

26 July 2010

Dear brothers and sisters of Northern Uganda, and the leadership of the **Lira United Church Council**,

The leaders of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Charleston, South Carolina, USA greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and His Father who sent Him to do His beautiful work, and in the name of the Holy Spirit whom the Father has given us to strengthen and bolster and guide the Church throughout the world! We miss you, and we look forward to sending more of our church to be with you in the future, yet though we are in another land we are grateful for your diligent work in the Kingdom of God. He sees it and does not ignore it!

We thank you very much for the recorded video of your discussion in the summer of 2009 concerning the Church in Northern Uganda, which brother John Eckley brought to us as a report of your concerns and prayers. We have been praying for your work there, and the issues you face as the Kingdom of God moves forward. And we thank you very much for the report of The Way Forward, in which we saw your thoughtful, prayerful, important plan for addressing these issues.

We are praying for the implementation of The Way Forward, and we are excited to see what our mighty God does for us all. We are asking God on your behalf to provide the continued, necessary resources for an equipping center, where physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development for all sorts of people might take place. We hope and pray especially that this center can be a place of training and renewal for pastors as they minister to you, and we are seeking to know from the Lord what our part in that center should be.

Even if the realization of such a center is years from now, we are grateful and joyous to be a part of the Kingdom-work of God in Northern Uganda. The sisters in Christ who bring this letter to you are a sign to you of our continued commitment to bring discipleship training and pastoral resources to you. We hope they are able to nourish and encourage you as much as they are sure to be nourished and encouraged by you. We are praying for their work with our Ugandan sisters, and we are confident that they will share with you the love that the elders of Redeemer Presbyterian Church have for Uganda. More of our people do hope and plan to come to you soon, and we are confident that our God will bring us together again.

The elders have heard your personal words. At a breakfast held by the **Lira United Church Council** in June of 2009, you sincerely expressed the difficulties you face in doing the work of the Great Commission in and around Lira. And so, in response to your words;

- We pray that you are able to disciple people in the deep knowledge of God, so that they may, in turn, speak of God's greatness to other people.
- We pray for your fight against Islam, which seeks to deceive people with a false savior and steal them from God's church. We all know of the difficulties that Islam presents to the true Church and to the people for whom the Church seeks to care. We will pray that you continue to love and care for Ugandans—especially Moslem Ugandans!—in the face of these difficulties, because our God has done the same for us even when we did not deserve it.

- We pray for your unity throughout God’s kingdom in Northern Uganda. We pray that you continue to seek to grow the Church of Jesus Christ for His glory alone, rather than turn to seek the glory of your own churches.
- We pray for your preaching to the people of Uganda, that your preaching would be strong, rooted in God’s power, and deep in the knowledge of God, and how gracious He is to even us, the worst of sinners.
- We pray for your women, that when they are saved by the Savior, Jesus Christ, that they might be able to worship and obey our God unhindered and unharmed by the men around them, even to the point of helping bring those men to our God! We pray that they might be unashamed and unafraid to speak of God’s greatness to their children, and that those children would also worship God unhindered.
- And we pray for your commitment to—and joy in—the Gospel, that you would run and not grow weary, that you would walk steadily and not grow faint. We pray that you would be revived! We pray that you would stand in the face of evil, that you would preach love in the face of hate, and that you that you would show grace and forgiveness to each other and those around you. We pray that you have strength to pray, even when you are exhausted, and even when you feel you have no more words for prayers. We are promised then to be visited in special ways by the Holy Spirit, who gives us words when none can be found!

Pray for us, also; for our involvement in your work there, and that more of us might be able to come to you again.

We love you, and consider it all joy to be citizens with you of a greater country than Uganda or the United States,

The Elders of Redeemer Presbyterian Church
Charleston, South Carolina, USA

1 Timothy 4:15-16

¹⁵Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. ¹⁶Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.