

Africans Love Bible Teaching



“This month has been a success and a busy one. We had graduations for basic leaders who have benefited a lot from ATA ministry. Thirty two local leaders completed their studies at Namadzi ATA Center. Some of the leaders were traveling for a long distance for studies on their pushing bikes. The graduation took place in a village hall. The chief and other local leaders were present during the ceremony. All men received certificates for preaching. They thanked ATA for the role played in making reading materials available in their local language”.



The photo above is of an ATA graduating class in Malawi. The comments in italics above and below are written by our Malawian coordinator.

This is in a remote and very rural part of Africa. ATA is very effective in these remote settings.

Among the graduates, there was one handicapped (lame) who was traveling between 7–10 KM by a wheelchair to study with ATA. He was very happy that he too graduated with his ATA certificate.

Our Last newsletter reported the plight of James a refugee from South Sudan living in a refugee camp in northern Uganda. James had been badly abused in an operation for a stomach problem.

James has had three surgeries since the last newsletter. The first one was done to reconnect his intestines so he wouldn't need the colostomy bag.



The day after he returned to our home, after the operation, we sent him back to the clinic; the surgery was a failure. So he was operated on again. This was his fourth major operation.

The surgeon showed us no mercy, charging us full price for the second procedure which completed the work he should have done in the first place.

This photo shows James examining his scanning results. Today James had a fifth (fairly minor) operation done to install a drain to drain an abscess in his stomach. He is now home and resting. Please keep him in your prayers.

Last evening MaryLee told me an encouraging and at the same time disturbing story. She was telling how James was sharing with one of the doctors working on him about Jesus. This is good but what disturbed me was that MaryLee said that James was repeating the same words I have used when teaching our class and talking to him: I have to be very careful about every word I say around him as I hope to be a good testimony.

We look forward to the time James is able to return to live with his family. We also pray for peace to come to South Sudan so that his family, along with millions of other refugees, can return to their homes in South Sudan.

Medical care for most Ugandans is a nightmare. Often as we are driving I remember that if we have an accident and suffer serious injury we are in trouble. The first thing that usually happens is that the victims will likely be robbed and then maybe thrown into the back of a pickup truck and hauled to a clinic to be treated by indifferent and poorly trained medical people. When I think of this I wish people would drive safer here.

We are trying a new method to send our newsletters to you. Let us know your feelings about this method. We would love to hear from you about what is happening in your lives.

Someone told me during our last visit to America that they would like to hear more about living in Uganda. Patience is listed as one of the fruits of the spirit and living in Uganda helps develop patience. See the following examples:

When I first arrived in Uganda I complained about how slow it was to travel on many of our bad roads. Now, if the tires are barely moving then all is well and I am content.

MaryLee has learned to stand in line at the bank for over an hour only to find that they don't have the change she needs. One time the bank was completely out of money except for small change.

Two weeks ago MaryLee took James to the doctor for a pre-surgery review. She asked if a deposit was needed before the surgery. She was told no. When James showed up for the surgery they wouldn't operate without payment. It turns out that no deposit was required for the lodging (accommodation) but one was required for the surgery. Getting the deposit required a couple of hours of driving to deliver the funds. Much patience required.

I really feel sorry for the patience Ugandans need. One example is that the government requires all citizens to have a national identification card. Recently one of our young men went through the procedure to get his card. He spent one full week of effort to complete all the



paper work; these were long days. After filling out all the paperwork, he was told to come back in a month. This week he returned and it took a full day's effort just to pick up the card. One of the things which slows the procedure down is that, if you can

afford a bribe, you automatically go to the head of the line.

Above.... Snack time in Zambia. Yes, these are rats on a stick.

ATA is active in many cultures in different parts of Africa and eating rats, caterpillars, monkeys, snakes, and grasshoppers is common in some cultures.

You are receiving this message because you requested newsletters from Africans Teaching Africans and Bob and MaryLee Bolitho in Kampala, Uganda.

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IGO (International Gospel Outreach)
PO Box 161295
Boiling Springs, SC 29316
Designate Bolitho

Website: www.africansteachingafricans.com

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