



mbale city council

LivingStone University

Changing the future of East Africa.

Since Rick's recent trip to Uganda it seems the university project in that country has experienced a boost in visibility for our church family. Volunteers have stepped forward to help, small groups have invited leaders to come talk about what's happening and Bible classes have scheduled presentations to gain more information about the university. All of those discussions and presentations help. Yet, we know there are many in the church

who are interested but have little opportunity to hear details. Here's your opportunity.

Without rehearsing details of the genesis of the project, we will simply point out that the vision for what has become LivingStone International University grew out two decades of solid, successful mission work in east Africa – specifically the western-Kenya/ eastern-Uganda region. After establishing hundreds of rural churches in the region and

providing excellent training for those rural church leaders, it became apparent that more was needed. The goal of empowering Africans to be the vessels used by God to change Africa would require something entirely new.

Well-trained rural church leaders would never change the cities. Urban centers will only be reached by Africans with formal education in societal building skills. Africans trained as lawyers, medical

professional and agriculturalists are needed. Business men and women – those who have the skills to create jobs, economic progress and development – are essential. Education is key. Education provided in a Christian setting, based on biblical principles and provided by faith-filled professors will change the nations – the region – the continent. Thus was born the vision for LivingStone International University (LIU).

RHCC, positioned as we were as the vision was born to see it and embrace it, became one of the initial leaders in promoting, expanding and consolidating the vision. LIU became an integral part of our own 2020 Vision. The vision for LIU, however, is far bigger than RHCC's resources and demands collaboration with other churches, with universities – both public

and private, with ministries, with agencies – both governmental and non-governmental and with financial sources. It's big – really big!

We are currently on a course that should see LIU enrolling her first students by the beginning of 2012. In order for this to happen, land will be purchased by August of this year. Construction will begin in January, 2010. The events that have set us on this course are many. A brief review

75% of Uganda's population is under 20. The only opportunity for higher education in Mbale is at the Islamic University.

of what it has taken to get us this far is highlighted by these happenings:



African leaders shaped the vision.

Advisor's Summit 2006 – This gathering happened in Mbale, Uganda in June of that year. Present at the meeting were

African Christians from 8 different African nations. They were church leaders, government officials and leaders in education. They came together at the request

of the missionaries and were asked to visualize a truly African model for an institute of higher education that was fundamentally



Christian and academically excellent. This meeting resulted in a Strategic Plan for the establishment of LivingStone International University. RHCC was present at that meeting in the persons of Don Box and Dale Brooks, an elder and senior minister, respectively. Shortly after this meeting the missionaries in Mbale asked Phillip Shero to serve as the Director of Development for the university. The Sheros have been members of the Mbale Mission Team for eleven years and are sponsored by RHCC.



Ugandan universities only have room for 4 of every 1,000 children.

Harmony Project International – A

corporation has been established in the US by the name of Harmony Project International (HPI). The purpose of this corporation is to consolidate the widely scattered US leadership of the university project and to provide a conduit for collecting and transmitting funds to Uganda for LIU. HPI is a non-profit, tax exempt corporation.

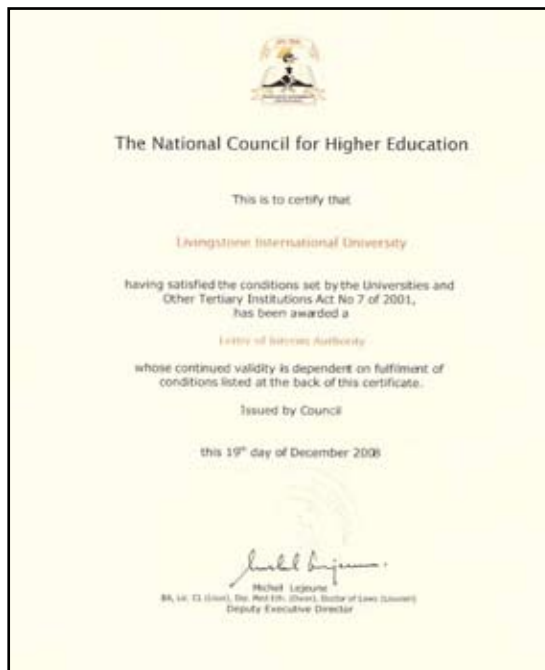
Harmony Group Limited –

Another non-profit corporation has been established in Uganda to serve as a counterpart to HPI. This corporation, Harmony Group Limited (HGL), under Ugandan law is seen as the creating entity and the owner of the university. The HGL Board is comprised of both Ugandans and Americans and is in compliance with Ugandan

law. This board will, eventually, set the LIU Board of Directors in place and turn operation of the university over to them.

Letter of Interim Authority –

In December, 2008 the Ugandan Council for Higher Education approved the Strategic Plan for LIU and issued a Letter of Interim Authority to proceed with establishing a university. This letter granted authority to do everything necessary to set up the university short of enrolling students. We now have less than 3 years – that is until December, 2011 – to buy land, build buildings, hire faculty, develop curricula, set up the library and meet the Ugandan governments standards for being a university. At that point the Ugandan government will issue a Provisional License for LIU. Then, enrollment can begin. Plans are to enroll 100 students in the first class.



a copy of the letter of interim authority



The board of Harmony Group, Limited in Uganda.

The growth of the university will be controlled as it grows by 100 students per year. Eventually LIU will have a student body of 4,000.

Advisor's Summit II, 2009

– With the Letter of Interim Authority in hand a second gathering of the African leadership of the project was in order. The purpose of this meeting was to describe the way forward and to formally establish a Board of Advisors for the university. This was an exciting meeting that has been well reported on the LIU web site www.livingstone.ac.ug. RHCC was again present at this gathering in the persons of two of our elders, Don Box and Morton Jeffrey. Specific options have been identified for the purchase of land. Companies have been selected to provide professional architectural concepts for construction and to develop a business plan for the university.

DFW Leadership Visit –

Immediately after the Advisor's Summit II, church leaders from

three DFW churches visited Mbale for a firsthand view of the vision. The visitors were from RHCC, Compass Christian Church and The Branch Church of Christ. Many of you heard Rick Atchley, Drew Sherman and Chris Seidman give a report of this visit at our Wednesday night Summit at RHCC on June 3. If you didn't hear it and would like to, it is available on the RHCC web site. This visit prepared these men to become the voices for promoting the project in the US. What a great blessing to have great men of vision who will share a great vision that will bless generations to come.

North American Christian

Convention (NACC) – Christian leaders and church members from all over the US gather each year for the NACC. This major gathering brings thousands of God's people together to study, learn, network and grow. This year's NACC served as the vehicle for the launch of LIU into the public awareness of the churches

around the US. Rick Atchley and Drew Sherman, freshly back from their visit to Uganda, spoke briefly at one of the plenary session of the convention for the purpose of introducing a two-minute video that describes the dream for LIU (if you're interested in seeing the video visit the LIU web site – it's posted there). The video was well received and many visitors came by the LIU display booth to learn more and to hear the story to this point. Many key contacts were made and the visibility of LIU was greatly enhanced.

We have come a long way and much has been accomplished. We have far to go and much work to do. RHCC will continue to walk forward in collaboration with many others toward the vision for LivingStone International University. The mission of LIU is "to transform Africa through quality Christ-centered higher education." It is a good fit with the mission of RHCC to grow followers of Jesus through worship, community and service. We see the presence of ethical, empowered, employable Christians in every sector of African society as the transforming "leaven." We find such transformation mentioned in scripture in I Peter 2:4-5 where Peter writes, "As you come to him, the Living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." May God be glorified in all these things because He is worthy of glory. ♦