

# Exuberant Celebration and Anticipation in Uganda!

Community Bible Study Uganda celebrated 10 years of fruitful ministry on September 28. It was a joyful day in Hoima, Western Uganda, the birthplace of CBS in Uganda. It was anticipated that 1,500 CBS participants from across the country would attend, but the number far surpassed that, and all the tents set up for the gala were filled beyond capacity.

It was a day when multiple denominations stood side-by-side to worship God in a country not known for public expressions of unity.

It was a day of song, prayer and testimonies of God's favor on the work of CBS Uganda and the lives transformed through God's Word. Groups from all over the country performed original songs and dramas about CBS and what they have learned from Scripture.

There is now a broader movement within Uganda recognizing that a marvelous work has been done over the past few decades on evangelism and church planting. In contrast to many U.S. churches, Ugandan churches tend to be full, but leaders are concerned that discipleship has been left behind. God's Word is the gateway to discipleship, and this is what CBS has been delivering to tens of thousands in Uganda. CBS is for such a time as this.

After studying the book of Matthew with CBS, a Ugandan schoolteacher said, "We realized that when Jesus wanted to make converts, He went to the hillside and preached about repentance and the coming Kingdom. But ... when He wanted to make disciples, He gathered his followers together in a small group and taught them from His Word, prayed and interacted with them. **We then realized that this is exactly what we do in CBS.**"

CBS came into existence 44 years ago in the USA. Its mission statement—*making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in our communities through caring, in-depth Bible study available to all*—reflected a desire to make God's Word more widely accessible. Now CBS Uganda is displaying that same spirit of welcome as non-denominational, Protestant and non-Protestant faith streams are converging in Bible study. "Available to all" truly means all!

As a prime example, a few years ago, a Catholic priest heard of CBS and its effect on churches and communities in Western Uganda. The Lord moved in his heart to bring CBS to his parish in the rural west.

The Bishop of the region gave his blessing. And in 2016, he also secured one hour of free airtime per week on the Catholic radio station for CBS to do sample studies in the local language. This motivated many listeners to find a CBS class for themselves.

The Bishop's mother even called him wanting to know how she could join a CBS class. Ugandan communities continue to add new classes.



See joy as Ugandans celebrate God's work!

## Sub-Saharan Africa Active Countries



God's Word is spreading throughout Uganda, sometimes among people who might be least expected to do an in-depth Bible study.

A CBSI Ambassador to Uganda shares, "As I visited villages where people were living in subsistence conditions, it was clear that God's Word has become the foundation of their lives. I was moved to see women meeting together to study God's Word sitting on mats in thatched roof huts, writing out their lessons on paper smudged by the red dust of the village – the same lessons we do around the world. They now boldly affirm that they want to 'stand on God's Word' and use this to find comfort and strength."

### And THEN there's CBS Uganda C&Y!

CBSI Children & Youth (C&Y) in rural western Uganda is just 5 years old, but already has 8,000 participating. And although C&Y in eastern Uganda is only 2 years old, it's growing exponentially as well. If you could catch a glimpse into a class in Uganda, you would see creative Bible teaching, fervent prayer, Bible verses memorized to song or the beat of a drum.

During the recent anniversary gala, participants had the chance to look back at God's faithfulness to CBSI Uganda over the past 10 years. **Yet those involved in this growing ministry would likely tell you that they are, by God's grace, just getting started!** There is mounting anticipation of significant growth on the immediate horizon. These are exciting times for that beautiful country.

Uganda is only one country among the 21 that comprise CBSI's most active region. The Sub-Saharan Africa Region is seeing significant participation and expansion — especially in the area of Children & Youth ministry. We see the fruit of CBS leaders and participants who are deeply investing in the region— relationally, financially and spiritually. Can I ask you to keep them in prayer as they pursue the goal of making God's Word available to all?

In addition to your prayers and other support, please consider making a year-end contribution to assist these exciting efforts. We can only imagine what the next 10 years will look like as we share and serve together!

To partner with us financially, you may donate online at [www.communitybiblestudy.org/giving](http://www.communitybiblestudy.org/giving), or by mail to **Community Bible Study/790 Stout Road/ Colorado Springs, CO 80921.**

## The Beauty of Transformed Lives in Uganda



With gratitude,

Keith Spartzak, International Director