



Lessons We Are Learning

You read books about it. You hear talks and sermons about it. You discuss it. But there is nothing like "being there" to really learn life lessons. These last months have brought home lessons that the Lord wanted us to learn.

We hope that you can hear our stories and see that you have a part of the battle with the enemy in the places that the Lord sends us. Written by different people on teams that you sent, you will see what God is teaching us all.

Ugandan Lessons by Ken

Lesson 1 *God is at work even at times when it seems that He is not. God is always at work and He is faithful to accomplish what He has ordained. Our task is to listen and be obedient.*

We were somewhat frustrated on the evening of the second day of the leadership training conference. Since coming to the Kigadi region we had witnessed many baptisms and weddings. We heard testimonies of people who had come out of cult influences and were now part of the church.

Once we started the teaching, however, there seemed to be no response from the leaders involved in the training. This is not unusual when you minister through an interpreter, but we had no indication that anything was reaching the people.

That evening, our team began to ponder the feedback. The Lord had been faithful to provide for

the conference. He had confirmed our team and had given us specific areas to share with the leaders. We had faithfully worked as hard as we could. Yet, the fact remained that nothing appeared to be taking root.

The lie the enemy puts into your head is that you left something out or you haven't done something right.

The third day we walked in prepared to start all over again. However, something was different as we entered the sanctuary. The leaders were in worship and the presence of the Holy Spirit was so strong you could feel it on your arms. A spirit of repentance began to manifest itself and people began to rush forward for the opportunity to repent. Some of them actually got saved! Marriages were healed. All of

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Ken teaching and learning spiritual warfare

What You Can Learn from Ants in Your Pants by Martha

It had been a long seven hour drive from the Entebbe airport to Kigadi Girls' school, our home away from home in Uganda. My body hurt from hours of jostling over rutted dirt roads. It was warm in third seat back.

Just seeing the cool grass under the shade of the large trees at the front of the huts was welcoming. How I was looking forward to getting off my sore behind and walking around!

Suddenly Dave, the videographer started jumping around, pulling off his shoes and socks. "ANTS!" the Ugandans cried.

We all started checking ourselves for them. They were large and black and had a sharp bite. I found a few on my leg and inside my sandals, but was grateful that I had not gotten into as many as Dave. Dave changed his clothes and we all went to our

rooms to use the facilities. I found a couple more up inside my skirt—I found them when they bit me.

I kept feeling biting and asked Ken to look to see if he could find any more. He took a cursory look and said they were gone. He was busy being the team leader and really didn't think that I had a problem. I shrugged it off thinking the pain was just the aftereffects of the bites.

I was feeling a little creepy about it, so I told Paula about the ant up my skirt. I thought that as a woman she could "feel my pain."

She laughed hysterically. "Ants in your pants!", she said.

I truly didn't think it was very funny—I was looking for sympathy.

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Martha talking with Ugandan leaders

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Lessons from Ken

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this was happening and we hadn't spoken a word. God's Word had taken root and the Holy Spirit had done a deep work in the hearts of people.

Lesson 2 *The enemy is unrelenting and he will often hit the hardest after a great victory. The counter reality is that God is faithful.*

Uganda was the first portion of our trip. A second team of business people met us in Rwanda to work on micro enterprise projects. I, Ken, had been fully involved in the teaching in Uganda, but in Rwanda I was only responsible for team leadership. Uganda had been powerful, yet it drained us. I was looking forward to just leading the team and letting the business experts carry the load for teaching. I would just be able to bask in the victory the Lord had just brought. My guard was down.

From the minute we landed in Rwanda it was like a fog settled over me. I was able to take care of basic administrative details, but the spiritual side of leadership was left undone. I didn't do

things that were second nature to me and essential parts of normal team life. Common team prayers and meetings to keep each other strong didn't happen for the first two days. Confusion of schedules and purpose began to settle in to the team. Spiritual attacks from the enemy which would usually be nipped in the bud were having free reign in both the team and the work projects.

Finally, Ed, a seasoned member of the team who had been with me three times in Rwanda, sat me down and said, "What is wrong with you?"

Suddenly, I came out of a fog and I began to see things clearly. I had to ask the Lord's forgiveness for just putting it into cruise and giving the enemy room to work in the people under my responsibility. We started then to gather for prayer and compare our observations to develop the whole spiritual picture of the assaults set against us. The whole atmosphere of the trip changed and we all began to function normally.

"Ants in My Pants?"



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Upon going outside, I asked Eric, our host, where the ants were. I didn't want to step in them again.

He said, "We went to get something to kill them, but when we came back they were gone. They must have been a band traveling through."

So we went into meeting/dining building for the first meeting to plan out the week. I was still feeling sharp pains. If I sat one way the pain stopped, but if I sat another sharp stabs came again.

I was working very hard at being gracious and listening, but I was truly miserable.

Right after the meeting I went back to the room to use the bathroom again when I found blood in my panties. I went and got Ken and insisted that this time, he find the problem! With the help of a flash light, he searched until he found the offending ant and disposed of him. He apologized for not looking more thoroughly the first time. I forgave him. I was trying not to think about all the things that could go wrong when one has ants in one's pants and the aftereffect of the bites.

I got over the trauma and mostly forgot about it. After we were home in the US, one morning I was praying and remembered the ant incident. It was in relationship to leaving even a tiny bit of room for the enemy, and how relentless the enemy of our souls is. The Lord showed me several lessons:

The enemy is relentless. I was looking forward to the respite of our little room, not fighting the enemy. We had prayed all the way there for protection. We had made the 39 hour trek. But the enemy was not resting. His plan was the disruption of the team spirit—putting fear into Dave and Paula and me.

The enemy's strategy is to divide and conquer. He tried to break the oneness in Ken and me through my being offended that Ken was not taking interest in my problem. Satan tried to keep Paula and me from getting close by my taking offense at her lack of sympathy. (Much later the ants in the pants remark was funny to me.)

The enemy likes to kill things in the beginning stages. We were all really getting to know each other and hadn't really bonded. We were going to bring God's Word that He had prepared in our hearts for that time and place—the enemy wanted to stop that from ever starting.

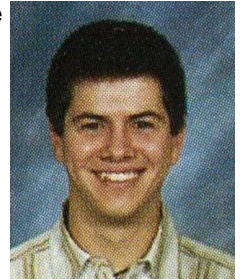
One little ant could have derailed the move of God in Kigadi!

What My Internship in Rwanda is Teaching Me *by Eric*

Eric Ruppel is a GCWM intern working in micro finance and community development in Kibungo, Rwanda. He is an MA Candidate at the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, University of Kentucky. He is three weeks into his eleven week mission. These are excerpts from his notes to us on what he is learning so far.

In the three weeks I have been in country, God has already shown me a lot of highs and lows. He has shown me the hopelessness and isolation of areas that are truly impoverished – spiritually, socially, and economically. He has shown me what hope is fostered in communities that truly rely on him to bring them together. I now have a keen awareness of the destitution and the humanity of the sixty percent of Rwandans that live below the poverty line. In all of this, he is showing me how hard it can be to give it all up and leave to love and serve him, even

just for two and a half months. He is always at work, though, in our struggles as well as our victories. In those moments of hopelessness and despair, the moments where the devil uses his subtle knife to carve away at my defenses and leave me bare, God has shown me the great protection he offers when we trust in him. He has given me strength and has shown me how wonderful it is to have the Word hidden in my heart. He has repeatedly pulled the simple verses I have memorized to show me truth and expose the enemy's lies. He has given me the strength to be more than a conqueror, crushing the devil's plans to separate me from the love of Christ. He has given me the courage to use the despair to strengthen my faith in him.



What I Learned Going with Gateway Center *by Todd*

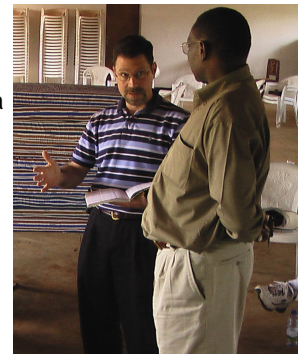
Todd Renner is a CPA from Versailles, KY that was on the February GCWM team to mentor Rwandan micro enterprises. This is an excerpt from his letter to Eric, the Gateway intern in Rwanda now, concerning Eric's struggles with relationships.

Speaking from my own experience (and witnessing an attack on Ken), there IS spiritual warfare ongoing right now, and I believe you are in the midst of it. When you view the world through spiritual lenses (which we are definitely NOT taught to do in the West), these things become more clear. The legitimate feelings you are having are likely there because Satan wants your efforts to fail. He wants to sow discord and confusion, and misunderstanding is a more subtle way of throwing you off your game. He was at work in a powerful and evil way in Rwanda in 1994, and the hatred he sowed years before bore its fruit in the Genocide in a ruthless and visible way. As Rwanda recovers, and the light of the Gospel dispels fear and ignorance, Satan's work is harder. Just remember that he wants you to fail. I am not saying that you are not feeling the emotions that you are or that you have misinterpreted what you've experienced.

Just don't allow Satan to impede your work.

I did NOT do this enough, so please take my advice. When you feel a little off put or pressed upon, STOP and ask Jesus to break the cycle right then and there. This will not be the last time you have conflict. Satan knows that your commitment and the commitment of everyone who sent you can be damaged by misunderstanding. The work you are doing is TOO important. The God of the universe has moved in East Africa in a mighty way, and Satan sees it and the threat it poses to his schemes.

God is sovereign. What He wants most from you is to lean on Him, not do it all yourself. You are His hands and feet in this endeavor, but you move and have your being through Christ who strengthens you.



Todd with Emmanuel, The Rwandan Coordinator

Using Learned Lessons in Haiti

For the last 12 years you have supported the Gateway Center through your prayers and finances in Haiti. We all love the Haitian pastors and fruit from our ministry there.

Maintaining relationships with the pastors in Haiti has been different this year. Since Pastor Joel has passed, it has been hard to communicate for various reasons. Even hearing from the Lord on how and what should happen seemed to be hindered. We keep reminding ourselves of the



Haitian leaders commissioning regional prayer movement coordinators

lessons we have been learning all year, especially "not knowing, hearing or understanding does not mean that God is not at work."

One night, on a visit to St. Louis soon after we returned from Africa, Ken had a dream about the blowing of shofars. We had little interpretation for it. The next night he woke up and heard the Lord saying, "Blow the shofar! Summon the prayer

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Using Lessons in Haiti



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warriors of Haiti! It is time to take the land.”

Ken wrote Jean Beaucejour, Joel's brother, and told him what the Lord had said. Jean called a meeting of the Missionaries in Harvest executive council. They prayed and asked the Lord what this meant for them. An email returned shortly that invited GCWM back to Haiti in August for a conference of the network of intercessors across Haiti that began to take the land two years ago.

Communication is still sparse. However, there are now dates set and a budget. God is so faithful! It is His work; He will prevail.

Summoning You as Warriors

Through a set of “only God” circumstances, Ken received a shofar from someone he had never met before. Since then he has been blowing it often. He blows it for various specific reasons, but mainly as a response from the Lord asking him to “**Summon the Warriors.**”

You are part of the warrior band to be summoned. Many things are changing in the world; many things in the natural world with which we could be concerned. But the Lord is looking for warriors that hear the sound of the shofar and His heavenly voice.

Haiti is at a tipping point. Will it tip for the good and become a nation for the Lord, or will it turn back to its Satanic roots? What is God asking of *us—all of us to do* for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done in Haiti?

Shofar strategies:

Pray

- Pray for the ten key leaders appointed in each department of Haiti and for the HMI staff that God would cover and anoint them to mobilize prayer movements.
- Pray that God would empower a nationwide strategy that would bring His people together; that the demonic strongholds would be exposed and uprooted.
- Pray that the spirit of repentance that had begun after the earthquake would not slacken.
- Pray for the gathering in August. Pray for both the fullness of the power of the Spirit and provision; that the enemy could not derail or hinder this conference in any way.

Respond to the call as

- Warrior intercessors to join this team and go with us.
- Warrior givers that will send the team and provide for the Haitian pastors to come to the conference.

Check out our Uganda
video !
www.gatewaycwm.org

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The Shofar Summons!

Provision for the conference and whatever else the Lord has in His mind for this time is needed. Right now the budget's bottom line is close to \$8,000. We know that what God asks for, He provides. It is His work, but he invites us to join Him in this work.

If you are hearing the shofar's call, please join the warrior givers, prayers and goers as God moves Haiti from the Kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of Light.

Email or send us a note in the enclosed envelope to be part of the prayer or goer team. Gifts specifically designated for Haiti should include the word Haiti on the memo line of the check.

If you would like to give electronically by credit card or e check simply go to our website www.gatewaycwm.org and click the donate now button on the page.

Carrying the Gospel Beyond Your Present Life.

Martha's mother celebrated her 90th birthday on Memorial Day Weekend. She is a woman who has a heart for the Lord and a vision for His mission around the world. When Martha's dad went to be with the Lord several years ago, the family brought in a wise Christian financial planner to tie up all the loose financial ends and form a good financial package to meet Mom's needs. Mom wanted to make sure her children and grandchildren would benefit from her and Dad's stewardship. She also mentioned how they had always wanted to do more for the Lord. The financial planner gave her an option that captured her imagination. She was astounded that she did not have to be "a millionaire" to give generously.

He asked if she would like to see the fruit of their lives bring the life of the Gospel long after she was with the Lord. The more she thought about the power of the Gospel going forward beyond her life, the more it thrilled her. She set up a fund that benefited her and gave an inheritance to her family now and provided for ministries of her choice after she received her reward in heaven.

The Gateway Center's partnership with the National Christian Foundation/Kentucky allows us to offer similar opportunities to you to further the Kingdom beyond your lifespan. You may want to set up a remainder charitable trust like Mom did for her charities. You may want to consider a life insurance policy with the Gateway Center as a beneficiary or possibly include the Gateway Center in your will.

The fruit of your life could train pastors and leaders, plant churches, and give hope, health and provision for generations.

Please contact us at the Gateway Center or Callie Picardo at NCF. Callie's contact information is: calliencf@gmail.com or 859-288-7671. Ask about giving options that will outlive your present life.



**Working
Together
Till the
Lord
Comes**