



MISSION UPDATE

News of Renaissance Outreach Ministries

P. O. Box 121 ■ Greentown, IN 46936 ■ www.renaissanceoutreachministries.com • June 2018

Passing of Dr. & Bishop George Pierce

By Rev. Jan L. Beaderstadt

In our last issue of *Mission Update*, we reported on the miraculous improvement of Dr. George Pierce, our good friend and Anglican bishop of the Church of the Himalayas in Nepal. Over the last two months, he was making good progress on the pancreatic cancer. The mass had shrunk from 46 cubic cm to 9 cubic cm. The cancer was in remission, but on Monday, June 4, he went to his eternal home

Bishop George was also fighting pulmonary fibrosis. Just two weeks ago, it looked like that was also improving. Sadly, he took a very quick turn for the worst, passing in just a few days.

I was there just 90 minutes before his death on Monday. He had been unresponsive all day until I arrived. Upon hearing my voice, he opened his eyes and said, "My friend, you came." We had a nice visit. He had so many things he wanted to tell me, but was so tired. I encouraged him to rest. In less than two hours, he quietly went home to the Lord.

Bishop George was 86 years old, and full of life right until the end. Even with his dying breaths, his only desire was to serve Jesus.

He had been a missionary on a Native American reservation in South Dakota and later in Namibia in Southwest Africa. He served churches in US along with being the president of St. Petersburg Seminary in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was highly educated, but knew how to reach out to all people.

His funeral was the next day, where I was honored to be the preacher for the service. I had only known Bishop George for just 18 months, but it felt like a lifetime. We developed a fast friendship that made us colleagues in sharing the Gospel. He may have been a bishop, but he had heart of a servant. He loved to serve Christ in all he did.

Fare thee well, my worthy brother in the Lord. Fare thee well.

Picture Story



BISHOP GEORGE P. PIERCE
Bishop George P. Pierce was the founding bishop of the Church of the Himalayas as well as the new Jesus Seminary of the Himalayas. The above photo was taken about three weeks before he died on June 4th. He will be sadly missed by the Christians in Nepal which became his adopted home for the last 10 years.



NEW CHURCH FOR BWERA, UGANDA
All Saints Church (Church of Uganda) is now constructing a new church building that will seat 1000 people near the border of The Congo in the city of Bwera. The current church building was constructed around 25 years ago and seats around 500. They are averaging nearly 800 on Sundays and the first service is so overcrowded that nearly 100 people must stand outside during worship.

Uganda reaching Muslims for Christ

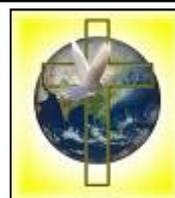
In far western Uganda, the Diocese of South Rwenzori of the Church of Uganda has been having a great deal of success in reaching Muslims for Christ. Over the past few years, over 3000 Muslims have converted to Christianity through the teaching and preaching of the denomination.

Uganda is primarily a Christian country. Islam is 12% of the country, but money from the Middle East has fueled its growth. It oftentimes presents itself to villagers as being another branch of "Christianity".

Uganda has had its scrapes with Islam over the years, especially in the 1970s when dictator Idi Amin attempted to impose Islam as the official religion of the country. During the last two decades of the 20th century, there were militia groups that attempted to overthrow the government in order to establish an Islamic stronghold.

These days, it is very peaceful in Uganda as the country has a stable democracy. There are some mosques in the capital city of Kampala that preach Jihad, but most of the movement has been peaceful.

For Muslims who convert to Christianity, there is much danger for them. Christian converts often rejected by
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**RENAISSANCE
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Islam outreach

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Their families and honor killing does take place. While guns are illegal in Uganda, hammers and knives become the weapons of choice for honor killings.

Family and community is intertwined in Islamic culture and religion. To change religions means to lose everything one has. This includes not only family, but also employment, land and personal wealth. Families in Uganda often take back land that belongs to a convert, making them instantly homeless.

The Church of Uganda has launched the MBB program (Muslim Believer's Background) in order to help assimilate new believers into their new family of faith. While doing outreach to Muslims, they also have been providing homes and training for new job skills.

The Diocese of South Rwenzori has been funding the project with limited funds. While the Church of Uganda is a self-supporting denomination, the strain of the new believers does place a large burden upon the church. Recently, the bishop and its leaders are studying a plan to raise 1 billion shillings (\$280,000) to provide training for converts as well as helping to set them up in small business. This program will be set up as a revolving fund with those recipients to pay the loans back to the fund over a period of time. The money repaid would go to helping other Muslim



Photo by Rev. Jan L. Belderstadt

Even on days when the Himalayas are hidden by clouds, Begnas Lake near Pokhara in western Nepal is definitely a beautiful place to be. From this view tower, one can see both Begnas and Rupa lakes.

converts in receiving training. The fund would certainly help ease the burden on the Diocese as well as providing an escape from Islam.

Teaching to 15,000

Rev. Jan L. Belderstadt, president of Renaissance Outreach Ministries spent 10 weeks this year in western Uganda teaching. The time there was very busy, teaching nearly 15,000 people. From preaching in churches to conducting seminars, the time spent there was very productive.

Pastor Jan plans to return to Uganda

next year and spend four months conducting training events. This will include continuing to be the chaplain at the Rwenzori School of Nursing & Midwifery in Kasese, along with working with churches in the region.

"The time here is very well spent. I have enjoyed working with both the people as well as the leaders of the Diocese of South Rwenzori. They are very receptive to the training. The diocese is very responsive and progressing, making it real joy to be in partnership with them," noted Pastor Jan.



Clergy Vestment Bags

Handmade in Nepal—Available in black or red.

Made of durable nylon, these bags are 66" in length, designed to handle long albs and cassocks. They will easily hold several vestments in one bag. The front is zippered, and there are two outside pockets that will easily accommodate cinctures, stoles and other items. Included is a carrying strap. Price is just \$50 plus s/h.

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