The Christians in Commerce (CIC) Home Office recently sent a team of five individuals to Uganda from May 16-28, 2016 to visit the Men’s and Women’s Chapters and presented to approximately 6,200 Ugandan brothers and sisters in eight villages. The team included three of the Home Office staff: Terry Cassell, Jon Cassady and Therese McNichol, and also Alanna Crimmins and Randy Raciti. They were extremely blessed by the local Ugandans’ hospitality and reception in the various villages, as well as the love and service they experienced on the part of the CIC Service Council. The sessions were promoted and supported by the Uganda CIC Service Council, which consists of twenty men and women and contains representatives from most of the villages where CIC has a chapter.

The team had the honor of beginning their trip with a visit to Bishop Robert of the Fort Portal Catholic Diocese. Bishop Robert is the person who first invited CIC to come to Uganda and begin CIC chapters and he continues to support the work of CIC today. Another highlight of the trip was when CIC President Terry Cassell had the opportunity to speak on the chapter’s weekly live radio broadcast. Terry’s message was on the topic of hope and the show was hosted by Aloysius Mugisa, CIC Uganda Men’s Chapter President.

Here is a summary of the different sessions and talks that were given:

Leaders Session

Speakers: Terry, Therese, Jon, and Alanna

1 Peter 4: 10-11 “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

To be a servant leader, we need to keep in mind that we are actually servants first and leaders second. We must learn to model Christ-like servanthood in every situation. We are to value every task and talent given to us as essential to the body of Christ. We serve God our Father when we serve one another! Terry modeled what it means to be a servant leader by washing the feet of two of the Ugandan CIC leaders (Morence & Rose Mpora).

The Leaders Session was held only once and consisted of four talks. The talks were given to the combined group of men and women on topics relevant to being leaders. There were 200 leaders present from various locations, and at the end of the day, there was a time for questions and testimonials. In a true spirit of humility, many of the leaders expressed what they had learned from the talks and how they were going to apply it to their lives. They also expressed their gratitude for the team sharing their wisdom and love with all of them.
Married Couples Sessions
Speakers: Terry, Randy, and Therese

The Married Couples Sessions were given at three different locations: Kitumbi, Verya and Kamwenge. There were a total of 445 couples present at these gatherings.

The couple’s talks were given in both a combined and same-sex setting. The talks focused on married life, raising children and how to be a loving spouse and parent. Of the 170 couples present at the first Married Couples Session held in Kitumbi, one third of them were engaged couples. One of the young men in particular was very inspired by the talks and asked to be married that day to his betrothed. Because this couple had previously completed their wedding preparations through their church, at the end of the day, all present witnessed a joyous wedding celebration between these two attendees. The team was told this was the first time something like this had ever happened from any of the CIC Married Couple’s Sessions.

One of the couples had been married for ten years and the husband refused to attend any church sponsored events. His wife had been praying for his change of heart, and as soon as he heard CIC was hosting a Married Couples Session, he was very excited to attend. The morning of the session, he arose and dressed very early because he didn’t want to be late for the event. His enthusiastic countenance at the session confirmed he was feeling blessed by what he heard. The husband of a couple who had been married for 49 years shared he had learned he needed to become a better listener and be more patient with his wife. He planned to begin living this way for their remaining years together. Another husband shared about a time when he had not been in control of his anger and had come close to seriously hurting his wife. Although he had apologized previously, after hearing Terry’s talk on anger he felt inspired to again seek her forgiveness. One husband shared that he had helped his wife prepare meals for his family as a way of serving her, prior to the talks. He was ridiculed by the other men in his village for doing what they believed was “women’s work”. He decided to stop serving his wife in this way, even though she felt very loved by his service. After hearing talks on the importance of loving our wives through acts of service, he recommitted himself to again serve his wife, no matter what ridicule he might encounter from the other men. He went on to share that loving his wife was more important than what the other men thought of him.
Mixed Audience Sessions: Adults, Teenagers & Children

Speakers: Terry, Randy, Therese, Alanna, and Jon

The talks for the Mixed Audience were presented to over 4,320 individuals in three villages: (3,200 adults and 1,320 youth)

The team addressed audiences comprised of various ages on three different days. The talks focused on mercy, love of God and love of neighbor and evangelization. Due to an unexpectedly large turnout of children, the team split up and Alanna Crimmins and Jon Cassady created some talks onsite appropriate for the youth audience.

Youth Sessions

Speakers: Jon and Alanna

The youth talks were given in both a combined and same sex setting. The talks focused on making a personal commitment to the Lord, dealing with worldly temptations and forming good friendships. They were presented to over 1,150 young adults in two locations.

After hearing Alanna’s talk on prayer, one young woman said she was going to rejoin her church choir in order to spend more time praising God.

During a Q&A segment following the Youth Session on chastity, a young man commended Jon for being 55 and unmarried. He was impressed since not many Ugandan men serve the Lord through the single life at that age. When he learned that Jon was open to marry someday he immediately said, “We should pray for you to find a wife!” This led to a wonderfully spontaneous time of prayer in which the attendees prayed with one another based on the state in life they felt called to. First they prayed with those who desired marriage, then the religious life, and then the single life.

Afterward, a number of the people expressed the need to return to their homes and become reconciled with family members who had mistreated them. One man asked how to better discern some of the choices he has been making that don’t seem to be producing fruitful results.

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Works of Mercy

The CIC trip also provided the team with an opportunity to witness many of the works that CIC is supporting financially through the generosity of our members. Here is a visual summary of other works done by Christians in Commerce in Uganda. If you would like to participate in CIC’s work in Uganda, please consider contributing to support Christians in Commerce online. Our Christians in Commerce gift form can be found online at www.cicintl.org/support.

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For more information about our Uganda CIC chapters and our works of mercy, please visit https://www.christiansincommerce.org/uganda. This page is updated regularly with local events and content from our Ugandan brothers and sisters.

History of Christians in Commerce in Uganda

In 1998, the South Bend Chapter of Christians in Commerce, in collaboration with the Notre Dame Mendoza School of Business, sponsored a seminar entitled “Effective Christian Leadership in Today's Marketplace”. Father Robert Muhiirwa, of Fort Portal, Uganda attended the seminar at the invitation of Kirby Falkenberg.

Fr. Robert met Gus Zuelke and Bill Dalgetty, who impressed him by how they were able to manage their work, faith and family lives. Fr. Robert returned to Uganda, was eventually ordained the Bishop of the Fort Portal Diocese and in 2005 asked Kirby and Gus to put on a Challenge Weekend in Fort Portal.

At the invitation of Bishop Robert, 32 young men and women attended the first Challenge Weekend in Uganda, where Aloysius Mugisa and Gertrude Kabaliisa were elected presidents of the Men's and Women's chapters. The team left them with the CIC Chapter Guidelines and the Home Office continued to provide leadership and support to the newly formed chapters. Three teams from the US have made trips to Fort Portal to assist in putting on Challenge Weekends and present other teachings.