While in Busia, East Uganda, Bishop Powell met with pastors of the East Uganda Annual Conference and the West Kenya Annual Conference. He not only preached and prayed with them, but he also imparted instructional words of wisdom about ministry, capacity building and pastoring.

Bishop visited with the second church the AMEZ helped to construct from the ground up in East Africa, inspiring the workers who had an infectious commitment and zeal for the building work in which they were engaged.

Bishop visited with the village workers, who had an infectious commitment and zeal for the building work in which they were engaged. Bishop Powell exclaimed, "It was a wonder to see what happens when you use what's in your hands. When you take what God has given you and use it for His purpose and to glorify and praise Him. It was marvelous to see what the people of village could do with no technology and no fancy architectural plans, just a mind stayed on the work of kingdom building," said Bishop.

Bishop visited the primary grade children in Kasanda, Kitongo and Kamusenene, all of who are a part of the St. Mbuga educational center network.

THIRD STOP BUSIA UGANDA

Wherever Bishop Powell travels, children take to him like the Pied Piper. It was no different on this trip. God be praised for his spirit of love, even the little ones know that. Bishop was welcomed with signs, song and dance and the waving of tree leaves much like the Biblical days.

Bishop stated, "The experience of being among people who have little in worldly goods, but much in the love of God, was awe inspiring and rejuvenating to the spirit. God is doing a mighty work among His people." The worship experiences were augmented by fervent prayers and healing. People came near and far with specific prayer requests of Bishop Powell. Some came to be healed from infirmities and other came on behalf of family members and loved ones. Many came seeking a deeper connection and relationship with Christ.

Additionally, working with local pastors to improve and empower the lives of their congregants, Bishop Powell held teaching sessions and workshops on the basic rudiments of developing effective ministries to transform lives. He met with pastors in Busia, East Uganda who expressed a strong interest in connecting with the AME Zion Church. He also visited the site where a new place of worship for the people of Busia is being erected.

The Great Commission given by the Christ to His initial followers is personified and exemplified by Bishop Staccato Powell who has been journeying through East Africa, primarily Uganda, since 2011 with the intent to proclaim the good news of Christ. Bishop's travels this year, however, was a more focused journey.

With his ecumenical approach to ministry, Bishop Powell's mission to East Africa was centered on evangelizing, praying, preaching and planning. He also focused on the educational and economic development needs of the communities he visited to lay a foundation for interchange between Africans in America and the people of East Africa.

EVANGELIZING, PRAYING AND PREACHING

With spreading the gospel throughout the land was the primary mission of the trip, Bishop Powell was invited by The Rev. Moses Ssemanda Mbuga to the "Purpose Driven Church Conference" in Lukasa, Uganda, a suburb of Kampala, where he preached, prayed and taught the Word of God. Preaching before the large conference group, Bishop Powell brought the powerful Word of God’s love and purpose for their lives. He shared a message of faith and the awesome results for those who dare to believe.

Bishop Powell also brought a message of hope, peace, and inspiration in some of the more remote areas of Kenya and Uganda. He traveled miles upon miles of dusty dirt roads to reach people yearning to hear a word from God and was welcomed with an outpouring of love and admiration. Comfortable preaching and teaching in villages tucked in the picturesque mountains of each country he visited, Bishop stated, "The experience of being among people who have little in worldly goods, but much in the love of God, was awe inspiring and rejuvenating to the spirit. God is doing a mighty work among His people."

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While in Busia, Bishop met with the pastors of the East Uganda Annual Conference and West Kenya who are interested in establishing Annual Conferences in the region. Bishop Powell also visited with the second church the AMEZ helped to construct from the ground up in East Africa and site visited the building of the gates of Praise AME Zion in Bugiri, Uganda.

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In speaking about his earlier experiences with the pastors in the region, Bishop Powell stated, "Several of the pastors attended a leadership conference in Accra, Ghana in March, 2018 hosted by the Western Africa Episcopal District and Bishop Hillard Dogbe. This delegation was led by Reverend Hillary Wafala Wan-gira, who initially invited Bishop Powell to Uganda, known as "the pearl of Africa." Bishop further stated, "One attendee returned to Uganda as an advocate for the AME Zion Church due to the extensive history of Zion on the Continent in West Africa and the radical hospitality of Bishop Dogbe and his people."

EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INTERCHANGE

Educational attainment is a core value of Bishop Powell. He espouses that education is the cornerstone for self-empowerment and community growth. Dedicated to the educational development of children with knowledge, skills and attitudes that will help them to grow into self-disciplined, self-reliant and integrated citizens as well as enhance their acquisition of sound moral values, Bishop Powell took time to meet with students, staff and school administrators in several village schools and was overwhelming impressed with their commitment to education and hunger for knowledge.

Bishop shared his commitment to educational attainment and encouraged students and school administrators to consider Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina, as an institution for higher learning. In fact the first student, Gloria Akello, will be arriving at the college in January 2019 for the Spring Semester. His mother, in thanking Bishop Powell for the opportunity afforded her daughter wrote, "Thank you for loving my daughter Gloria, and choosing to sponsor her college!!! OMG, whenever I think about it, I fail to understand what great love you have towards our family. God bless you so much Bishop Powell. It’s only God who can reward you genuinely."

Most touching for Bishop Powell was the warm, heartfelt and innocent welcome from the children of the villages he visited. He was invited to the St. Mbuga Community School in Lugazi, Uganda. During his meeting, he preached to villagers from the sermon topic, “The Proper Time.” On Sunday morning, December 3 while in Kenya, Bishop preached to villagers from the sermon topic, “The Proper Time.” During that service, 48 children and 2 adults came forward to give their lives to Christ. Bishop also traveled 62 miles of dusty, bumpy dirt roads to reach people who anxiously awaited his arrival. He preached that evening in an open air village and 5 people accepted Christ as their Savior.

CONNECTING WITH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY

On the final leg of the journey, Bishop met officials from the American Embassy in Kampala, Uganda. During his meeting, he learned about the nuances of business development in Kampala and was connected to individuals who welcomed the idea of collaboration between Africans in America and of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya.

SUMMARY

Bishop Powell’s trip to East Africa was full of spiritual impact, meaning and influence for effective ministry. The excitement of the people at hearing the name of Jesus sparked praise and thanksgiving. The strong desire for educational growth and development served as a basis for connection and interchange with African Americans.

The exploration of East Africa’s vast richness and natural resources provided greater insight into a foundation for economic exploration and exchange between Africans in the African Diaspora and Africans in America, in particular.

FIRST STOP - NAIROBI KENYA

On November 27, Bishop Powell landed in Nairobi, Kenya. Kenya, often referred to as God’s country, is located in East Africa and is bounded by the coastline of the Indian Ocean in the southeast. It encompasses savannah, lakes, the dramatic Great Rift Valley and mountain highlands. The economic, political and social hub of east Africa, Kenya’s neighboring countries include Burundi and Rwanda. From Kenya, one can reach every national airport in East Africa within 90 minutes. Other countries surrounding Kenya include Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Home to wildlife such as lions, elephants and rhinos, Kenya’s capital is Nairobi with a view of the highest mountain in Africa, Tanzania’s 5,895 meter, Mt. Kilimanjaro.

SECOND STOP: ENTEBBE AND KAMPALA, UGANDA

The Republic of Uganda is a landlocked country located in East Africa and bordered by five countries. Its diverse landscape encompasses the snow-capped Rwenzori Mountains and immense Lake Victoria. Its abundant wildlife includes chimpanzees as well as rare birds. With a population of almost 38 million, ranking it as the 35th largest country in the world in terms of population, it’s more than 93,000 square miles and its capital city is Kampala, the largest city in Uganda.

Almost one-quarter of Uganda’s GDP comes from agriculture. The area is known for its tea, tobacco, and cotton production. Uganda is an interior country that is made up of savannas, mountains, and lakes. The endangered mountain gorilla resides in the Rwenzori Mountains of Uganda.

On Tuesday, December 4, Bishop visited with and was warmly greeted by the children of the St. Mbuga Community School in Lugazi, Uganda.