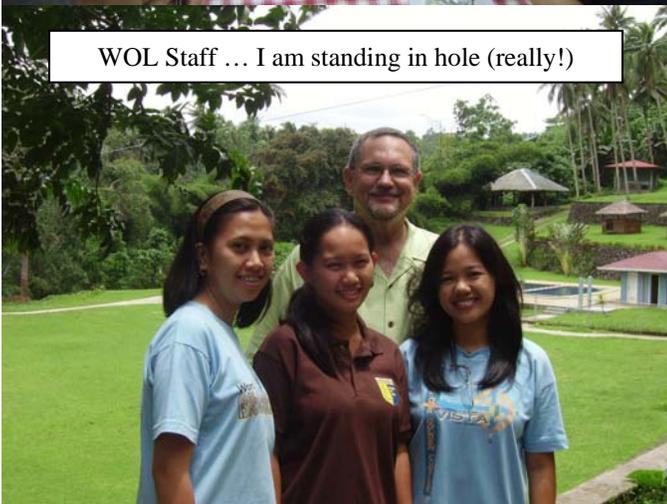
Lunch!



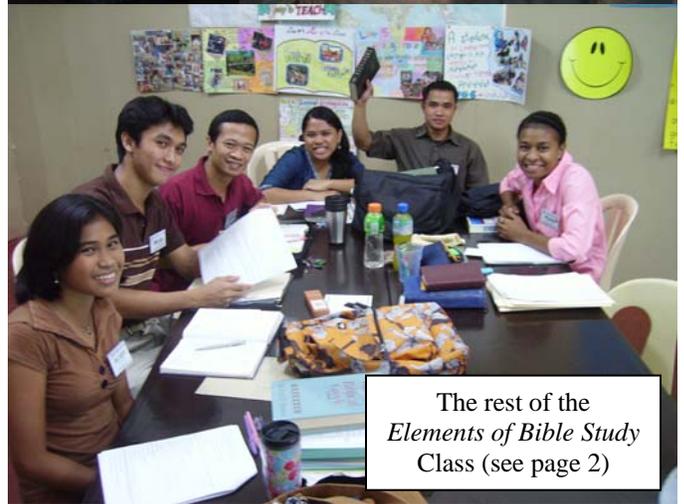
WOL Students!



On Sundays we preached in area local churches.



WOL Staff ... I am standing in hole (really!)



The rest of the Elements of Bible Study Class (see page 2)