



Christ Our Standard Ministries

Newsletter 2024 Q1, January – March

We moved into our present location, Lolgorian, Transmara West, in December 2022. Our previous mission site was in a Coastal region, where we spent much of our time conducting crusades (evangelistic campaigns) and follow-ups as the Lord led the way. During the first year here we were settling and mingling with our new neighbours, as we considered it the best way of approach in our missionary efforts.

It didn't take long before we realised that most of those who lived in this area were farmers who had moved from their ancestral areas to try and make a living here. Most people here are baptised Seventh-day Adventists. The sad thing is that most had lost track of their spirituality as a result of their busy life of farming, and many fell victim to alcoholism, drugs and other harmful habits and addictions.

When we were well settled, someone suggested we consider putting up a shed on our property as a place of worship for Sabbath keepers. Having no dedicated church building at the time, we started worshipping as a family at our house. This was very normal to us, as we had been used to worshipping at home. That is how we spent Sabbath days in areas where we didn't have a nearby church or like-minded people of the same faith in a close neighbourhood. At the same time, we started to agitate those whom we heard were Adventists previously and asked them to join us for our common spiritual benefit.

We thought it was obvious that people could distinguish between church and a house as two distinct entities and understand that while there is an obvious need for a place dedicated to worship, the unavailability of it necessitated the use of the only facility accessible, which was the sitting room in our house.

Quite a lot of time passed before we would see anyone visiting us for worship (as they promised). We didn't understand why. Somehow, with time, it became apparent to us that some people were willing to come but were uncomfortable and found it strange to worship in a private house. This is why we started worshipping under some large trees on our property, near the house. True to their word, a handful of people joined us for worship.



From our outdoor worship location, we also started broadcasting our presentations using our sound system. This helped promote our "church" to the listening ears of surrounding neighbours. Visitors started to show up. In fact, a Sabbath rarely ends without a visitor or two, even if it is children. Although member attendance wasn't very consistent, we realised that we needed a specific place of worship, but despite our desires, we had no means. We also wanted to whet the spiritual appetite of those around us and beyond by broadcasting our services. Regardless of the weather, we have been sharing our worship service every week online, and it truly became a blessing to those who would listen. But we were not quite ready for the added challenges this created.

We started our outdoor worship sessions during the dry season and enjoyed them a lot, but it wasn't long before the rains came. One Sabbath (13 January 2024) it rained from early morning till almost 10 am, which made the ground muddy and messy. That day we had our worship service in a drizzle, and our backs were getting soaked.



That particular drizzly day I kept my usual broadcasting routine. Watching our worship in the rain stirred up the hearts of our new overseas friends, who developed that burning desire to help create a worship centre for us. We were very much encouraged by the warm hearts of our friends and acquaintances out there in the world.

They say, "All God's biddings are enablings," and I saw God's hand move. Our new overseas friend, who has since grown to be a close friend and a dear sister, took the project up and encouraged us to come up with a budget. She and other overseas brothers and sisters decided to join hands to help us build at least a temporary structure for worship, especially for the upcoming 2024 April Camp meetings. From worshipping in drizzle on that Sabbath, we moved swiftly, and with the help of church members, took to spades and shovels (21 January 2024) to level the ground for the house of worship. The financial blessings started to flow.



We employed the relevant building experts, decided on the size, shape and materials we'd use and whatever else was essential, and ordered it all to be delivered to the building site. And it kept raining! The delivery truck couldn't use the 1 km long road-turned-to-mud to bring all the building materials to our place, so the driver brought them to the neighbour's place across the swollen creek for us to collect and carry by hand up the hill where they were needed, and it included timber, chairs, sheets of corrugated iron for the roof and walls, etc.



Two weeks later (28 January), the building was standing. We still needed windows and doors to keep the furniture inside safe, but we had a shelter in case of rain. As the funds kept coming, we were able to secure all the necessary equipment and furnishings. Praise God!



It was a lot of fun erecting this place of worship, which — together with the worshippers — we call church. We are yet to finish it off, especially on the inside, but this house is a testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness to His people. His biddings are enablings. We can testify to that.

In addition to the building project, God blessed us with a donation from a brother from Australia to purchase a printer. This printer is for producing leaflets and handouts for our members to distribute in their neighbourhoods. We know we can't teach everything, but with the assistance of publishing work, people will have additional resources to ground their faith and have an established understanding of the teachings. We also received a donation of 30 kg (as much as a plane-traveller could take) of books and other printed materials from a like-minded and most inspiring ministry in the USA.



The building of this church opened up another serious conversation regarding the ministry registration. We are very hopeful that our congregation grows fast, and that we will be able to expand our influence to the wider community. We don't know what exactly God will appoint us to do, but we are impressed that we are destined for much more effective outreach. As such, we needed to register as a government-recognised ministry. The registration process has been kicked started and we can't wait to receive a message that it has been completed.



Our current mission plan is to have a Bible worker or two to assist us with outreach. We have a lot of work to do in our remote area. There are many who are yet to be gathered. And so whatever funds and offerings we will receive as from May, will go towards this branch of God's work.

We thank our supporters for your willingness to respond to the Holy Spirit's promptings. We appreciate you as our partners in our ministry as we endeavour to spread God's word far and wide. May God bless you richly.

We will keep you posted.