

# AMAKA

The Newsletter of Africa Renewal Ministries

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## Gaba Bible Institute Equips Ministers in the Making

While God was calling young men and women of Uganda to the ministry, He was also calling on someone to create a Biblical institution that would provide a strong foundation for these young people. Pastor Peter Kasirivu heard the call, and on January 15, 2007, the doors of the Gaba Bible Institute opened.



Gaba Bible Institute

Pastor Peter, in conjunction with ARM, already heads up a mobile ministry training school that has been in operation since 2004. However, he felt that a stationary school where students would be trained after high school, prior to entering the ministry, would be the most beneficial method. So the idea for the Gaba Bible Institute was born. Through Pastor Peter's vision and diligence, and with the help of ARM sponsors, the Gaba Bible Institute is now a reality for many and will play a vital role in the transformation of Africa.



Students at Gaba Bible Institute

and management, as well as team leadership, evangelism and project management skills. Currently, 60 students are enrolled at the institute representing the nations of Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and Burundi. They choose from courses in theology, ministry, music, computer skills and English, taught by six instructors. There are certificate and diploma levels available within the curriculum and the institute has plans of offering degreed courses in the future.



Ndahiro Roger Rukundo

Feedback from the students has been very positive, and the administration expects enrollment to reach 100 within three years. Ndahiro Roger Rukundo, a student of theology at the institute, says, "There is a great difference between the God I knew before and the God I know now. I have a new perception of ministry and I have grown deeper in my relationship with God. I am also learning administration skills which I can apply."

Another student, Vincent Byamukama who is pursuing ministry in music is very happy he joined the institute. "I love music. I am involved in children's ministry and want to reach out to the youth through music in the hope of turning their hearts to Christ. I hope to put into practice the skills I have learned." A servant leader in the making, Vincent continues to grow deeper in the knowledge of God.



Vincent Byamukama

The mission of the institute is to equip leaders with adequate, relevant skills in leadership, community management and development, founded on a Christian perspective. In addition to training novice and seasoned ministers, Gaba Bible Institute also offers leadership training to laypersons wanting to improve in this area. The institute offers theological and biblical studies to develop church leaders in pastoral care, counseling

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\* AMAKA means "family" in Luganda, the tribal language used in Gaba, Uganda, where ARM is headquartered.

Ndahiro Roger Rukundo, GBI student and co-pastor at Rushere Community Church in western Uganda asks, "Please pray for funding for land for a church building and training for our pastors."



# Pastor Peter: Mentoring Leaders to Transform a Society



Pastor Peter Kasirivu  
President and  
Founder  
ARM-Uganda

Over the years, Gaba Community Church along with Africa Renewal Ministries has had a commitment to plant churches. Initially, this was not the focus of our ministry work. However, with the growth of our church and the mentoring given to some of our church members, we could not escape the spiritual responsibility to help those who desired to begin churches of their own. They looked to us as spiritual parents. Also, as we were implementing our Child Sponsorship Program under Africa Renewal Ministries, we realized that the logical places to start our projects were in these churches already planted throughout the country. Currently, my wife and I mentor over 100 pastors and their wives.

A few years ago, we developed a program to instruct pastors because they did not have background

training. We began a mobile Bible school, now with five locations in the country. The mobile facilities offer training in Bible interpretation in local languages, church leadership, administration, sermon preparation and more.

We are blessed this year to open our first stationary Bible school for pastors, the Gaba Bible Institute. The school offers certificates and diplomas in Bible studies and theology. This January more than 30 students enrolled; we now have 60 students from Uganda and neighboring countries. The institute's hope is to see that both men and women who've a burning call to serve God in their communities are well-equipped. We pray that God will raise up leaders to reach different cities in Uganda as well as other countries. We also pray that God will bring churches from the West to support our training efforts and the future ministries of the pastors attending the institute.



- Wisdom in leading the churches
- Land for construction of permanent structures; most of the churches rent or use temporary structures
- More ministers for the church ministries, especially for the children
- Funding for construction of church buildings
- New school projects to enhance holistic child development with a Christian perspective
- Training for church ministers

## Training On-the-Go! ARM's Mobile Bible School

ARM understands that God is calling men and women daily to serve their fellow Ugandans in the ministry. However as the various sister churches are spread across Uganda, it is very hard to gather all of those who need pastoral training into one location. To answer this problem, ARM developed a Mobile Bible School to reach the different church plants throughout Uganda.

At any given time there are 80 or more students undergoing pastoral training. The training is provided three times a year, and the sessions last two weeks. The sessions are led by a team of eight members from the Gaba Community Church who have diplomas in theology. Some of the many topics covered during the sessions are Old and New Testament survey, Christian family, church history, church administration, doctrine, praise and worship, counseling and children's ministry.

In addition to this training, there is a team of pastors who come from Cornerstone Church in Simi Valley, California to administer additional training to the Ugandan pastors. This American-based team serves four communities and provides training to approximately 50

pastors per community. This training occurs once annually and lasts for a week. Topics covered include Old and New Testament, hermeneutics, the life of Jesus and theology. The Ugandan pastors are also given Bible commentaries as well as other books.

For many, the Mobile Bible School is the only opportunity some of the more remote pastors have to continue their education and training. Connecting with other church leaders for teaching and fellowship deepens their faith and dedication in their calling.



Pastors and Ministers worship during Mobile Bible School training in Rakai.

### Prayer Requests from Pastors/Ministers



**Godfrey Ssebuggwawo**, Pastor, Rakai Community Church, southern Uganda  
Please pray for spiritual growth for the church and for funding for expansion of our church building.

**Alice Kyalimpa**, Minister, Kibaale Community Church, western Uganda  
We need prayer for the holistic growth of the church, both physically and spiritually.



## Viewpoint: A Great Harvest is at Hand

**Look around you! Vast fields are ripening all around us and are ready now for the harvest ...What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! You know the saying, 'One person plants and someone else harvests.' And it's true. I sent you to harvest where you didn't plant; others had already done the work, and you will gather the harvest."**  
**John 4:35b-38 (NLT)**

Since becoming involved in Africa Renewal Ministries, I often think about this scripture. I've heard of the great spiritual awakenings in various parts of the world, but in truth, I've never seen one firsthand. That is until recently, when it became clear that Uganda and several other African countries are experiencing just that – a remarkable spiritual awakening!

In Uganda, a single five-day evangelistic effort can reap up to 500 or more professions of faith in an area and start several new church plants. Just outside Mayuge, we had just finished an evangelistic outreach and were walking down the path away from town when a young lady ran up behind us and grabbed my legs. She said "I want to know this Jesus...tell me how to know

him!" I don't think you'll see that in America.

As Pastor Peter and other spiritual leaders have organized evangelism, discipleship and pastors' conferences throughout Uganda, the invitation has been extended to American churches and Christian organizations to participate. When 500 attendees are expected, 1000 people show up. At one pastors' conference in Gaba, the staff planned for 900 and 2,500 pastors came from seven

different countries. That's what spiritual awakening looks like!

After Idi Amin's overthrow, Ugandan Christians gradually began to return to open worship, taking a leadership role in pro-actively rebuilding the spiritual, moral and ethical foundation of the nation. But as many are led to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, the country is sadly lacking in educated spiritual leaders who have been mentored, disciplined or trained in the deeper truths of the scriptures to establish stable church plants. As Peter often says, "Ugandan spiritual life is a mile wide and an inch deep."

Through ARM's Mobile Bible School, religious education is taken directly to the bush, to new pastors who cannot travel to the city. The new Bible Institute in Gaba now provides many Ugandans and central Africans with the opportunity to gain the doctrine, knowledge and skills to be effective spiritual leaders in their communities. As you read the articles in this issue that show where God is working, I trust you will find your place of service in the Harvest – as a prayer partner, a financial supporter, or a short-term missionary to share in the joy of this spiritual awakening.

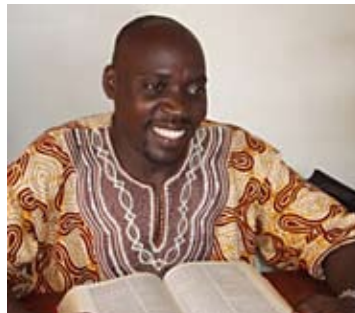


Don Jones  
Executive Director  
ARM-USA

## Embracing God's Call: Pastor Chris Isabirye

As a boy growing up in Jinja, Chris Isabirye was an excellent student. However due to lack of funding for his education, he had to quit school at the Senior Three level. "My father had different priorities for me, so I could not go to school. I then moved to Makerere where my uncle lived," remembers Chris. In the village of his uncle, he heard the Gospel preached for the first time. But Chris was not interested in religion at that time as he was heavily into drinking.

Later Chris moved to Kawuku, near Gaba, and discovered Gaba Community Church. It provided him a place to fellowship with other believers. Through this church, God transformed Chris' life.



Pastor Chris Isabirye,  
Gulu Community Church

He soon became a radical Christian, very involved with the youth ministry of the church. He had found everything for which he had been searching – the profound teachings of the Bible and an opportunity to serve.

"The transition was not easy because my former life was very hard. I struggled deep inside," reveals Pastor Chris.

He spent the next few years trying to determine God's purpose for his life. His search even took him to the United Kingdom and back to Africa.

In 2003, Pastor Peter of Gaba Community Church asked Chris to serve as a coordinator of conferences and seminars organized by ARM. To better

*Continued on page 5*



**Sande Emmanuel Rumashana**, Asst. Youth Pastor, Kyankwanzi Community Church, central Uganda  
**Please pray against cultural bondage that is contrary to the Word of God and for additional training for our leaders.**

**Ivan Twijukye**, Evangelist, Rukungiri Community Church, southwestern Uganda  
**Please pray for unity in our church and for protection against persecution.**



## The Surrendered Life of Pastor Wilson Sentongo



Pastor Wilson Sentongo

In 1970 at the age of 21, Wilson Sentongo heard the Gospel being preached for the first time in a market near his home. It was here he accepted Christ as his savior. The hardest part of his decision was sharing the Good News with his family, already heavily involved in witchcraft. Facing much persecution, Wilson had to eventually leave home, but he continued to serve the Lord and was able to attend both the Kaimosi Bible School in Kenya and finish his studies at the Yusuf Memorial Bible School in Uganda.

In April of 1978, under the regime of Idi Amin, Wilson and fellow believers were forced to hold church underground. It was during one of these services that Wilson was arrested and taken to Nakaseke Prison. Days later, his group was transferred to the Luwero Police Station where they were accused of rebel activity. Their sentence was death. During that week of non-stop interrogation, torture and hunger, Wilson prayed relentlessly. At week's end, he and the others were released by an Islamic governor who warned them not to "deceive people again with stories of Jesus."

The next July during a celebration service at Makerere Full Gospel Church, soldiers invaded the premises at 5 pm. The congregation of 180 men and 50 women, including Pastor Wilson, were taken to Nakasero Bureau. "I still remember all the blood and dismembered bodies as we were tortured in this dungeon," relates Pastor Wilson. At approximately 2 am that evening, the soldiers returned to kill them but the door would not open! The soldiers went on to the next room to kill those who were held there. The congregation spent three days in confinement without food or water.

Thereafter they were taken to another prison where they spent 96 days, the first 21 with no clothing or blankets. Pastor Wilson and his brethren continued to preach to their inmates and never ceased praying. Wilson did not feel it was his time to die. Eventually Idi Amin ordered their release; Wilson and a few others fled to Kenya. After living in Nairobi for two months, they felt the call to go back to Uganda and begin new churches. They returned and

continued the underground services until they were free to preach openly again in 1979.

Unfortunately in 1980, amidst more civil unrest in Uganda, Pastor Wilson was wrongly accused of staging an attack on the Chief of Staff's bus. He was imprisoned four years for this injustice but continued preaching during his stay. Wilson remembers the executions of others and how he escaped death twice. Because of his boldness, over 300 inmates came to know Christ.

On leaving prison, Pastor Wilson started a church in Kawempe. He also found his old friend Pastor Peter Kasirivu, whom he had ministered with prior to the formation of ARM, and the two began a partnership focused on soul-winning, discipleship and church planting. This opened the door to the Mubende project. Both Pastor Wilson and Pastor Peter believed in reaching out to the community through biblically-principled child development. ARM had the capacity to help children, but had no land. Pastor Wilson's ministry had land, but no way to help the children. It was a blessed match. So Pastor Wilson signed over the land to ARM and the Mubende project began. Since that time, due to this energetic partnership, over 73 churches have been planted with Pastor Wilson overseeing many of them.

The impact in the Mubende area has been great. Pastor Wilson hopes for the future include seeing sponsored children become the next generation of leaders in Uganda. He has always had a place in his heart for the many orphans born out of the rebellions. He began caring for them and trying to provide for their education on top of his pastoral duties. He is especially excited when children, once poor and desperate, are now living responsible lives, showing the impact of this ministry. The pastor now lives in Mubende, Kaweeri with his wife Juliet and the 41 children they have decided to call their own!



Pastor Wilson and his wife Juliet



### 2nd Quarter Sponsorship Stats

Sponsorships Added	314
Total Sponsorships	approx. 5,200

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## Pastor Davis Plants Seeds of Faith in Mukono



*Pastor Davis, his wife Betty with one of their first children*

**M**et Pastor Davis Kigozi, the full-time pastor of Mukono Community Church, a 70-member congregation located in the outskirts of Mukono. Pastor Davis headed the call to leave Gaba Community Church and his part-time occupation three years ago to establish this new ministry.

He explains his call to minister full time, "Our church is growing, so it needs someone committed

to the cause of the Gospel, to be hard-working as well. I now have more time for my wife and family and am able to attend Glad Tidings Bible College in Kampala to further equip myself for the work in this community." Pastor Davis' wife Betty is very involved in both the children's and women's ministries. Presently the church offers children, youth, men and women ministries, marriage fellowship, as well as praise and worship. The Kagazis have two children.

As Pastor Davis continues in his studies, church ministry work is on a precise schedule. Typically after morning devotion, he attends Bible school, returns home around 7 pm and then goes to the church to attend to pressing matters. He sets aside Wednesdays for prayer, Fridays for visitations to church members and Saturdays for house-to-house evangelism. The first week of the month, he

meets with his ministry team. His schedule also includes visits to prisons, schools and hospitals.

While Davis' days are often long and sometimes hectic, he's continually uplifted and rewarded as he sees the lives of those he serves transformed through the love of Christ. Mukono Community Church might be humble in its structure; however, the heart of this congregation is thriving, thanks to the devotion of Pastor Davis and his family.



*Mukono Community Church*

**If you'd like to help fund the purchase of land or buildings for churches in Uganda like Mukono Community Church, you can make a tax-free donation to the Building Fund online at [www.africarenewal.org](http://www.africarenewal.org) or send a check to our office made out to ARM and marked "Building Fund".**

*Pastor Chris, continued from page 3*



*Pastor Chris (far right) ministers to widows.*

equip him for the ministry, ARM sent Chris to Glad Tidings Bible College in 2005 where he earned a diploma in theology.

On December 27, 2006, Pastor Chris organized a crusade in war-ravaged Gulu where over 500 people accepted Christ. Just four days later, the Gulu Bible Community Church was

born with 150 in attendance and Chris Isabirye as the new pastor. "When God calls you, it is not about what you feel but rather the conviction of the Holy Spirit," says Pastor Chris on his new assignment.

Currently, Pastor Chris shepherds 80 adults and 98 children. Most of the congregation are from refugee camps. "God has put us there for a purpose,

and He has provided tents, chairs and other supplies for which we are grateful," smiles Pastor Chris. However the church faces many hardships from the 20-year war in the region. The realities are abject poverty and destruction, lack of land for the church, mixed cultures and languages, a very high cost of living and insecure environment due to the war. Also many new believers who attend do not have permanent homes so it is difficult to maintain relationships.

Pastor Chris is supported by the Africa Renewal Ministries Pastors' Fellowship in Uganda where he's still directly involved. They meet once or twice annually for leadership training. Pastor Chris is grateful for the commitment of sponsors and mission teams and all that they bring to his ministries. He prays that through continued support from ARM Uganda and USA, his dreams for a church building and greater outreach in the community can be realized.



*Pastor Chris (left) in Bible School*



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## Mwangaza's going Dutch!

**T**he sweet faces and even sweeter voices we all know and love are back on tour! Mwangaza is refreshed, ready to go and headed for Holland. They will



*Director Alex rehearses Mwangaza*

be gone for six weeks in September and October and will perform in two different cities. Approximately 25 children from the villages of Rakai, Gaba and Bethany, as well as the Deo project will go on this tour. The performances will include the same songs enjoyed during the 2006 U.S. Tour. The Uganda Child Care Foundation, an ARM partner in Holland, will be assisting the tour group. Mwangaza hopes to find new sponsors to raise funding for the

Maranatha Christian Primary School and to establish partnerships with new groups in Holland.

While we wish they were coming to the U.S., we will pray for their safety and that their Holland tour is a success. Please remember Mwangaza in your prayers during this exciting time!



## ARM-USA Staffing Update

**A**RM is saddened to say goodbye to our Office Manager and Sponsorship Director, Rosie Knaack. Rosie came to ARM-USA in 2005 after a summer in Uganda to help plan and manage the Mwangaza 2006 Tour. Following the tour that brought incredible growth to the sponsorship program, she accepted the position of Child Sponsorship Director and Office Manager in our San Antonio headquarters. Now Rosie is heading to South Korea where her husband will be teaching English, and she will be tutoring English students part-time. ARM wishes her well in this new, exciting adventure; we are grateful for her commitment, leadership and service over the last few years.



*Rosie Knaack leaves ARM for Korea.*

This summer, ARM-USA welcomes Sonia Knight as our new Office Manager and Sponsorship Director.

Sonia is retired from the US Air Force where she worked in Public Health until 2002. Her passion now is to serve in a ministry that will use her talents in the Lord's work. We are excited about the experience and focus that Sonia brings to the ministry and look forward to working along side her.



*The office staff of ARM  
l to r: Patsy Newman, Sonia Knight,  
Texie Bohannon*

The other office staff at ARM includes Texie Bohannon, who works full-time with ARM managing child and sponsor records and Patsy Newman who works part-time in processing sponsorship donations and letters from children.