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Dear Prayer Partners,

### **A NEW BEGINNING**

The First National Conference of the Wesleyan Church of Uganda was held in Busia, Uganda January 18-20, 2018. Dr. Dennis Jackson, Dr. Alfred Kalembo, Dr. Bob Bagley and Rev. Lucas Hamirie led the conference. Rev. Lucas Hamirie was chosen to be the Bishop of the Wesleyan Church of Uganda. Seven members were elected to be the first official National Board of Administration.

The leaders of the Wesleyan Church in Kenya and in Rwanda also attended the conference along with representatives from Wisconsin who have developed a partnership with Uganda. This was a New Beginning for the Wesleyan Church of Uganda.

The second day of the conference began with a march through Busia, led by the leaders of the church, complete with a band and banners. Many pastors from other churches in Busia also came to witness the New Beginning. We celebrated together the graduation of WBI students, ordination of new pastors and installation of the new board of administration.

Wesleyan Bible Institute held its second graduating class with 13 students receiving certificates at the National Conference. Some of those who graduated began studying as far back as 2005. Others began in September 2016.

The Ordination Service followed with 12 pastors being ordained. They not only completed the courses needed for ordination but they had also served in ministry in the church and been approved for ordination. There are now 21 ordained elders in the Wesleyan Church of Uganda! Three of the Wesleyan Church leaders from Kenya were ordained including the first female, Rev. Anna Omondi. Dr. Dennis Jackson from Global Partners challenged everyone from Hebrews 12 to run the race with perseverance.

The Wesleyan Church of Uganda has been under the authority of the Pilgrim Wesleyan Church of Zambia. Now, after their first National Conference, they will stand on their own. A new page in the history of the Wesleyan Church of Uganda has been written.



*Ordination of 12 New Reverends*

#### ***Praises:***

- 1. Rev. Benard Rotta, one of the lecturers at WBI, was married to Rhema December 16. He was among those ordained at the National Conference.*
- 2. Praise God for the First National Conference of the Wesleyan Church of Uganda.*
- 3. Praise God for the 13 graduates of Wesleyan Bible Institute.*
- 4. Praise God for the 12 who were ordained at the National Conference.*
- 5. Praise God for the leaders who were trained how to teach at WBI. They will help teach in the extension classes.*

#### ***Prayer Requests:***

- 1. Pray for the Wesleyan Church of Uganda as they begin to officially function as a National Church.*
- 2. Pray for the new intake of students who have begun studying at WBI.*
- 3. Pray for those who were trained as they begin to teach in the WBI extension centers.*
- 4. Pray for the WBI extension program as some new centers begin and others continue.*

Thank you for standing behind us with your prayers and financial support. The National Conference was a God moment for us and the Wesleyan Church of Uganda. We could not have done it without your support!

Because of Christ,

Fred and Carol Cromer