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-Annual Leadership Training Conference -

As with many Third World nations Uganda suffers greatly economically and the vast majority of people live in poverty. The local church, despite its own deprivation, seeks to help as best as it can, caring for orphans and widows and answering practical needs as it is able.

On my first visit to Uganda in 1996 I was immediately aware of the great need for two main things – 1) Church Pastors and leaders to receive regular training and encouragement and, 2) Christians needed to be nurtured and released into service. Since then members of the **Uganda Ministries** team have accompanied me on annual visits to work with various local churches in the Mukono and Bweyogerere districts and other more remote churches to address these needs.

In 2007 the 10th Annual Leadership Conference took place at God's Centre of Blessing in Bweyogerere, just outside Kampala. Over these ten years I have sought to train local church leaders to lead with excellence so that they and their churches can grow not just numerically but also in maturity and ministry.



God's Centre of Blessing, Bweyogerere.

Each conference is attended by hundreds of Pastors and leaders from various denominations and fellowships and it not only provides training for them but encourages greater inter-church fellowship and trust between denominations. From the beginning the Leaders Conference has been hosted by **Pastor Steven Mugwanya** who leads God's Centre of Blessing Ministries (with 3 rapidly growing churches).

Pastor Steven's vision and humble desire to serve the church has meant that so many Pastors and leaders who could not afford to undertake formal training can receive at least an annual opportunity to feed on God's Word with other leaders whom face the same challenges as them.



Pastor Steven and Susan Mugwanya and their children, (L-R) Jesse, Tracey and Trevor.

Uganda Ministries provides regular support for Pastor Steven and his family and as well as running the Annual Leaders Conference we also lead daytime Nurture Sessions where an increasing number of Christians have been taken through a course that covers the basic tenets of the Christian faith and what it means to be a Christian in both the church and the community. These sessions have also been hosted by God's Centre of Blessing, though team members also travel to more remote churches to minister.



Annual Leadership Conference delegates.

The largest part of the cost of the teams annual visits to Uganda are the air tickets. These cost on average £650 per person, though in 2006 they cost a staggering £850 per person. We realise that this is a large amount of money but the Ugandan Pastors have regularly said that they would rather have us visit and minister to them than receive the money!

If you would like to support the Annual Leadership Training Conference then please send your gift to the address at the top of this information sheet. [Please make cheques payable to Uganda Ministries.] January 2008