Dare to Believe!

A FOCUSED JOURNEY: PRAYING, PREACHING AND PLANNING

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen...

Matthew 28: 19-20 (KJV)

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. His 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 visited to lay a foundation for interchange between Africans in America and the people of East Africa

Evangelizing, Praying and Preaching

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, love and encouragement in some of the more remote areas of Kenya and Uganda. He traveled miles upon mile 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. “

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 effectual 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 visited the site where people are building a new place of worship for the people of Busia.

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 Gates of Praise AME Zion in Bugiri, Uganda
In speaking about his experiences with pastor earlier in the year, Bishop Powell stated, “Several of the pastors attended a leadership conference in Accra, Ghana in March, 2018 hosted by the Western West Africa Episcopal District and Bishop Hilliard Dogbe. This delegation was led by Reverend Hillary Wafula Wangira, 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 the 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 administrator 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. Her parent, in thanking Bishop Powell for the opportunity afforded their 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 where hundreds of children warmly greeted him in song and dance, waving tree leaves to signify their appreciation of his coming. He also visited with the children in Kasanda, Kitongo and Kamusenene all are a part of the St. Mbuga educational center network.

Equally as important to the educational success of the people of East Africa is their economic success. East African like all of Africa is rich with natural resources and minerals. One major resources known in this area is gemstones. Bishop Powell visited the gemstone mines in Arusha, Tanzania. He learned about and viewed firsthand of the beauty and value of precious stones and minerals produced in East Africa.

One of the goals of Bishop Powell is to replicate the St. Mbuga educational model throughout Uganda. He states, "This can be an educational initiative which fulfills our goal of having a school and health and wellness clinic attached to every church. Just as the AME Zion Church has the largest Church School network in Ghana so shall it be throughout all of East Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan. These are exciting times to be operating in the midst of the origin of all creation"

**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 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.

**In 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 Africa in American, 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, lakelands, 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.

The predominant religion in Kenya is Christianity, which is practiced by an estimated 84.8% of the total population. Islam is the second largest religion in Kenya, practiced by about 9.7% of the total population. Other faiths practiced in Kenya are Baha’i, Buddhism, Hinduism and traditional religions.

While in Kenya, Bishop Powell meet with religious leaders and village elders as well as government officials including the National Secretary General, Raphael Tuju. Bishop Powell views this as an opportunity to establish an avenue for intentional collaborative efforts to mutually benefit both Kenyan and Africans in America as it relates to economic empowerment and entrepreneurial enterprises.

"It is past time to break a cycle of poverty which has engulfed people whose pigmentation is infused with an abundance of melanin," said Bishop Powell. “This is the time referenced in Psalm 68:31 which states, Princes shall come out of Egypt; Ethiopia shall soon stretch out her hand unto God.”

Bishop Powell meeting with the Elders and Board Members of the United Clergy Alliance at the Norfolk Fairmont Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya

Bishop Powell attended the Clergy Conference in Nairobi, Kenya
Bishop speaking before an audience full congregation of people at the Purpose Driven Church Conference in Nairobi Kenya
Rich in mineral, stones and other natural resources, Tanzania mines are known for its production of beautiful gemstone including Tanzanite, Ruby, Green-Tsavorite and other valuable stones.

Bishop visited the Godmwanga and Family Investment Mine in Arusha Tanzania.
On Sunday, December 2 while in Kenya, Bishop preached the word of God, The Proper Time” to villagers. During the morning service, 48 children and 2 adults came forward to give their lives to Christ.

Bishop traveled 62 miles of dusty, bumpy dirt roads to reach people waiting his arrival and where he also preached that evening in open air village where 5 accepted Christ as their Savior

Next Stop Entebbe and Kampala, Uganda

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 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 a landlocked country that is made up of savannas, mountains, and lakes. The endangered mountain gorilla resides in the Ruwenzori 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

Wherever Bishop Powell travels, children take to him like a Piped Piper. God be praised for his spirit of love, even the little know that. Here pictured right with a child in his arm, Bishop was welcomed with song and dance and the waving of tree leaves much like Biblical days.
Children welcomed Bishop Powel with a sign that reads, “IT’S A PLEASURE TO HOST YOU OUR DEAR BISHOP POWELL. WE LOVE YOU”
Bishop Visit with the primary grade children in Kasanda, Kitongo and Kamusenene all are a part of the St. Mbuga educational center network.
Next Stop Busia Uganda

While in Busia in East Uganda, Bishop met with Pastors of the East Uganda Annual Conference and the West Kenya Annual Conference meeting.

Bishop visited with the second church the AMEZ helped to construct from the ground up in East Africa.

Gates of Praise AME ZION in Bugiri, Uganda