

Nelson Zweck's visit to Mutai In Sept has proved very valuable and work has begun. EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING!

NELSON MEETS WITH MUTAI CONG.

Mutai Congregation had the chance to express how they need and desire to use the multi-purpose centre we will build them and a floor plan was drafted from this discussion.

STORAGE ROOM

Most urgently, a storage room is needed. They have been paying rental for storage and this is now unavailable. The erection of a stand alone store will be the first stage in the building program and will be built with security particularly in mind. It will become a garden equipment and produce store when the multi-purpose building is completed. They had a rough plan and costings for such a store.

So it was proposed that we approve the building of a store room at a cost of around \$3,000.

MAIN BUILDING

It was also proposed that we approve in principle the floor plan of the multi purpose building as designed by the Mutai congregation. An estimate of the costs is coming.

Nelson found an architect in Jinja who would draw up plans for the multi-purpose building at a cost of around \$750. This is one option.

Arriving in Africa, Nelson met an American/Australian girl, Holly, volunteering to teach the Bible at a Christian school in Kampala for one year. Nelson offered to drop her off as he had hired a car and driver. When they arrived, Nelson asked her about a sign there for **Engineering Ministries International**, and found out they provide free architectural and engineering design services to Christian ministries undertaking building or development projects in the developing world.

Nelson has submitted a Project Application, to EMI describing our organization, desired project and help needed. But they are backlogged with work so their help will only be available in Sept 2010 or June at the earliest, though this can change.

NELSON'S IMPRESSIONS OF PASTOR AARON

"By the time I left Uganda, I was convinced that the Lord had placed Aaron Bamuwamye into his position of responsibility as the right man at the right time. He is the pastor at Nakabango and Area Pastor of the eastern region, an area of about 200ks by 150ks including half (36) of the 70 congregations in the LCMU. At 34 years of age he is in his prime and is a natural leader of men. Above all, he understands that the prime task of the church is 'to seek and save the lost' and towards this task he gives his full attention."

His incredibly extensive workload prompted some supporters of SOUP to provide him with a vehicle. He now has a Toyota Caldina 4x4 auto. There is an ongoing appeal to provide lay evangelists in strategic congregations, with bicycles.

"The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build..." Neh 2:20b

PRAYER POINT

In Uganda's north, Gulu Lutheran congregation is hosting a youth conference 1st – 8th Dec. Other congregations are joining them for this time, including our old friends at Lira. This is the initiative of Obura Johnson, the seminary student (so LCMU may have another pastor soon) in charge of Gulu. Please pray for Obura, the conference and all participants.



Pastor Aaron and evangelist Jackson Omoding locate the site on the boundary where the store will be built. In the background is Nanziri's

Christmas in Uganda

Christmas is Uganda's biggest holiday, celebrated with gusto. For most, it is not a festival of faith, they just enjoy the festivities. Ugandans of all ages use the traditional greeting, "MUKULIKE OKUTUUKA KU MA-ZAALIBWA", as they congratulate one another for yet another Christmas added to their age.



In cities, Christmas is ushered in as early as the first week of December by a business boom caused by the buying of new clothes, gifts, and especially Christmas cards, which are popular among city dwellers. Merchants make a lot of money on popular festive items. Soft drink prices rise especially, because everybody drinks soft drink at parties. But even necessities become expensive. Uganda's crime rates are highest in Dec because people need money to enjoy Christmas!

More 'Westernised' families place great importance on gifts, but for others the emphasis is on partying- feasting and dancing. City authorities organize Christmas carolling and many Christian choirs participate, with the lighting of giant Christmas trees. Families and friends put the stereo outside and dance until the wee hours of the morning.

But large numbers leave the cities or towns where they work to visit their hometowns in the countryside. So transportation costs begin to rise. Ticket prices can go up to two or three times the normal rates in some areas. People who can will leave for their hometowns as soon as possible.

Even Hospitals empty. Most patients are discharged except for some serious cases. Officials and public servants take holidays. Offices, businesses and all usual activities shut down. So it's impossible to get things done from mid December to early January.

In the villages, Christmas is heralded by the arrival of droves of livestock. In some areas beef is the tradition and it is said, 'Christmas is a time when you hope for the means for two things; to dress your family smartly for Christmas church and to eat beef on Christmas day.' Villagers buy in large numbers of cattle for the Christmas feast. It is a noisy, bustling time. With no refrigeration, they kill all the cows a few days before Christmas, on the same day.

In other places, it's pigs, or a combination of pigs and cows. Families get together to slaughter the animals and the meat is shared with the village. Many of Uganda's 23 million people still observe Christmas this way, though the tradition has been lost in the cities where families prepare the feast only for themselves. But everywhere in Uganda there is music and dancing.

Typically a rural family rarely eats meat. But at Christmas time everyone aspires to. You can see how even beef bones are sought after at Christmas.

A World Harvest missionary in Western Uganda describes it: "**Christmas is coming. We may not have loudspeaker Christmas music or plastic Santas or twinkling multicoloured lights. But we have cows. So really we're back to the beginning, Christmas as it began, 2000 years ago, with dirt, animals, and the smell of poverty and despair. All of this the welcome given to the King of all times and all nations, Jesus Christ.**"



Droving Christmas dinner.