

# MESSIANIC COMMUNITY IN UGANDA (MCIU)

## REPORT on the Activities of the MCIU

Reporting time: Dec 2014 - February 2015

"Restoring the faith of the apostles, the prophets and the early church to today's believers".



*Spreading the knowledge of Torah of God as expounded and revealed by Yeshua Ha Mashiach, equipping believers for a life of Holiness and pursuing a love and involvement with the covenant people of God, Israel*



## REPORTING BY:

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## Introduction

The Messianic Community in Uganda (MCIU) is a ministry that seeks to restore the faith of the apostles, the prophets and the early church to today's believers.

We believe that this lost faith comprised of knowledge of the Torah of God as expounded and revealed by Yeshua Ha Mashiach, which did equip believers for a life of Holiness.

Among the primary doctrines of our commitment to God is teaching the importance of Israel in God's salvation plan and her continued role in God's redemption plans for the whole world. To this end we are zealous for Israel and are daily involved in prayers for her wellbeing.

MCIU is an umbrella organization of Messianic congregations in Uganda which are torah observant, and love Israel.

### MCIU Leadership

MCIU is headed by an executive committee which comprises of these individuals:

Pastor Moses Kyaterekera who is the Overseer of Buusi Islands Congregation

Pastor John Swaga who is Vice Overseer of Iganga Messianic Congregation,

Pastor Emmanuel Bamwite who is Secretary to the MCIU executive of Iganga Messianic Congregation

Wasoita Joseph is the Treasurer MCIU

Committee members include: Charles Waibiru, Masaba John Michael, Daniel Muwanika, Noah Ephraim Bamwite, Zevirio Byakika, and Mrs. Namere Kayanja

### MCIU YEAR PLAN

MCIU has an annual program which we follow as we try to reach our goals of reaching as many people as possible with the torah as expounded by Yeshua and awaken them to the Jewishness of their faith.

A copy of our Year Plan has been attached to this report.

## THE CONFERENCES

As part of our call to educate, teach and reach out to those within the community, we currently have three annual conferences which are held once every year. These are: Youth conference, Leader's conference and Women conference that are held in January, May and August respectively.



*Youths at the just concluded youths conference*

The respective categories from all our various congregations come together to share testimonies, to encouraged each other and to learn from anointed men of God as well as from visiting guests whom God sends to us to minister to us from a Hebraic perspective.



Women conference in Buusi

## PROJECTS

To tackle the growing level of poverty amongst the faithful, we felt a need to introduce some income generating projects. These it was felt were to help in meeting the physical needs of the congregants as well as helping to offset other ministry costs.

At present, we have five projects which are ongoing. They include: Mishkan Internet café, Tomato project, Brick laying, School project and Bible translation project.

### a) Mishkan Internet café -

Mishkan internet café was set up with funding from Baraka International ministries through Dr. Sloss in 2012.

It was originally set up at Busoga University grounds where the café did not do well owing to a very low customer base.



*Emmanuel and Cathy at the Internet café site*

In 2014, we had to start thinking of moving it to a better place where the clientele would meet the running costs of the café as well as meet the repayment obligations we had agreed to in the initial stages of starting this venture.

We identified a suitable place and moved the café to that place but it has still not yet acquired enough customers for it to meet its repayment obligations.

As part of our pledge to help the MCIU with printing costs, Mishkan Internet café is currently using her facilities to help in

producing publications for the community especially in the local languages that most people can read and understand better.

### b) Tomato Project

This project is currently on going. It was started late last year with funding from our ministry partners in Canada through Dr. Sloss. It was set up as a revolving project whose proceeds would go on to empower other members in the community.

Seeds were sent from Canada which were planted in Buusi and Jinja as pilot centres. The Jinja farm has been doing well and bar the lack of rains which have affected much of the country in recent months (December to date), the project had much promise.

The seeds did very well and their returns are good as the harvesting is currently ongoing in Jinja.



*Sister Rebecca harvesting tomatoes from her garden*

In the next planting season more people will be keen to be involved in the project and they have already registered their interest with the coordinator of this project (Noah Ephraim Bamwite)

### **c) Library Project**

At present, we have three centres where library resources are being kept (Iganga, Mbale and Buusi). Each of these centres is located in the home of the congregational leader.

Our desire though is to have a place with fully equipped library book shelves, reading tables and rooms, accommodation space where leaders can congregate monthly for Bible study and reading the many library resources. This idea is currently called the Yeshiva Program in MCIU.

### **d) Bible translation project**

We have also embarked on a project to translate scriptures into Luganda, a local language in Uganda.

A Luganda bible version exists but we believe it does not truthfully communicate some passages which are key to understanding the Messianic faith.

Also, with our desire to restore the faith of the apostles, we believe that our Luganda Bibles should call our LORD and Saviour Yeshua; his Hebrew name and show itself to be a truly Jewish book.

As of now, the first two books of the Bible have been translated and it is hoped that God willing, the work will be accomplished by December, 2015. The translated text is being typed using a Mishkan Internet café computer and is being saved as an Ms Word document.

Once the typing and typesetting are done, the challenge will be to print some copies of the finished text. The demand for these bibles is projected to be around 600 copies as around 600 people can read and understand this language within the Messianic Community.

Dr. Sloss has also been useful to us in donating some 25 Bibles which were distributed to members within the Messianic Community.

### **e) School Initiation project**

MCIU has a desire to set up a school sometime in the near future. Currently, we propose to use the land generously donated to us by Baraka International Ministries through Dr. Sloss.

During the course of the year, we are charged with looking for funds in the region of 17,400 CDN Dollars to put up the structures on which the school will be based.

Plans to make bricks on site are in place. However, this project will still require substantial support to purchase the other items like iron sheets, timber, cement, sand, gravel, labour, fittings and power installation and water installation.

### **f) Congregation Construction**

We also have plans to construct two structures for meeting places on Shabbat for Iganga Messianic Congregation and Buteraniro.

Iron sheets for Buteraniro are already in place while for Iganga a similar project to raise Iron sheets for the structure is in place. Pledges have been made by the brethren and some have already made good their promise. According to projections, by April, a temporary structure for Iganga Messianic Congregation will already be in place.

### **g) In reach and Outreach Ministry Efforts**

MCIU has been involved in Outreach efforts to share the gospel in a Hebraic perspective. The work done in Kamuli district has been most promising.

19 people were baptised in late December and they surrendered their lives to Yeshua. Another group under the eldership of Kisambu also turned to Yeshua with about 35 congregants.



In Namutumba district, a new congregation has been set up under the leadership of Fred Waako, a former member of Iganga Messianic Congregation who has settled in the place. It now has about 7 members and the Lord is adding to their number as He pleases.

Iganga congregation has also been involved in outreach in Bugadde in the neighbouring district of Mayuge. Two new members have now joined from Islam.

The brothers in Mbale (John Michael Masaba and his brother David Mabonga) continue to be actively involved in evangelism in this area. They report new people turning to the LORD.

## **MINISTRY PROGRAMS**

### **Youth Programs**

To meet the faith challenges of the youth, MCIU has three programs targeting the youths. These are an annual youth conference (AMYC), a Holiday Visits Programme and a School Initiation project.

The youth conference held once each year in the month of January from 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> was conducted successfully. Details of this conference are covered in the Youths Conference report.

The Holiday Visits Programme is due to begin in April – May when the youths break off for their first term Holidays. In this year, we plan to have five centres (Kituuto, Jinja, Lwatama, Mayuge, and Buusi) where they will be gathered for teaching, encouragement and mentoring in the ways of the LORD.

The school Initiation Project has been referenced elsewhere.

It is important to this ministry as we believe:

- i) It will set up an adequate environment where we can train our children in the ways of the LORD while at the same time attaining secular education.

- ii) It can be a potential source of employment for our youths who are joining the teaching profession
- iii) It will create an avenue where we can reach out to the needs for the needy, orphans amongst us with Yeshua's love
- iv) It will be a centre where we can host conferences, seminars and other such gatherings for which we may not need to expend expensively
- v) It could be a place where we can store our documents, library books and host a Holiday library access for our many resources for the Messianic brethren who want to study and know more about the Hebraic roots of our faith.
- vi) It could also act as a centre where we can coordinate MCIU activities from since it is centrally located and easily accessible to all.

## **APPRECIATION**

We extend our deep appreciation to Dr. Sloss of Baraka International Ministries for his material and prayer support.

He has stood with us for three years now. He has also been involved in teaching at the Annual Messianic Leaders conferences which take place in April – May each year.



Dr. Sloss with some of the Leaders who attended the last pastors conference May 2014

We also extend our thanks to Lynda MacDonald of Heart to Heart ministry, Canada, through whom we were able to meet Dr. Sloss who has been instrumental in shaping our identity and understanding of scripture. For all your prayers, and material support we are truly grateful.

Our friends and partners in ministry who share with us, sacrifice for us and come to our aid in many ways we are truly grateful.

Our guest speakers at the youth conference Nathanael Pons and Jared Ellis are also appreciated. They spoke to the youth at the just concluded youth conference where they brought a prophetic message of teshuvah in this season of our lives. May Ha Shem bless them for their sacrifice.



*Facilitators at the youth conference 2015*

Finally, we thank the Pastors who organise all events in the Messianic Community. Without their labour much would be unfilled. We thank you for your sacrifice, commitment and LOVE for Yeshua by which you are able to step onto the field and work

## **CHALLENGES**

### **1. Financial wellbeing of individuals and ministry as a whole:**

Generally most congregations cannot meet their budgetary requirements due to high

levels of poverty and this greatly hinders much of our intended programs as a ministry.

Secondly, most of our congregations are rural, dependent on agriculture and living on very small plots of land from which they have to support their livelihoods. The burden of pastors to cater to their family needs and education of their children leaves little to be put in ministry activities.

Therefore the harvest is great but the workers are few. It is our prayer that Yehovah blesses our hands in the home projects we do to meet both home and ministry demands.

## **2. Oversight**

Overseeing the work of MCIU is a huge challenge indeed. Many of these congregations are at huge distances from one another and need serious follow up and discipling.

For those who are just joining the Hebraic faith, the need to be there for them and with them, guiding through the walk of faith is inescapable. Unfortunately, it is not being done because of the many costs involved and a general lack of necessities to make it a reality.

To function well as a ministry in this respect, we need a motor cycle, a projector, and a public address system (for the conferences)

## **WAY FORWARD**

### **a) Better coordination**

There has not been much by way of coordination between the leaders of the community.

Creating ways to ensure better coordination and frequent communication between the leaders of the MCIU

### **b) Upholding the conferences**

Conferences have been the mainstay of the Ministry as it is at such times that we are renewed or recharged for the next long haul.

In the absence of pastoral visits, conferences remain as the only viable way through which we can reach our people in the MCIU with the message of hope and healing for their souls.

### **c) Strengthening the projects**

Projects in the Ministry are being established with a view to meet both the spiritual and material needs of the faithful.

We believe that creating modalities to make the projects work is the way to go. We desperately need to be actively engaged in the lives of the faithful and to cultivate godly virtues by our conduct and example as leaders.

This means sacrificing time, and resources to follow up on each and every project to make sure that it is being handled properly and will be a source of blessing to the Community

### **d) Sealing training gaps**

MCIU still wants to seal the gaps which abound in the ministry in regards to theological training. There is currently no leader who has ever had theological training. Most of them are self taught and for this reason would like to cultivate more relationships which would result in partner ministries helping us in teaching people groups in MCIU like the youths, the women, the widows, and the married. Believers in all these groups sometimes need a specific message in order for them to bear fruit for the kingdom.

At present we have a youth conference (Annual Messianic Youth Conference – AMYC), Annual Messianic Women's Conference (AMWC) and Married's Seminar which are being used to speak to these specific groups. For this reason, we are both thankful for what Dr. Sloss and Baraka International Ministries have done to fill the teaching gap for the leaders in Annual Messianic Leaders Conference (AMLC). We still need this kind of arrangement not only for AMLC but for the

Women, Men, married and the youth. May Yehovah bring this to fruition.



Training session at the AMWC in Buusi Islands (August 2014)

## **NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

Land was acquired in Kamuli to build a Congregation. This it is expected will be a congregational home for the 35 new converts to the Messianic faith.

The LORD is bringing new people to the faith. New brethren have joined us in Kamuli, Bugadde, Budaka and Mbale

MCIU has acquired a Keyboard to help create vibrancy in our praise and worship. Although mainly used in Iganga messianic Congregation, it is being used in all MCIU conferences



Youths who played the keyboard at the AMYC 2015

The Annual Messianic Women's conference was conducted successfully in August last year in Buusi Islands. A new team of seven women leaders was chosen to help in reaching out to their fellow women and will now always be invited to the Annual Messianic Leadership Conferences

We are witnessing an increased vibrancy in torah reading every Shabbat and living a torah lifestyle. People are reading from the books we now have in stock in our libraries and are being edified by them. We therefore thank our ministry partners who have so generously donated these books

Links are being formed with new brethren from within Uganda who are self taught in Hebraic roots of the Messianic faith. We have so far met Sister Ann (works with Opportunity bank in Iganga) and Tumwesigye (works in Kampala). These two brethren contacted Pastor John after reading his face book profile and where with us at the youth conference. They continue to keep in touch and are reading some of the books at our disposal to enable them better understand the Messianic faith.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

As we continue to labour in the field of our master, we are grateful for the help he keeps sending to us through other labourers like us.

In a short space of time, we have seen the LORD at work in our lives. From answered prayers for the LORD to send us someone with a proper understanding of the Biblical faith from a Biblical perspective, to funding of the various events in ways we had not imagined, the LORD has been at work in this ministry.

Right now we can afford to dream of even bigger things that we trust the LORD will meet in His own way. From the need for MCIU to be strengthened, to the needs for a library, a school project and income generating projects and the need to seal gaps in our knowledge and practice of the Messianic faith from a

torah positive perspective, we believe the LORD has been with us all the way.

To Him be the Glory, the honour and the power forever.

Once again, we do extend our deepest thanks to our ministry partners who have stood with us and may Yehovah bless them richly.



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