



Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 2020

Dear Friends,

I am so proud of you! I know your heart's desire to have an impact on desperate needs around the world. You have demonstrated deep compassion for many of those who live with some of the greatest challenges in the world. Here, this Christmas, even in the midst of the COVID-19 Global Pandemic, you can read about ways that your gifts are making a significant impact!

Over the years, for the sake of the Gospel, I have traveled to 110 nations around the world, sharing about Jesus, pursuing Ekklesia's "Three Pillars." They are:

1. Making disciples of Jesus Christ, by proclaiming and defending the Christian Gospel
2. Building and maintaining a network of senior Christian leaders.
3. Pursuing development projects among the world's most vulnerable.

Our goal to impact the world for Christ is being fulfilled as you give through Ekklesia. You have demonstrated such a generous and compassionate heart. Inside this newsletter you



See the incredible letter enclosed from the Archbishop of Uganda for details on his leadership summit that your donations made possible!

can read about some of the many projects made possible because of your sacrificial giving.

I'm very excited to be able to enclose a letter from the Archbishop of Uganda, my dear friend, ABP Stephen Kaziimba. He is an amazing leader! (Plus, he is the only person I know that has "ii" in their name! How fun!).

+Bill



COVID-19! Economic Crisis! Election Turmoil! Civil Unrest! Upheaval and Uncertainty!

2020 may go down as the most unsettling year in the history of the world! And yet, in the midst of all this confusion, God's answer to turmoil is the same that it has been for 2,000 years: Jesus is Born!

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

You can be sure that Jesus will be found faithful to lead you and sustain you in the midst of everything that is unfolding. "Cast your eyes upon Jesus! Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will go strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace."

DISCIPLESHIP CONNECTIONS & SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

A FEW EXAMPLES OF EKKLESIA'S THREE PILLARS IN 2020:

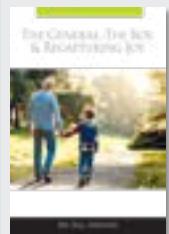
I TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST BY PROCLAIMING AND DEFENDING THE GOSPEL

This year, Bp Bill released *two* books rising out of his study in how applied neuroscience impacts life, relationships, and ministry. Ekklesia has partnered with Life Model Works (<https://lifemodelworks.org>) and Deeper Walk International (<https://deeperwalkinternational.org/>). We even partnered on a webinar with Life Model Works founder Dr. Jim Wilder (the leading neuro-theologian today) on ‘Thinking with God.’ These truths are great encouragement for Bishops, Archbishops, and other global leaders.



A Banquet Seat & A Listening Ear

Bp Bill relates a few of the countless instances when he encountered the living Lord Jesus. He explains how the Lord revealed Himself, made the impossible possible, and led him through complex and even dangerous places with astounding clarity. None of these encounters happened because he's special, but because Jesus is more special than can be imagined! His hope is that the reader, too, will learn how to hear from Jesus Christ.



The General, The Boy, & Recapturing Joy

This book explains how we were created for joy. Drawing from life lessons from his Grandfather, Bp Bill shares compelling stories of how to recapture joy in the midst of negative circumstances and emotions.

III TO PURSUE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

IN THE “WEST”:

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

IN THE TWO-THIRDS WORLD:

PROJECTS WITH ECONOMIC BENEFITS

This year we delivered emergency aid to communities in nine countries on three continents. Your giving has been exponentially multiplied, and we are so thankful for you! Read below for a sampling of this year’s inspiring outreach:

Food for Africa’s largest slum

Kibera is the largest slum in Africa. As part of Nairobi, it is home to more than a million people whose lives have been devastated by COVID. We distributed a huge amount of food through the Vicar, Rev. Habil Omungu, a friend in the

Diocese where Bp Bill served in Kenya. Many families were helped! We always get receipts, but sometimes it takes a little while. Rev. Habil had *every penny* accounted for by *the next day!*

Chlorine Production Unit Set-Up Kits

Hygiene and clean water are a constant challenge for poor communities. A new device using simple electrolysis allows these populations to generate food-grade chlorine using water, table salt and a vehicle battery. The chlorine is used to make hand sanitizer and water purifying drops that can be used and sold. This year Ekklesia shipped over 16 chlorine kits for use in Bolivia, Burundi, Kenya, S. Sudan, and Uganda.

We are so very thankful for all of the coordination and fundraising efforts by our director of field operations, Rev. Rob Cornelison, who helped make this happen! Many lives are being impacted.

II TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN A NETWORK OF SENIOR CHRISTIAN LEADERS (PRIMARILY IN THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION)

Ekklesia’s Partnership with GAFCON

GAFCON is one of the most important movements in the world in the last 500 years! With global drifts away from Scriptural truth, GAFCON is linking Biblically faithful Anglicans in six continents. Ekklesia has partnered to bring GAFCON to life since 2007, with Ekklesia General Secretary Bp Bill having the original vision to hold a meeting in Jerusalem in 2008 and helping to finance that first gathering. Now, Bp Bill serves both as GAFCON Ambassador for the GAFCON Primates, and as Deputy Secretary for the Americas.

In South America, almost all the Bishops meet with Bp Bill for Zoom conferences, and are in touch every day on WhatsApp. Every few days, Bp Bill invites a bishop to share with the other bishops about their family and ministry. One Bishop wrote, “Bp Bill, you have helped us become a community! Thank you!!”

South Sudan Seed Need

Farmers in Central Equatoria, South Sudan had their homes and the seeds they were preparing to plant burned by government troops who wrongly suspected the farmers were supporting rebels, which was a terrible injustice. Their seeds, which were stored in structures, were totally destroyed, which is almost a death sentence for the community. On their own, the people had no way of recovering from such a devastating blow. When Bp Bill spoke with their Archbishop, he explained the plight, and asked if Ekklesia could help by providing money to replace the destroyed seed and farm implements. Of course, our answer was yes!

Kenya Relief

Canon Getachew Teshome “Getch” serves as a Canon for mission with Abp Jackson Ole Sapit, the Primate of Kenya. He is one of the most prolific evangelist we know! When Getch contacted me, he had people literally at his door asking for food. In a matter of minutes we were able to transfer money *instantly* via a secure App and get lots of people fed!

Kenya Cancer Seeds

A coalition of Kenyan farmers had a crop of seed intended for cancer treatment use in the EU. Sadly, the farmers couldn’t afford a newly required government export license to ship their seed to the EU. Paying for the export license helped all those families receive the reward of their labor. For the few dollars we supplied, a multitude of families were rescued.

CHURCH OF UGANDA

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8th December 2020

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bill Atwood
Ekklesia Society
Texas

Dear Bishop Bill,

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

On Monday, 7th December, we convened the first ever Archbishop's Leadership Summit. Never in the history of the Church of Uganda has an Archbishop been able to address all the key leaders of every diocese at the same time. Through the wonders of internet and the video-conferencing technology of Zoom and live-streaming to Facebook, all 37 Dioceses participated with their key leaders in their dioceses. We believe more than 2,000 leaders took place in this dispersed, video-conferenced Summit.

A central organizing committee worked on identifying key speakers, including linking with our neighbouring Gafcon Province of Rwanda. The speakers were high-level leaders from diverse backgrounds and roles in the church. They profoundly addressed the Summit's theme: "Business Unusual: Accelerating the Conversion of the Head, the Heart, and the Hands" (Jeremiah 17.9-10), which was the core message of my Charge at my 1st March enthronement just before the onslaught of the pandemic. If you'd like to sample the Summit, you can find it at this link on the Church of Uganda's Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfUganda/videos/1251092631950734>.

In your American context, you take the internet infrastructure for granted and the skills for such conferencing for granted. But, in Uganda, we live in the chasm of the digital divide. With Ekklesia's support, however, we were able to make sure every diocese had the equipment they needed to set-up rudimentary video conferencing using laptops, projectors and speakers, and produce a powerful video of testimonies about mindset changes people embraced during lockdown.

Through a team of IT professionals advising us, the Summit helped us break through a mindset barrier and see that we can do such things. We are sure that it will unleash a wave of hunger for more and a desire to incorporate digital ministry into the Church of Uganda's ministry toolbox.

Ekklesia Society has partnered with the Church of Uganda for 25 years. At the beginning, we didn't even have cell phones. Today, we held a virtual, video-conferenced Leadership Summit. You have walked with us every step of the way, and we are so grateful. We hope that our baby steps in this area will encourage other Gafcon Provinces to take similar bold steps of faith. We sincerely believe it will accelerate the mission of "Guarding and proclaiming the unchanging truth in a changing world." We look forward to tapping other international speakers to encourage and equip our leaders through such technology.

Thank you for taking a big step of faith with us and risking the first one. It was a resounding success.

Yours, in Christ,



The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba
ARCHBISHOP OF CHURCH OF UGANDA.

