

Joshua & Ruth Barron

Alitzah, Hannah Gail, Eliana, Zerachiah

Partnering with Community Christian Church in Kenya
mostly among the Maasai

joshuaruthbarron.cmfmisionary.org



Prayer Requests

✦ That God will be glorified in/through our work and that the Kenyan churches will be strengthened.

✦ That God will lead us to do the work which he has prepared beforehand for us to do, whether or not it is the work we were expecting.

✦ For our homeschooling of the children.

& Praises

✦ The CCC believers are continuing to plant new churches.

✦ That God blessed the churches through our courses and training seminars.

✦ We are not in the midst of another drought! In November and December God sent abundant rain.

"The Church is not a Wazungu Religion"

"Wazungu" is the Swahili word for "foreign white people." Here in Kenya, there are many who think that christianity is a "wazungu religion." Sure, a Maasai can follow Jesus: but he has to lose his Maasai-ness first. Absolutely, a Turkana can become a believer: but doing so surrenders his Turkana-ness.

But the Council of Jerusalem (see Acts 15), under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, settled that issue. We can become spiritual children of Abraham within our home cultures without becoming ethnic and cultural Israelites. Apart from Christ, I'm less than an American and my Maasai friends are less than Maasai. But in Jesus, we can find our true identities. A Maasai-in-Christ is more authentically Maasai than any not-yet-believer, precisely because being in Christ means that you are becoming ever more authentically human.

With his blood, Jesus has redeemed for God people from "every tribe, tongue, people and nation" (Revelation 5.9).

Training church leaders ...

We've been busy since our last update. In October, some visitors from White River Christian Church (in Indiana) hosted a Sunday School Training Seminar out at Ewaso Ng'iro; all six of us went out to the training centre. I (Joshua) led a teachers' training seminar for the Narok congregation and then spent two weeks with our teammates in Turkana (in northwest Kenya) to teach at Turkana Bible Training Institute (TBTI). I taught "Church History" and "Missions & Evangelism."

The TBTI students particularly appreciated the "Four Legs" analogy. Just as the stool I'm perched upon has four legs, we can also say that the Church has "four legs": a translation of the scriptures in the local language, local church leadership (i.e., not being dependent on outsiders), a vision for mission, and prayer. If one of the legs is broken or missing, the Church will lack strength, life, and longevity.

It was after this course that three of the Turkana leaders thanked me because as a result of the course they realized that "the Church is not a wazungu religion. It has been in Africa since its beginning and has deep roots in African soil."



Joshua teaching the Church History class



Turkana Bible Training Institute, class of 2011

Curricula Development & Implementation

At a meeting of church leaders in November, I was able to meet with Daniel ole Tuke, a Maasai pastor, friend, and church planter from the Kajiado district. All of the congregations in his cluster have used all of the "Eating the Word of God" lessons and are eager for more.

Although Daniel also has a lot on his plate, he is interested in helping us with our curricula projects. This would be a tremendous blessing to our work in many ways. ***Please pray that God will lead us and Daniel in the ways we should go.***



Daniel ole Tuke

Through the Sunday school teacher's training seminars which Ruth taught in April and which we organized in October and through the training session I led for the Narok Central cluster in October, we have been planting a lot of seeds and striving to prepare the ground. Word has recently gotten back to us that those seeds have sprouted and are bearing fruit. ***Thank you for praying with us.***

Ruth & Zerachiah at the Sunday School Teachers' Training Seminar in October, Ewaso Ng'iro

Ruth has begun writing a series of story-lessons for children. The star character is "Naiminayie the lost sheep." Work continues on the stewardship lessons and has begun on a curriculum on the Lord's Supper. This year Joshua is preparing to teach "History of Mission" for Mission Institute East Africa (MIEA, a CMF ministry).

Support

To those of you who are financial and/or prayer support partners: ***we thank you and pray that God will bless you as you are blessing us and the Kenyan churches.***

Our budget requires an additional \$445/month in financial support. (If anyone needs to see the details of our budget or a financial report, please let us know.) Please prayerfully consider this need.

Updates to joshuaruthbarron.cmfmisionary.org:

For those of you who enjoy the internet, on our site you can read more about discipling teachers, curriculum development and bible translation. We have also created a [homeschool](#) page, added more pictures on the main page and [photo albums](#) pages, and added a few new clips to our [video page](#).

grace & peace and thanks,

JOSHUA + Ruth



New Years' Day:
Eliana, Tinashe, Hannah Gail, Alitzah



Thanksgiving: Cindy, Abijah, Annette,
Alitzah, Eliana, Hannah Gail



Can a Maasai be both
Christian and Maasai?

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