

**Delegation to the Church of the Brethren in Uganda
at the invitation of the Annual Conference Moderator
March 26-30, 2022**

Participants:

- *David Sollenberger*, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator, and *Mary Sollenberger*. David made this trip possible when he chose Rwanda and Uganda as the destinations for his international visit.
- *Caleb Sylvanus Dakwak*, Nigerian pastor and teacher, who was chosen by the president of the EYN to participate in this delegation. In one of the biblical reflections he gave on our trip, he said: "You won't have to invite anyone to church if they see your faith."
- *Athanasus Ungang*, Global Missions staff member in South Sudan, pastor and director of Brethren Global Services, which operates a trauma healing center near Torit. He was with us only in Kampala.
- *Marla Bieber Abe*, pastor, whose friendship with Rwandan church leader



I. to r. Joshua (Sedrack's brother), Obed (his father), Marla Abe, Joel (Sedrack's youngest brother), Grace Elliott, Mary and David Sollenberger, Chris Elliott. In front is Elisha, Sedrack's cousin.

Etienne at Bethany and Earlham seminaries in 2012 resulted in the founding of the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda. She has also been in the Democratic Republic of Congo to visit churches there and their leader, Ron Lubungo. In addition to bringing gifts for the schools donated by the Trinity and Daleville congregations (Virilina District) which were packed into 3 large suitcases, Marla personally brought beautiful table runners as a gift to each church we visited.

- *Christian Elliott*, retired pastor and part-time farmer from Pennsylvania, who devotes months at a time in Gisenyi, Rwanda to teach, pastor and provide agricultural assistance to

the Brethren. He is also in close contact with the churches and their leaders in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Burundi. Chris is the only Church of the Brethren member outside Africa to have met with Burundi church leaders. Money was donated by the Southern Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic Districts for Bibles, purchased in Uganda and in numerous languages. Chris and Sedrack gave some directly to worshippers, but mostly they turned them over to the pastors who had a better idea of who needed them. The Bibles were greatly appreciated by those who received them.

- *Grace Elliott*, Chris' daughter, who teaches pre-school English at the Brethren school in Gisenyi, Rwanda.
- *Gordon Hoffert*, who first visited the newly-formed and emerging church in Uganda in 2019 and returned for an extensive visit in 2020.

Accompanying us from the Uganda church were *Bwambale Sedrack* (Team Leader), his wife, *Diana Rose*, their daughter, *Shadrose*, *Masereke Dan* and *Elisha*, sons of John Kule and cousins to Sedrack (Dan is a pastor and Elisha is Sedrack's interpreter), and *Jimmy*, Sedrack's driver. There were numerous others with us at various points of our journey. *Fred Luganda*, an instructor at the Makerere School of Business, was our tour leader.

Monday, March 26 • Kasese

The group traveled from Gisenyi, Rwanda to the Rwanda-Uganda border at Cyanika, where we were met by tour leader, Fred Luganda, and a small tour bus. The border crossings between Rwanda and Uganda had been closed for several years for political reasons. They had just been reopened several days before. There were no real problems, but the process was very slow.

The drive north to Kasese in the southwestern corner of Uganda included a river crossing by ferry (the bridge was being repaired), which looked more like a platform than a boat. After we reached the other side, one of our group asked, "Was that safe?" We arrived in Kasese in the evening and were met by Sedrack, the leader of the Uganda CoB, his wife, Diana, 3-year-old daughter, Shadrose, and numerous other Brethren leaders from the Kasese area.



The ferry felt safer than it looked.

Sunday, March 27 • Kasese

Bukongo Church of the Brethren

Our first congregational visit to the *Bukongo Church of the Brethren* in Bunyangabo district was memorable. The church is located on a mountain slope about a mile from the main road in Kyamukube, the village below the church. So, we hired



Gordon and his boda-boda driver.

boda-bodas to take us to church. Boda-bodas are motorbike-taxis you see everywhere and will go anywhere. Their name is derived from "border to border." Riding up to church was a high point of the trip (pun intended).

The church started worshipping in 2020 during the lockdown. The current pastor, Bagheni Simon, has some relatives in the village, so that was the initial connection. Then a team went door to door. They basically said, "We have come to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with you." Not everyone was receptive, of course. But when they had gotten enough people to form a church,

they saw it was too far to go 50 km to the nearest congregation, *Kendahi*. Instead, they planted a church, a temporary structure with woven-branch, mud-plastered walls (wattle and daub construction). Now the land the building sits on is up for sale, so the church, with help from the board, is purchasing land. They need \$500.00 to finish purchasing their land, but first they sent almost half that amount to support the *Rising Star Orphanage and Junior School*. What a powerful testimony! Coffee production is being considered as a way of raising funds for the purchase.

Pastor Simon has an extremely long commute. Sometimes he takes public transportation. He (as several commuting pastors do) makes the trip to the church on Saturday to prepare for the next day's worship, then sleeps at the church. Sometimes he even goes up during the week.

Pastor Simon's situation has the board thinking about purchasing motorbikes and loaning them to pastors who have long commutes. The motorbike would then be passed on to the next pastor of the congregation.

We doubled up on the boda-bodas for the trip down from *Bukongo*. Pastor Chappy rode behind me. He's a motorcycle rider himself and he reminded me to

adjust my weight to the middle of the seat when he noticed I was leaning too far to the left to get a better view of the road and making it more difficult for the driver to balance the machine. Good advice. And a reminder of how skilled these drivers are.

The inhabitants of Kyamukube, the village at the base of the mountain where Bokokongo is, find it hard to make the climb to church. So, the Brethren board is planning to plant a church there. But before they do, more evangelism is necessary.



Bukongo CoB, a wattle and daub structure

Hima Church of the Brethren

The next congregation we visited was the *Hima Church of the Brethren* led by Pastor Chappy. The assistant pastor is Muhindo Deo, whom I remembered from my visit two years ago as very interested in the Brethren. At that time, he was a Seventh Day Adventist pastor and a friend of the late John Kule, a former Adventist pastor himself, who didn't found the Church of the Brethren in Uganda, but whose early move from Adventist to Brethren was a critical factor in the development and growth of the Uganda church.

The *Hima* congregation, founded in the last 2 years, is located in the town of the same name where a large cement plant is located. The church moved into an existing structure. The worshippers meet in a tarp-covered area behind the building. The regional office is also located here. Sedrack and his family stay in a room here when not in Kampala.

Hima CoB is the fastest growing Brethren church in Uganda. Sedrack attributes this to the high-profile charity work that's carried on here - food distribution to widows and providing a home for 18 orphans. Sedrack says, "People just show up at church and want to become members." The orphans stay at the compound. Sedrack's

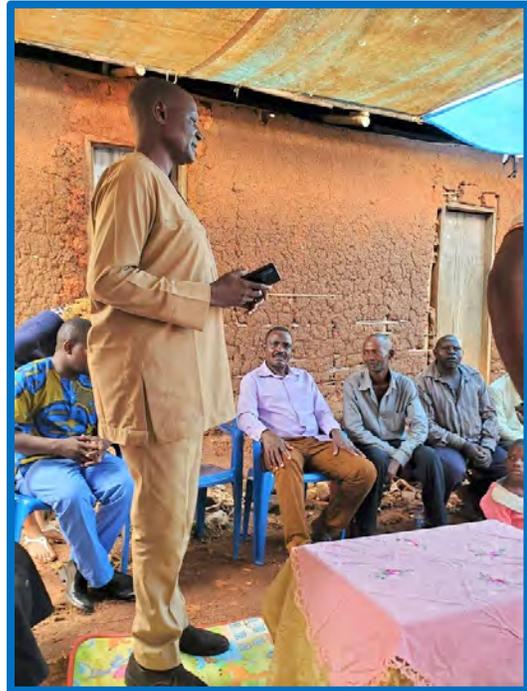
niece, Jennifer, takes care of them along with a man named George. Neither is paid a salary. They receive a room and meals consisting of maize and beans.

The church here, with the assistance of the Brethren board, is planning to start a chicken project in Hima. This will help children develop skills in raising poultry. Trinity Church of the Brethren has contributed money to the Hima chicken project.

Sedrack's office in Hima also oversees the operation of a mill, purchased with a \$5,000.00 grant from Global Food Initiative. It was purchased in May 2021 and started operating in July. Maize, sorghum, millet, casava and roasted soy beans are all ground there. The flour goes primarily to widows and for the orphanage. Poor farmers and gardeners, who rely on this grain for their own consumption, can also have their grain ground here at no cost. The bran is used for feeding chickens. Our group visited the mill site and, though it was dark out, the mill was grinding away, workers filling sack after sack.

Kendahi Church of the Brethren

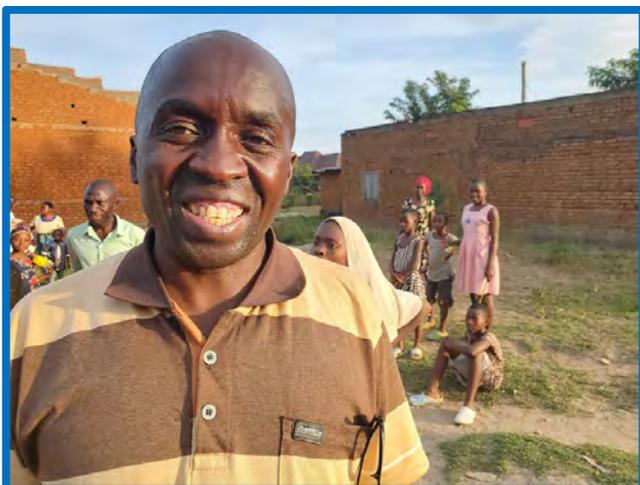
The worshippers in *Hima* included members of the ***Kendahi Church of the Brethren***, led by Pastor Joas. We drove by to view the church. It is located at the edge of the tiny village of Kendahi, located on a ridge overlooking a wide plain. It has grown only slowly. This mirrors the stagnant population growth of the immediate area surrounding the village. A land dispute is a discouragement to people wanting to purchase property and move here.



Nigerian pastor Caleb Dakwak, a great teacher and preacher.

Gospel Light Church of the Brethren

On our way to our final visit of the day at ***Saluti Church of the Brethren***, we stopped to see the ***Gospel Light Church of the Brethren*** in Mubuku, a suburb of Kasese. There was no program here; members had gone to the ***Saluti CoB*** to meet us.



Mapuni Ezekile, a deacon at Gospel Light CoB. He works as a police Officer.

Both the Gospel Light church and the Saluti church were Seventh Day Adventist churches up to 2018. The aforementioned John Kule, Sedrack's uncle, was the pastor of Gospel Light until his death of a stroke in 2021. This could be called the "mother church" of the Church of the Brethren in Uganda. After Pastor Kule adopted the Brethren and left his denomination, he and Sedrack mentored and called the new Church of the Brethren pastors from this church. Before becoming Brethren in 2018, the Gospel Light church had planted the Saluti church and installed Masereke Dan, the son of John Kule, as

pastor. Dan has now replaced his father as pastor of the *Gospel Light Church of the Brethren*. The building is a nice structure, but it lacks doors, windows and a cement floor. These will be added as soon as fundraising goals have been reached.

Saluti Church of the Brethren

The location of the *Saluti Church of the Brethren* is next to the Kasese airport. The original building was, like several other churches, of wattle and daub construction (walls of woven sticks and limbs plastered with mud) with a metal roof. The building was destroyed by a flash flood in 2021. A temporary structure was erected, but had to be taken down soon thereafter because temporary structures are in violation of the building code. So now worship takes place under a tarp. The congregation has started to make their own bricks (mud placed into forms, dried, then fired) for a new building.

We were met here (as we always were) with lively singing and dancing led by *Gospel Light's* dynamic youth pastor, Hangison. We were introduced to the widow of John Kule, Musoki Sarah. She is revered and looked to as a source of wisdom. Because their former pastor, Dan, has moved to the *Gospel Light CoB* to replace his father, two women are serving as interim pastors at the *Saluti CoB*, Nyakato Mary, Pastor Dan's wife, and Kabugho Jovia, a younger woman. When a pastor is called to this church, Mary will join Pastor Dan at *Gospel Light*.



Sedrack's wife, Diana, and daughter, Shadrose.

Monday, March 28 • Kasese

Kitsutsu Church of the Brethren

Our first visit today was to the *Kitsutsu Church of the Brethren*, an existing congregation which joined the Brethren. Like the Bukongo Church of the Brethren, the church setting is relatively remote. Reaching the church building requires a long walk uphill. The structure is unfinished. It has brick walls but no permanent roof yet. Tarps provide partial covering.



The Kitsutsu CoB worship team

The structure is unfinished. It has brick walls but no permanent roof yet. Tarps provide partial covering.

In spite of the building's obvious needs, this congregation offers financial support to the local school - a powerful testimony!

Formerly this church was the Evangelical of Nations Pentecostal Church. The leader, Pastor David was friends with Pastor Deo of the *Bigando Church of the Brethren* before *Kitsutsu* changed affiliation. Pastor David has a long commute to the church, about

1 ½ hours. Sometimes he walks, taking shortcuts through the mountains. Like all the Brethren pastors in the Kasese region but one, Pastor David is a farmer. They can be absent for longer periods because they all hire workers. The exception is Pastor Dan of the *Gospel Light Church of the Brethren* in Mubuku. He works in construction.

Pastor David attended Brethren seminars and was attracted to Brethren theology, teachings and the emphasis on peace, love and justice. He presented an application for membership to the CoB board. Sedrack met with the church council and then the whole congregation. He emphasized that he does not work alone. Sedrack challenged the church: If you're really serious about joining the Brethren, you'll have to submit a formal resolution from the council. They did. Then they had to change the ownership of the property to the *Church of the Brethren in Uganda*. The Brethren don't have a lawyer, so all this was accomplished through careful attention to wording and detail.

Rising Star Orphanage and Junior School

From the *Kitsutsu CoB* we drove to Rugendabara, the village nearest the *Rising Star Orphanage and Junior School*. This is easily the biggest project operated by the Church of the Brethren in Uganda. This flagship ministry embodies the Brethren mission to address the hardships and suffering of widows and orphans. The children were all dressed in their blue uniforms and waiting for us (we



Following our visit to Kitsutsu CoB, the women served lunch.

were perpetually late). A band, musicians in red uniforms from another church, then led the children, marching in two columns, out to the school. We walked along, first along a highway that runs through the village, then into the countryside to the school.

Previous to the Covid outbreak, this compound served as both the housing for the orphans and as the classrooms. But Covid rules didn't allow schools to use their facilities to house students, so another compound suitable for dorms was found about half a mile away. However, the older boys are still housed at the school. Neither compound has electricity or running water.

After a short program of singing and introductions, we drove to the dorm compound. Both this property and the school compound are rented. At the dorms the 2 large suitcases full of gifts (most of which Marla Abe brought) were presented. The soccer balls were especially appreciated. The staff will be responsible for further distribution and use of the gifts.

The school's enrollment includes students who live at home with both parents. These students, 26 in all, pay full tuition, \$44.00 per year. Still, most of these families are considered poor. There are 72 half orphans (one parent living) who live at home as well. *[Marla: Half orphans are always the children of mothers. I believe they feel fathers can find jobs and take care of their own children.]* The half orphans have full scholarships; they pay no fees. The 88 full orphans live at the facility and, of course, pay no fees. The orphanage-school is presently at full capacity.

The headmaster of *Rising Star Orphanage and Junior School* is Isingoma Baziliyo. He has a room off grounds from the school. His wife, Kunuma Mary, is called the "matron" of the school. She stays with the children. She also led the singing. Mary is on crutches and has a severely deformed foot, the result of a motorcycle accident 2 years ago. The doctors wanted to amputate, but she refused. The staff includes about 4 other teachers and 2 young men who serve as cooks.



Marching out to the orphanage. Headmaster Baziliyo is in the dark suit.

The staff works sacrificially but without regular wages. They only get paid when there is some money available. Yet these are skilled educators. Their commitment to these children is beyond what we can comprehend. These are saints. Amazing! Marla noticed a young man hand-washing the children's clothing. Her response: "I can't imagine! And no electric or water. Maybe someone will want to donate a

generator or pay for a well to be built." Now as some of kids get older, they are sent to a nearby secondary school. Eleven of the children have gone on to secondary school. Or they can enter vocational training school. So far, 6 girls have had vocational training; three as hairdressers and three as seamstresses. Continuing the

education for the children is a further strain on the school's budget, but they are committed to the children receiving a full education.

Eventually, the Brethren want to add vocational training at *Rising Star*, a bakery, for example. For this, additional land must be acquired, particularly cropland to train future farm managers because farming is the backbone of the Ugandan economy. Training through the use of the method "Farming God's Way" is a possibility. Cost of the land to build a new orphanage would be \$25,000.00.

The Brethren also want to plant a congregation in Rugendabara, the village close by. One of the workers at the orphanage, a supervisor of the older children, is being considered for leadership there. He is the second son of the woman (named Jones, but pronounced Jo-nas) who co-pastored the *Kendahi CoB* with Pastor Peninah. Jones is not currently active as a Brethren pastor.

Here is an overview of the school system in Uganda. It is based on the model used in the United Kingdom:

- Nursery school/Kindergarten, 3-5 years old
- Primary (7 years - 7 levels)
- Secondary
 - Ordinary Level, 14-17 years old (after completion, students can train for certificate level occupations : nursing, teaching, business, etc.
 - Advanced Level, 18-19 years old (preparation for university)

Bigando Church of the Brethren

From *Rising Star*, we drove on back (dirt) roads, a real challenge for a 28-seater bus and its driver, Moses, during the rainy season. Our destination was the rather remote village of Bigando. About 5 years ago, the residents of Bigando suffered



When necessary, Moses made his bus perform like an ATV,

the effects of violent, tribal conflict. Today there are a disproportionate number of widows and orphans in the village. That's why the Brethren came here and why the *Bigando Church of the Brethren* was one of its first new church plants. There are presently 8 orphans from Bigando at the *Rising Star Orphanage and Junior School*. Since there are more orphans in Bigando than can go to the orphanage, they are "adopted" and cared for by local families. Giving support to these families who take in orphans, as well as providing food for the widows and paying school fees, are other

Brethren ministries here.

First, we were served a nice lunch in the *NewPlanet Star Academy* school building, which is a long, narrow brick building along the road that was used by market vendors. That explains the small classrooms all lined up. Then we went to the church, a wattle and daub building that can't hold the congregation any longer. So, an area covered by tarps has been added next to the entrance. Several months ago, a week-long outdoor evangelism event in Bigando resulted in 80 people accepting Christ and joining the church. Pastor Deo and his wife, Mariejane, are the leaders here.

The Brethren plan to build a new church here. Brick-making has already started. Bricks have to be made at designated areas. But exceptions can be made and bricks made closer to home if the church gets an official exemption. A civil servant who is also an engineer is charged with inspecting and certifying the bricks before construction has begun. The projected cost of the new church is \$10,000.00.

One of the church members is a woman named Omuhereza Turyakyira, an influential person in Bigando. She is one of the villagers who has taken in orphans. She also sits on the local council. Each village has a Local Council 1. Local Council 2 is made up of representatives from several villages or wards. Local Council 3 is made up of the town mayors and the chairs of Local Councils 2.



At each church, Chris gave the pastor Bibles to distribute to the congregation. With Pastor David at the Kitsutsu church. Elisha, interpreter, (l.) and Bwambale Sedrack (r.)

NewPlanet Star Academy, Bigando

We walked from the church over to an open field behind the *NewPlanet Star Academy* where tarps provided shade and a large crowd had gathered. What a difference in crowd size from my visit here 2 years ago. Then there were 20 or so adults. Now there were about 100 adults in the crowd. (You can always count on lots of children!) The emcee was the director and founder of the school, Alexander Shakema. He introduced the man responsible for his teacher training, also named Sedrack. You could tell he was very proud of his student, Alexander, and what he had accomplished.



These girls wore their "princess dresses" to church.

I had made a donation to the Uganda Brethren a year or so ago and designated a small portion of the gift to go to *NewPlanet Star Academy*. From the recognition I received from Alexander and others for this very modest amount, you would have thought that I had endowed an entire new wing of the Guggenheim Museum. It was evident to me that the money symbolized more than financial support, it was evidence that someone remembered them and cared about them. When the mayor, Maate Bonefasi Syabojo Bladdy, spoke, he mentioned that I had made good on my promise to return to Bigando. Another speaker was Kule Elijah, the chair of the Board of Trustees. During the program, the third of Marla's three large suitcases

was presented and opened. The children went wild with excitement when they saw the soccer balls.

The *Bigando CoB* has supported the school financially. The school has now purchased land for its own building. But Alexander lacked the financial resources to make the last payment, so the church stepped in and provided the final \$20.00.

There was an amusing incident that occurred during the program. Alexander introduced the school's treasurer, who stepped before us with about 6 sheets of paper in his hand and began in broken and almost incomprehensible English to give a painfully detailed financial report. Elisha, a son of John Kule and Sedrack's interpreter, repeated his words (I don't know how) in the local language. It took an interminably long time before this gentleman got to the second page. When he finally did, Elisha began looking at the page with a concerned expression. He knew this was going way too long. So, he began to point out sections the man could read, essentially editing and trying to shorten the report. Then Alexander mercifully thanked the treasurer, who sat down before even getting to the third page. A person in our group said, "The interpreter just took charge of the program."

Before we left Bigando, Alexander and I carried a new school sign to the village square, where we had placed one 2 years ago. This one was bigger and it included the name of the Church of the



Pastor Peninah

Brethren on it. A large number of singing children accompanied us. And, as he was two years ago, the mayor was there.

Tuesday, March 29 • Travel to Kampala

Mubende Church of the Brethren

Mubende is a city approximately half way between Kasese and Kampala. The drive from Kasese to Kampala takes 7-8 hours. The *Mubende Church of the Brethren* is a new congregation about a year old. It's on the eastern edge of Mubende about 4 km. from the city center. The leader is Pastor Peninah, who was transferred from the *Kendahi CoB*. She was chosen because she had a personal connection in Mubende. She is assisted by another pastor named Katusabe Fred.



Changed through her new relationship with Jesus, this woman offered worship space to the Mubende church.

An older woman has given the congregation a house to meet in. The woman's son, who lives in Kampala and is the owner of the house, gave his approval to his mother's decision. She now lives in another house that he owns. The woman described herself as a former witch who drank too much before she was touched by the transforming love of Jesus. She gave her testimony as we enjoyed the meal provided by the congregation. Now, the plan is to purchase a 50' x 100' piece of land next to the house to build a church.

Peninah is an excellent leader who knows how to form working relationships with local

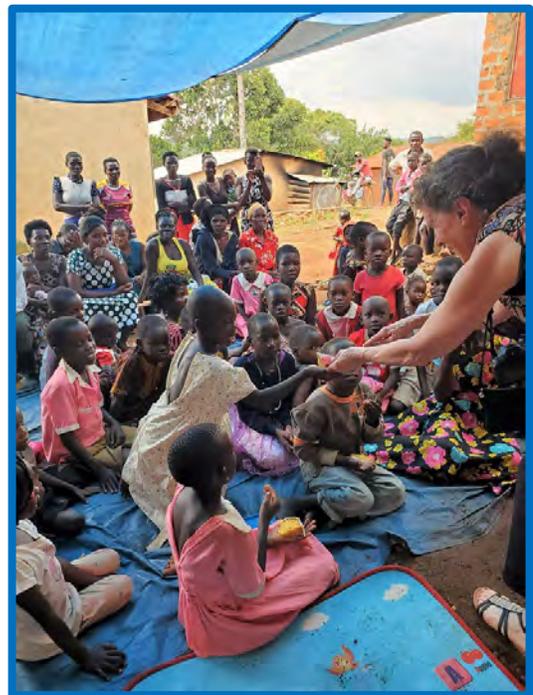
politicians. When I was in the *Kendahi CoB* two years ago, the first church she pastored, Peninah had invited a local council member to attend the worship service. Again, on this visit, she introduced a local council member to us. Peninah also serves on the Brethren board of directors.

Somehow a birthday cake appeared after the program (no one ever confessed to arranging this) and we celebrated Mary Sollenberger's birthday. Mary served most of the cake to the many children who were sitting up front.

Wednesday, March 30 • Kampala

Shalom Church of the Brethren

On our last day of the trip, we visited one of the two churches in Kampala, the *Shalom Church of the Brethren*. It had rained heavily the night before (we came during the rainy season) and there were some roads to the church were unpassable. But eventually we made it, and typical of the receptions we got on each visit, there was singing and dancing at the church when we arrived. Construction of this new building is not



The children got the first slices of Mary's birthday cake.

complete; only the frame has been completed, but tarps provide some shelter. The ground inside was muddy and slick, but that didn't slow the dynamic opening worship. Drum set and keyboard were brought in. David Sollenberger even played the guitar for one song.

The building for the toilets has been completed. Money is still owed on the property, which is much more expensive in Kampala. The land cost \$15,000.00. So far, \$3,000.00 has been paid.



The ground was muddy and slick, but that didn't keep the Shalom Cob worshippers from giving us a lively welcome.

Sedrack is the senior pastor of the *Shalom CoB*, a flourishing congregation. He is assisted by Kaweese Vincent, who is one of the 5 founding members of the Uganda Brethren, and Patrick. Both of these men are being considered for other ministries. This church is located near where Diana, Sedrack's wife, grew up. Diana's mother, Rose, is a member of the congregation. The denominational headquarters are also located nearby.

You can tell by how the members are dressed that they earn larger incomes. This congregation provides more financial support for

the denomination than any other. This congregation has attracted a large number of young people who love music. To support this interest, the church is furnishing their own sound studio with musical equipment. Leading this project is one of Sedrack's brothers, Joshua, who works as a sound technician at another studio.

New Life Church of the Brethren

The uplifting and inspiring story of the *Church of the Brethren in Uganda* has one exception. There has been a split in the *New Life Church of the Brethren*, pastored by Hezekiah, Sedrack's brother. The assistant pastor, Eric, began preaching a prosperity gospel and led many of the members to the New Information Church. This group has claimed ownership of the church building and the Brethren, to avoid further conflict, division and the cost of litigation, have turned it over to them. The congregation is now meeting in the home of Hezekiah and his wife, Biira Mariluiza. The short-range plans for the congregation have not been fully worked



Sedrack's car, a Toyota Harrier, and his driver, Jimmy.

out. There is a possibility that, for a while at least, they will worship with the *Shalom CoB*.

Living Stream Church of the Brethren

The *Living Stream Church of the Brethren* is the newest congregation in Uganda located near Kampala in Kirimamboga. Time did not allow a visit. The first worship service was held there on April 3, 2022.

Denomination headquarters of the Church of the Brethren in Uganda

A central office for the Brethren was established in May 2021 with direct support from Global Missions in Elgin. The rented space is half of a duplex, an attractive house near the *Shalom Church of the Brethren*.

There is space for three offices and a bedroom for Sedrack and his family. Sedrack's staff consists of one person who does the accounting and one in charge of Community Outreach and Service. There is discussion about renting the other half of the duplex to provide more living space and to house board members who travel in for meetings.

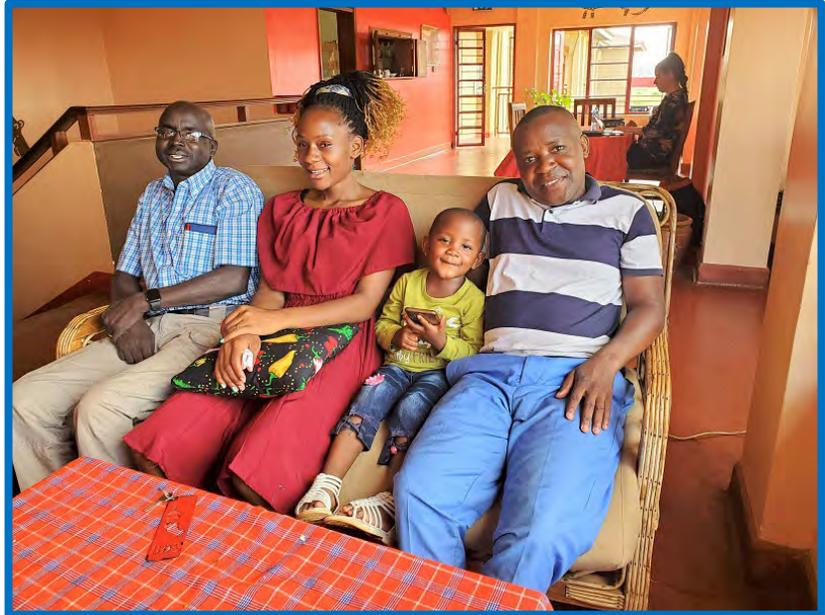
The churches are all presently located in two different regions of Uganda. These are the Central region (Kampala Metro and Mubende districts) and Midwest region (Kasese and Bunyangabo districts). The board foresees a time when the Uganda church will spread to even more districts. This will likely necessitate decentralization of administration, perhaps into districts organized like those in the U.S.

The office directly supports one school and one project.

- Mummy's Kindergarten - This school is located in the same neighborhood as the headquarters and has among its children those who come from poor families in need of support, thus falling within the mission of the *Church of the Brethren in Uganda*.
- A chicken project in Kampala to raise money to support the ministries of the church.

A short summary...

At each stop, when the singing stopped, introductions were made, beginning with the lead pastor, who then introduced the deacons and other leaders in the congregation. The lead pastor then introduced Sedrack, who in turn introduced area pastors and guests. Sedrack then introduced the visiting delegation, each of whom spoke.



At Red Chilli Hideaway in Kampala. Sedrack, Diana and Shadrose with Athanasus Ungang from South Sudan.

It was evident that the deacons (both men and women) were valued. Efforts to delegate the ministry of the congregation to others is obviously a priority. Like it has in the past, the *Gospel Light Church of the Brethren* still develops leaders. But each congregation is encouraged to recognize gifts for ministry and to call leaders. The Church of the Brethren in Uganda is growing and urgently needs leaders. As Sedrack says, "The harvest is bountiful but the laborers are few."

One of the most impressive things about the Uganda Brethren is the stewardship of resources available to them. They are able to make great things happen with a minimum of funds. And even though the money may not currently be in the bank, they don't let that stop their planning new ministries. This is surely the Lord's doing.

Report prepared by Gordon Hoffert with assistance from Bwambale Sedrack, Marla Abe and Chris Elliott.