

Kenya Trip Report

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(bill)
10/31/2015

Scriptures from the: "King James" version.

Greetings Brethren,

Have just returned from another very successful trip to Kenya, and have much to report on. I hope to accomplish some of that "reporting" today, and will send a copy to all donors (will also post the report on the Web site.) It's good (and it's important) to disclose what the "funds" received here at "Kenya Hands Of Hope" (KHOFH) are being used for, and what they are accomplishing over there in E. Africa.

I also want to try and make clear what our goal is (or what I think our goal should be) concerning the use & distribution of the funds coming in. We all have to be "good stewards" and make sure that our "tithes" (for those who are tithing) and any & all of our offerings or donations, are being used properly, according to the "Will" of God, producing good fruit, and not being used towards the "agendas of men" producing no fruit (or bad fruit.)

So we will be inspecting some "fruit" in today's report, to see if good or bad. (Fruits Don't Lie!) Our Heavenly Father doesn't make things difficult, there is simplicity in Christ. The simple inspection of fruit can tell us a lot.

Now we are associated with many cog groups there in Kenya/Tanzania, And was on the move from the time I arrived in E. Africa back in August, to the time I boarded my first of two 8 hour flights back to the States on October 22nd. (On my way back I changed planes, and spent one "necessary" night in the Netherlands.)

Kenya is a 3rd world Country, and when visiting, one is constantly exposed to all kinds of diseases and unsanitary conditions. During my visit we had a number of brethren die, one man had been suffering from four (yes 4) different diseases (all of which were deadly.) So spending a night in hotel in the Netherlands is a necessity, to begin getting cleaned up, and to try and get some rest between the long flights.

While in Kenya, must have walked a hundred miles, and rode on motor bike taxi for numerous hundreds of miles, not to mention "Matatu's" and "busses". All of our traveling around visiting church groups (and feast sites) was on "public transportation." We are always very conscious not to be "extravagant" with any of our spending.

All of our brethren living in that 3rd world country are quite "impoverished". Our focus is on trying to help them in any (and every) way possible. And thanks to those supporting this work, we have been able to give our impoverished brethren Much help.

In Sengera (just outside Kisii Kenya) we have a large church group, and as many of you know, we built an orphan house there about two years go. We built it to try and ease the difficult task that Charles Mokoro has been enduring, as he cares for quite a number of orphans. (five are pictured here.)

Charles is 79 yrs old, and no longer able to dig and plant a garden. So to support his wife and orphans, he has a small chemist store in the village where he sells a variety of natural medications including a pill that is made from a plant that is grown in Kenya which kills malaria.

In our Sengera orphan house, we currently have three orphans: Nehemiah, Brian and Ian. All three of these boys are precious. They are so humble, so caring, and so loving.

During my 2 1/2 Month visit to Kenya, there was a nationwide teachers strike and all the schools were closed. So during my time in their area, I worked with the boys every day, with a goal of trying to teach them a trade, a way of making their own daily bread.

One task was to teach them how to build "Rocket Stoves" and they learned very quickly.

After building the first stove with them, I was away for a few days. Upon my return I found they had built another stove by themselves, and it was constructed even better than the first. I was quite impressed.

Another task the boys got involved in was "hair cutting." We had visited the city of Kisii to purchase a much needed solar battery (we had purchased a solar panel, and a small battery two years ago, but now needed to upgrade a bit.) while in Kisii the boy asked if we could purchase some electric clippers for cutting hair. We did, and it was a good decision.



Upon returning to Sengera, the boys made a sign saying: "Hair Cutting" and placed it on the dirt road front of the house. The following day their first customers arrived (3 boys looking for hair cuts) they told us the electricity was off in the village. Normally this was a common occurrence, and would usually last an hour or two. But for some unknown reason, the village remained without power for well over a Month, causing the one and only barber shop in town to close due to no electricity, but the boys hair clippers were running on "Solar Power" so their business was now thriving.

And they not only have been cutting hair six days a week, but also started another small business of "phone charging." Everyone in Kenya has a cell phone, and they normally pay to have them charged in town. But those charging stations were also closed due to the power outage. (So over night the orphans had two businesses going "hair cutting" & "phone charging" and both are going well.)

Fruits Continue To Flourish

We had also purchased some tools while with the orphans: "hammer" "hand saw" "square" "level" "trowel" (for working cement mortar.) They previously had no tools, couldn't even drive a nail in to hang something. Now, they not only have some basic tool, but also learning how to use them.

This is a Huge step in the right direction, enabling these young men to learn a trade, to learn some skills that can be used to "earn their daily bread" is a tremendous blessing. And please understand that what made it all possible, was the support from those of "you" who have been helping these orphans with your contributions.

These "Wonderful" "Good" fruits are being produced thanks to the love & support coming from those of you who haven't turned your backs on these impoverished brethren of ours, who are members of the "Household of Faith."

Galatians 6:10 instructs us to do good unto All men (but it says:) especially those of the Household of Faith. James 1:27 tells us that "pure religion and undefined before God the Father is to "visit" (relieve - look out for) the orphans & widows in their "afflictions" (burdens - tribulations - troubles.)

Please understand this is Exactly what you are doing to these orphans as we assist them. And we're doing this together. I might be the one who's face is seen over there, but I'm only a spoke in the wheel. It's our joint efforts (with Christ at the Helm) that's accomplishing this, and producing all the good fruit.

And we haven't left the widows out, I have much to report on concerning them also. This whole ministry we are involved in is focused on helping widows & orphans, and most importantly, on "preaching the Gospel to the world."

James 1:27 says: "Pure religion and undefined before God the Father is to help the widows & orphans in their afflictions, AND (that verse goes on to say) to keep oneself "unspotted" from the world. Keeping one self unspotted from the world is the "cruX" of the entire Gospel, is it not?

John the Baptist came on the scene preparing the way for the 1st coming of our lord by preaching "Repentance" Christ started His ministry with the same message: "repent ye, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Our message (and its been going out loud & clear) is the same. "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." I want to address what we "preach" also in this report, because if you're going to support this ministry financially, you ought to know what we believe in and teach.

I wasn't able to visit all 33 groups scattered around Kenya & Tanzania that we are connected with, but was able to visit a number of them, and spoke at least once a day (sometimes twice.)

Repentance is a big part of our preaching. We discussed how all seven churches in Revelation 2 & 3 are told to "overcome" in order to be granted this, or given that. (like to "eat of the tree of life, or to eat of the hidden manna" or to be given "power over the nations" one has to "overcome.") Not one church is told to him that only "tries" to overcome will be granted those gifts. Just "trying" to overcome doesn't cut it with God, we have to succeed.

Even us "Laodiceans" are told by Christ "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am sit down with my Father in His throne.

Jesus In The Flesh

This brings us to another subject that we addressed, the “spirit of antichrist.”

In 1John 4:1-3 we are told: “Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

We are told that everyone that “confesseth” (the word means acknowledges) that Jesus Christ is come in the “flesh” is of God. But that everyone who confesseth Not that Jesus came in the flesh is Not of God, but is “antichrist.”

Sad to say, that “spirit of antichrist” has saturated much of the church of God. I asked a very simple question to the Kenyan brethren: “Was it possible for Jesus Christ to have sinned?” The answer from the majority (and I believe would be the same exact answer from the majority of brethren here in the USA) was “No” They falsely believe that Jesus could Not have sinned, that it was impossible for Jesus to sin.

Most in the church of God do not believe that Christ was a flesh & blood human like the rest of us, capable of sinning. They think Christ was different than us, that He was able to walk this earth sinless because it was impossible for Him to sin.

But the Truth is that Jesus could have sinned. If it was impossible for Him to sin, then how could He be tempted? And the Scriptures is quire clear that He was tempted. Hebrews 4:15 states that He was tempted in “all points, like as we are.” (Not to mention when He was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.) And as we read earlier in Revelation 3, He “overcame.” Well, overcame what? Overcame the temptation to sin of course.

In John 1:14 we are told the Word was “made flesh” the word “flesh” in that verse is the same Greek word translated “flesh” when speaking about the rest of us: human nature, with all its frailties (physically or morally) carnal. Capable of transgressing God’s laws, capable of feeling pain, capable of dying, and yes, capable of sinning.

Jesus did not sin, because He chose Not to sin, and He had a very powerful helper which He constantly used to overcome the temptations of sin, the Powerful Holy Spirit of His Father.

This is important for us to understand, because if we falsely believe that Jesus could not sin, if we believe that He was different than us (not flesh like we are flesh) then we falsely believe that it is impossible for us (mere human beings) to stop sinning. And how will we ever reach “perfection” or “holiness” (which we are instructed to achieve) if we don’t believe that it is possible for us to reach perfection & holiness? How will we ever fully overcome the temptations of sin if we’re not even trying to completely overcome sin, by falsely believing it is impossible to stop?

Now don’t get me wrong here, we have all sinned. And as long as we are human we will always have the potential to sin. And we can never say that we don’t sin because that would be sin itself “pride.” But our Heavenly Father wants us (all of us in His church) to walk upright, and cease from sinning.

O, of and by ourselves we cannot walk upright. Of and by ourselves we cannot stop sinning. But what I reminded the African brethren (and I want to remind all of us here) is that we are Not “of and by” ourselves, we have that same Powerful Holy Spirit of the Father in us that Jesus had in Him. It worked for Him to walk this earth upright, and Surely it will work for us.



Now back to more concerning where the funds were used: Many here are aware of the church group in Nyamaruma Kenya where the children all had a Bad case of “Jiggers.”

(Jiggers are a small flea that lives in the dust, and found on the dirt floors in homes in Kenya, Uganda and other countries with similar climates. They burrow into the skin and lay eggs, causing painful wounds, and can result in the amputation of toes, and even death.)

As many of you know, KHOFH was able to help those church children by funding two doctors who visited their home and extracted the jiggers with

scalpels. (And they removed the jiggers not only from our church children, but also from the other children living in the village.)

That deed was funded by you donors, and was observed by the villagers (including the village chief, who said he witnessed with his own eyes for the first time, caring people who had “True Agape Love.”) Our brethren were also overwhelmed with joy to see this terrible plague that was tormenting the children come to an end.

Well, we were able to assist that church group again. They were in need of a water well, and when I visited last Month I found them in the process of digging. They were half way down, but struggling because they had very little food to eat, (only Corn flour to make their staple food “Ugali”.) They were out of strength, and the digging was at a halt, so we purchased for them some sugar, rice & beans.

Brethren, many of our impoverished brethren in Kenya/Tanzania continue to ration their food because food supplies are so low. Like in Michael Mbogo's area “Nykach” they have been under drought conditions for a long time, and famine is wide spread in that area. We have helped them on occasion in the past when their food supply was empty.



Food relief from KHOFH distributed to famine plagued Nykach brethren.

In Masaba Kenya we have another small orphanage. Many of you are aware that we built a three room school house. Recently we assisted that group in building a Sabbath meeting hall. (Which was also used for congregating at this years Feast of Tabernacles.) All the bricks for the construction were supplied by the Masaba brethren. KHOFH assisted with purchasing some cement, doors & windows.

During the Feast one of the young orphans (Vincent age 7) was having a problem with both eyes, so we took him to a eye clinic in Migori via Motor Bike Taxi.



(That's Vincent on the front of the Motor Bike Taxi. And Vincent at the eye clinic.)

Kenya is a land of orphans, and many of our brethren are caring for some. following is a picture of Ezekiel's place (A church host just outside Kisii.) where he is feeding lunch to a number of orphans in his area who come to his place every day to put something in their empty bellies.

To the right of that is a picture taken at the feast when we were honoring the Seniors. We served them sliced bread and soda. (Our funds were becoming quite dry at the time and that was all we could afford to serve them.)

The seniors were so happy and appreciative. One by one they got up and attested to how KHOFH helped them in numerous ways over the years. I apologize to all of you for not having videotaped it.



There were approximately 20 seniors in attendance at the bread & soda luncheon.

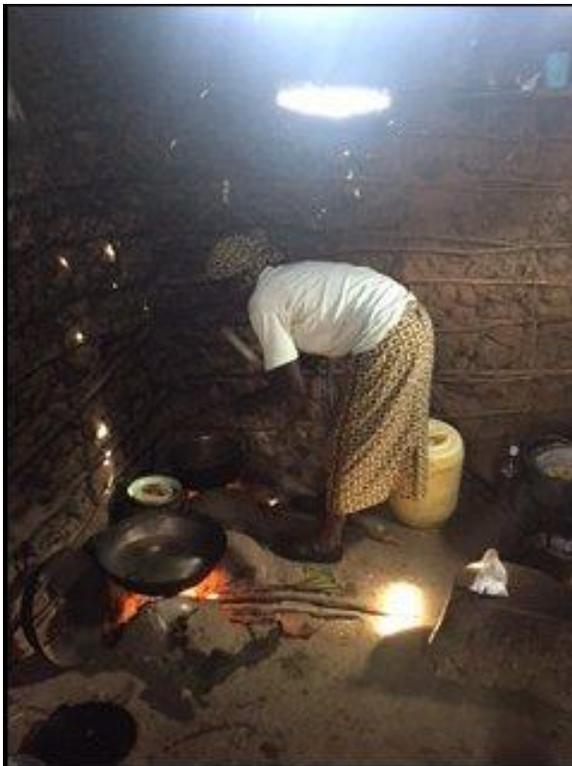
Your donated funds have also purchased many Bibles for all the Kenya groups. Pictured below is a typical Bible you would find our brethren using, old and worn out!

(We still have need for many more Bibles.)

KHOFH has also just funded the installation of gutters at the orphan house in Sengera to collect and direct rain water into the supply tank.

Another important task being funded by you donors, is for a number of our leaders "overseers" to travel via motor bike taxi's on Sabbath to the various remote groups to conduct services and teach them the Scriptures. Many of the groups are new (babes in the faith) and in need of Scriptural teachings.

All of the groups are growing in number. God is still calling people in that part of the world, and our obligation to preach the Gospel has not ended. So we want to thank all of you donors for the wonderful support you have been giving to assist our impoverished brethren, and for continuing to push the Gospel of the Coming Kingdom of God Forward!



Top Left: Typical Bible our brethren are using.

Top Right: Orphans building Rocket Stoves.

Bottom Left: Ruth Mbogo at work in her kitchen.

Bottom Right: New Sabbath Meeting Hall at Masaba.

Now I want to end this report with one more picture. It's a picture of one of our orphans in Sengera, his name is Brian. And the expression on his face tells it all. He is so appreciative to all of you for caring for him and the other orphans. Thanks to you donors, we are able to keep a number of these precious orphans in school, fed, and clothes on their back.

May God Bless every one of you, and Grant you entrance into His Coming Kingdom.

Your fellow worker and brother in Christ.

bill Goff

