

On the Rhoads

June 2008

Brad and Susan Rhoads serving Christ worldwide with Mission Aviation Fellowship

Blessings & Requests

- Thank God for bringing our ministry support up to 47%
- Please pray for missions around the world
- Please pray for our support to quickly reach 100%
- Please pray for our friends Ephraim and Jova Tumusiime and the church in Uganda
- Please pray that MAF will be able to serve in Myanmar



10 pastors who leave their village never go back. That's one of the key motivations for Learning Technologies. We take training to those pastors, right where they live and work.

Reading about the need inspired me to pursue MAF-LT. Hearing from the LT team about the need and the exciting stories of our work around the world has been a kind of "carrot on the end of a stick," helping me stay motivated through this grueling fund-raising process. But recently, my excitement about Learning Technologies and my longing to "get to work" were really ignited when I got to meet Ephraim and Jova Tumusiime.

Ephraim and Jova are church planters in Uganda. They came to visit our church and we got to hear about how God has used them and their colleagues to plant 53 churches. They expect that number to be at 100 by the end of next year! He said that his "top priority is training church leaders." He went on to validate the need for training pastors, few with more than a high school education, and many who don't read or write. They are looking forward to a partnership with us and MAF-LT. Will you help make it happen?

Evangelism in the "Local" Church

In MAF Learning Technologies, our focus is on training and equipping isolated church leaders—all 3 million of them! We hear from places like Kenya that "evangelism is really going great," but more trained leaders are badly needed. It's only through leadership that the great progress in evangelism can continue.

I spoke to Lon Allison, Director of the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College recently. He was really excited about our work and told me that, "The local church is the vanguard for evangelistic activity in the majority world." When he says "local" here, he's talking about churches like the 53 churches in Uganda, mentioned above. Please join us in this eternally significant work. We're so anxious to be serving these pastors so that together, with God's help, we can reap a great harvest and bring glory to the Lord.

Priorities

Shortly before finding out about MAF Learning Technologies, I read the book *Missions in the Third Millennium: 21 Key Trends for the 21st Century*. One of the trends they listed is that of the relatively few pastors in the majority (developing) world who leave their village to get training, "It has become clear that too many of these students. . . never return to their homelands where the need is greatest."

Then I heard from the MAF-LT staff that 9 out of

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-Lon Allison

By Faith...

One of the things we have been enjoying is visiting many different churches. Every church has its own personality. It's also been interesting to see how churches fund their missions programs. Some churches set aside a certain percentage of their budget for missions. Other churches ask for a "faith promise" to be given to missions, over and above the tithe.

One pastor explained, "A Faith Promise is a financial commitment that you believe God will enable you to fulfill. When you participate in God's work through a Faith Promise, you become a shareholder in reaching lost people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your giving connects you to the worldwide Body of Christ."

Crown Financial Ministries says, "Faith promises are commitments to give a certain amount if the Lord provides it. This allows churches and ministries to prepare good, logical budgets for the year. With faith promises, people make commitments to give if the funds are or become available. It is understood that if God doesn't provide the funds there is no obligation to give (Hebrews 11:1)."

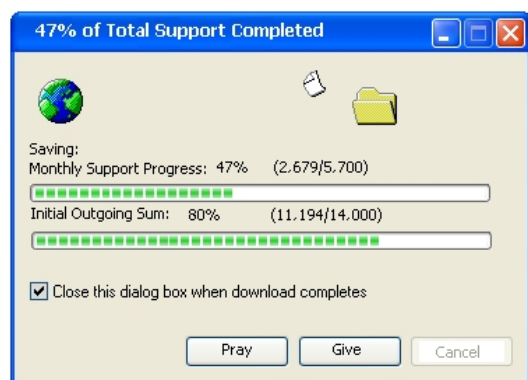
"Faith promises are commitments to give a certain amount if the Lord provides it."

By inviting you to join our Ministry Partnership team, we're asking for your prayers and for a faith-promise-kind-of commitment. If God is prompting you to partner with us in this strategic ministry of training pastors around the world, please just respond—and trust Him to provide.

It's that very thing of trusting Him where Susan and I are being stretched. We're approaching the end of our first year with MAF. Because MAF puts new missionaries like us on salary, we're able to work at deputation full-time. So most MAF missionaries are able to meet the goal of being fully supported within a year. We are not progressing at that pace. We haven't been given a hard deadline, but have been told that deputation can't go on indefinitely. So again, if God is prompting you, please respond. We trust it could be a step of faith for you, and it would most definitely be a tremendous encouragement to us. *And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.* (Hebrews 10:24) Let's do this together—by faith.

The Home Stretch

How can your family "stretch" for God to get our family down the "home stretch"?



40 @ \$10/month



30 @ \$20/month



20 @ \$50/month



10 @ \$100/month

You can give online at www.maf.org/rhoads