



Joshua + Ruth
Barron

Missionaries to Kenya

JULY 2014



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Emaisisi Olaitoriani lang!

“Let us all praise our Lord together!”

We have some wonderful news to share with you about the ministry among the Maasai, especially concerning the Discipleship Training School (DTS). Please stay with me until the end of this update to find out what God is doing.

What is our DTS?

The Discipleship Training School (DTS) is a ministry of the CCC and CMF. It was founded as a Maasai DTS in 2000 by Andre Brink, a South African who was then a partner of CMF's work. The DTS met in a former CMF mission house in Tiamenang'ien, deep in the forests of the Olorte region of the Loita Hills in Maasailand (in Narok South district). The old CMF-MRC (Maasai Regional Committee) team contributed from its cooperative ministry funds to help support the DTS. Andre is a graduate of a YWAM (Youth With A Mission) DTS, and though not affiliated with YWAM, CMF's Maasai DTS was modeled after the YWAM DTSes.

DTSes generally meet for intensive sessions of three months each. The emphasis is, of course, on discipleship – the making of disciple-making disciples. There are several topics or courses (18-25) that are taught. Most DTS graduates develop the heart of a servant-leader during the program. Students take care of acts of service within the DTS and within the hosting community. The teachers of the DTS actively mentor the students, and do not merely impart information. Students are also led in the work of community outreach.

Acronyms

CMF – CMF International (cmfi.org)
CCC – Community Christian Church is the registered name for the fellowship of churches that began out of CMF's pioneering church-planting work in Kenya among the Turkana and Maasai.
DTS – Discipleship Training School
YWAM – Youth With A Mission (www.ywam.org)
WWM – Walking With Maasai

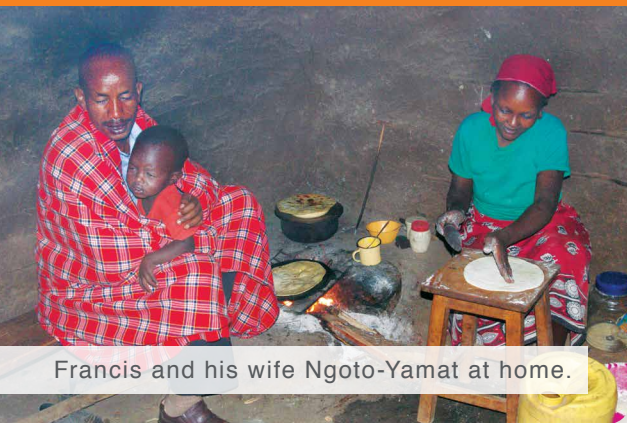
and herds. But he was mentored by the CMF missionary-church planter in Olepishet. Becoming a faithful disciple of Jesus, he attended and graduated from a YWAM DTS in Kenya in 2001. While a DTS student, Francis developed a deep relationship with God. Because he wanted to share what he had found, he conceived a vision for a DTS in Maasailand. After his DTS graduation, he joined Andre in the word of the CMF Maasai-DTS. After some time, Andre began a new developmental ministry called Walking With Maasai (WWM), which focused on Christian stewardship of the environment and hosting ecologically sound safaris as an IGA (income-generating activity) to support both WWM's development work in Olorte and also to subsidize the ministry of the DTS. Francis then became the Director of the Maasai DTS.



Joshua teaching at DTS.

A little history

Francis Yenke, a Maasai from Olepishet (near Naroosura), is the Director of our DTS. Growing up, he had been removed from school after eighth grade by his father to take care of the family's flocks



Francis and his wife Ngoto-Yamat at home.

Maasai, five were Samburu. One of the Samburu students was Jackson La Sang'urukuri, who went back to become a CCC church planter in Samburuland. Ruth and I co-taught one of the topics that year for Francis, so we got to experience firsthand this valuable ministry. At that time we became convinced just how well this DTS model of ministry works.

Challenges

But from 2009-2012, the DTS did not meet. A new missionary family (Hennie and Becca Marais) had come to join Andre in Tiamenang'ien and so there was no longer classroom space for the DTS in the old mission house. WWM tried to raise funds to build a small facility dedicated for the DTS's use but did not have success. Francis was also serving as one of the directors of WWM, which underwent a period of tension with the Tiamenang'ien community. Francis was dividing his time between his home in Olepishet (where he had by this time become one of five church elders) and his work in Tiamenang'ien. Between one thing and another (the story is longer than I have space to tell just now), he just became burnt out. He was not only the director of the DTS but was the primary teacher and mentor for the students. He needed co-laborers in ministry but did not have them.

Some of us on the former CMF-KART team who had experience with the DTS shared Francis's vision for this ministry. (As we were no longer working exclusively with the Maasai, our team had changed its name from "MRC" to "KART" – Kenya Administrative & Resource Team.) This especially included Ruth and myself, Joe Cluff (the KART team leader), and Dan Crum (a veteran missionary who was the MRC team leader when Ruth and I arrived in Kenya; his son Josiah, in fact, had taken time off from his college years to attend a YWAM DTS in Jamaica).

When we returned from our furlough (January 2009–June 2010), we discovered that the DTS had not had any sessions since our departure and that Francis was suffering from ministerial burnout. During our second term (2010-2012), I tried to provide some pastoral care, relief and encouragement for Francis. At the MAC (Maasai Advisory Committee, now the NAM – National Advisory Ministry) meeting in Ng'atataek (the CCC/CMF training center in Kajiado County) in March 2012, I met Moses Mashipei. Moses is from the Katakala congregation (between Ewaso Ng'iro and Narok) and is the MAC/NAM representative for the Narok Central cluster of churches. (The CCC congregations have organized themselves into geographical clusters for mutual support and cooperation.) Moses is also a graduate of the Maasai-DTS under Francis. The seemingly defunct DTS was being discussed, and Moses shared a powerful testimony of how the DTS had deepened his faith and strengthened his walk with Jesus. *"The DTS and Francis have really shaped me,"* he declared.

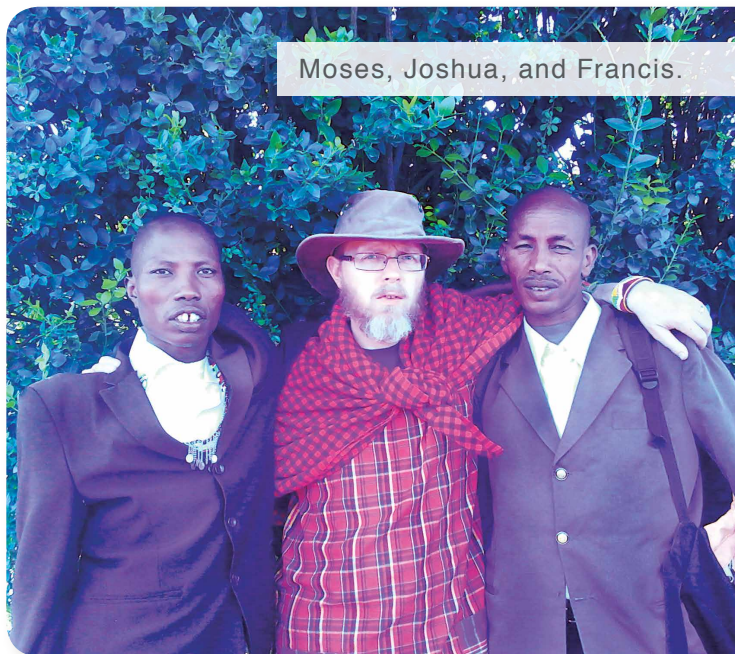
I said to myself, *"If this isn't the man to help Francis with the DTS, then he is the man to find that man."*

Reviving the DTS

Later in 2012, I formed a DTS steering committee together with Francis, Moses, and Hennie. Our task was to resurrect the DTS. In February 2013, we had a DTS Reunion at the CCC/CMF training center in Ewaso Ng'iro. We gathered

The purpose of the Maasai DTS, as stated by Francis, was *"To fully train upcoming leaders of local churches on who God is and what He has done for us all; to know how much God desires a relationship with us and loves us."* It met for a three-month time period, with classes being limited to 12 students. The last 2 weeks of the course were spent in evangelism in conjunction with local church leaders in various areas of Maasailand. The DTS was meeting twice a year, with all new students for each session. But although it was called "Maasai DTS," it was not limited to those speaking Maa or from the Maasai subtribes. Francis is trilingual, and can teach in Maa, English, or Swahili.

In 2008, the Maasai DTS had 8 students (including 2 women): three were



Moses, Joshua, and Francis.

An excerpt from a letter from Francis ole Yenke, the director of the DTS, to Joshua, written in May just before the DTS students began their final week of evangelistic outreach before the DTS graduation:

"Olashe lang tiatua Yesu (Our brother in Jesus),

Kiroroki iyie te nkarna namelok e Yesu (We greet you in the sweet name of Jesus).

Kishipa amu Olaitoriani ninye otoripo iyiook neitabau ena rishata nikitabautua. Kiterrenate katukul peyie kibaiki iwuejitin kumok tenkaraki ake ele rorei supat lo Laitoriani... (We are joyful because the Lord, He who has protected us, has brought us to this place [in the development of the DTS] to which we have arrived. We are completely prepared to reach many places with this good Word of the Lord...)"

together 20 DTS graduates (mostly from the CMF-DTS, but there were also a few YWAM-DTS graduates who were friends with Francis). We quizzed them on what had really helped them in life and ministry from their DTS session, then asked what they wished had been a part of the DTS. We closely evaluated the Maasai-DTS. We recruited some teachers from among their number to assist Francis. We recruited Moses to become Assistant Director under Francis. Eighteen of the attendees (17 Maasai and 1 Samburu) agreed to join a pool of teachers to share the load with Francis. Throughout 2013 preparations were made to reopen the DTS. After a number of logistical delays,

the renewed DTS began its first session in four years in February 2014.

As mentioned above, Francis is also elder in the Olepishet congregation, and the church rallied around Francis and Moses to support the DTS as the hosting congregation. George Mixon, who formerly served with CMF in the Olepishet area (and other areas), raised funds for a DTS house, which can serve as a guest house for the Olepishet church when the DTS is not in session. The Olepishet congregation built a two-room choo (outhouse), plus two extra stalls for showers (bucket baths). Francis consulted with the other elders and hired a destitute Christian lady to serve as DTS cook. Dan Crum donated a 3-person tent. Walking With Maasai has promised another 3-person tent.

The renewed DTS began with seven students from different areas of Maasailand. I want to list each of them here, because each one has a story, and each one is being used by God as He continues to write His Story in the hearts of Kenyans:

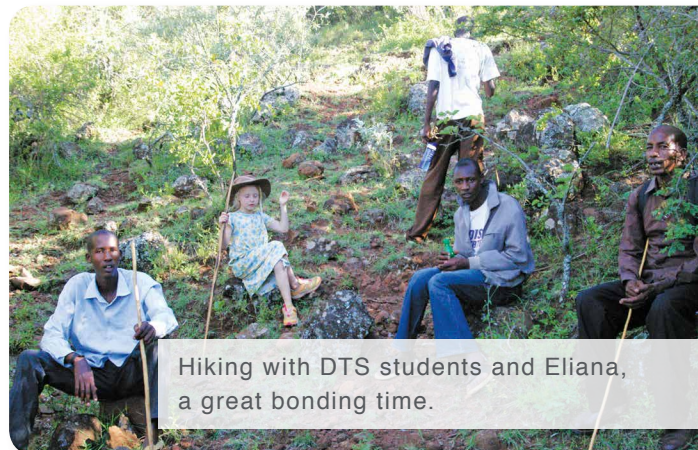
Julius Kilong (from Moses's home church in Katakala) • Joseph Keko (from Ilkerin in the Loita Hills) • Titus Tuleto Tankile (from Elanag'ata Enterit) • John Kosen Kulale (from Partakila in the Kawai cluster of TransMara) • Jackson Dapash (from the Ololepo congregation in Upper Melili) • Lemayian Mepukori (also from Partakila) • Daniel Lempere (from Enemasi).

Please pray that God will continue to mold each of these young men into spiritual warriors and shepherds, with hearts after God's own heart (like that of another well-known warrior-shepherd).

DTS 2014: Reaping the Harvest



A DTS ministry baptism.



During this year's DTS session, 21 topics have been taught by a total of seven teachers. John Neiliang and John Kamoiro Nkere are from Francis's congregation in Olepishet; Neiliang is a YWAM DTS graduate. Two are graduates of the Maasai-DTS under Francis from earlier years: Moses Mashipei from Katakala and Peter Nanteya from Olkiloriti. Either Moses or Francis (or often both) are with the DTS throughout the session. Two Americans round out the list: George Mixon and myself. I was able to spend the last week of April in Olepishet to teach a course on Euriata e Nkai ("The Fear of God" – did you know that there are at least 157 verses that address this topic?). Two of our children, Hannah Gail (8) & Eliana (6), came out with me for the trip. The week was during midterm break in Kenya, so they made friends and enjoyed playing with several Maasai girls while I taught.

Several hours of each week of a DTS session, together with the final two weeks, are devoted to community outreach. At the eastern edges of the cluster, there are two congregations from other fellowships. The DTS and the leaders of the CCC congregations in Olepishet's cluster are collaborating with those congregations to take Jesus to as-yet-unreached villages in the areas between. Great things are happening for the kingdom! Here is an excerpt from an email Francis sent about midway through the DTS session (April 8th):

*"Please praise God with us for the new church which had been planted a week ago by the DTS students at a place known as Naitiami. This place is a very remote place and is between Olepishet and Elang'ata Enterit. **There had been no church there before and these guys [the current DTS students] prayed over 85 people on last Sunday who gave their lives to Jesus....** Meisisi Olaitoriani Yesu! [May the Lord Jesus be praised!]"*

We plan on sending people from Olepishet CCC and DTS students on weekly basis to encourage or to feed them in the Word of God.

I received a more complete report at our steering committee meeting on April 30th (we met during class breaks). Among other great news, I learned that two Sundays prior to our meeting, **there had been 18 baptisms in Olepishet as new believers joined the congregation.** Ten of those new believers came to Jesus in response to the outreach ministry of the DTS students, working under the supervision of Francis and Moses. The students themselves are sharing testimonies about what God is working in their hearts and lives. **During the two final weeks of outreach, an additional 131** (in the Olodokulupuoni, Olopolos, Oltulelei, Olepishet, and Olosheiki communities) came to the Lord.

The news of some 60 coming to Jesus in the Olodokulupuoni villages is very exciting because that area has long been known as a stronghold for the Laibons (ilaibonok, hereditary leaders of the pagan traditional religion), witchcraft, and spiritual bondage. Francis and Moses, together with the seven DTS students, met long in prayer before going to this area. They go out together in twos and threes. When they arrived, they were met by the people telling the evangelists, "We have just been waiting for someone to come and share with us the news about the way to God." Amazingly, even one of the laibons has asked to hear more about Jesus.



Our family with DTS students in 2008.

Yes, that's at least 226 new people – so far – being reconciled to God in Jesus through the ministry of one session of our DTS! Please pray that each of these will grow into mature disciple-making disciples.

Ruth and I went out with the children to Olepishet for the DTS graduation on May 18, 2014. We had a wonderful time of celebration and commissioning with the DTS students and the Olepishet congregation. We heard testimony after testimony of transformed lives. Emaisisi Olaitoriani lang! [Let us all praise our Lord together!]

Vision: Looking Ahead

The renewed DTS has its headquarters in Olepishet in Maasailand, but it continues to have a vision not only for the Maasai churches but for churches across Kenya. We are developing plans for a mobile DTS. Initially a mobile DTS would offer a session at the CCC-CMF training center in Kawai (in TransMara, where the Crums used to live); the churches in TransMara have been pushing for that. After that we hope to offer a DTS at the Ng'atataek training center for believers in Kajiado County. But we would eventually like to hold a DTS session in Turkana land (at the CCC-CMF training center in Lodwar) and perhaps even in Samburuland.

Next year's DTS session will again be hosted in Olepishet. We already have 12 students (the maximum we allow at a time) signed up:

Felister Neiliang, Paul Neiliang, and James Ololchuraki (from Olepishet) • Ben Nyaru (Kawai) • William Seki (Tiamenang'ien) • Daniel Kasale and Shadrack Nkuya (Ilchorroi) • Ezekiel Nosero (Loita) • Rere Dapash (Upper Melili) • Elijah Naikum (Ilkerin) • Mary Sumpati (Entasekera) • Solomon Tompoi (Elang'ata Enterit).

Please pray for these believers that God will make straight their paths to attend the DTS, and that the DTS will provide them an opportunity to grow deeply in their relationship with our Lord.

Now that the DTS has celebrated the graduation of its students for 2014, Francis, Moses and I are trying to figure out how to enable the DTS to become a sustainable ministry. We would like to return to having two DTS sessions a year, but are currently limited to just one session for financial reasons. ***Please pray with us that God will show us the way forward for a sustainable ministry of the Discipleship Training School.***

Grace to you all and peace in our Lord Jesus,

JOSHUA

Joshua "Lemayian" Barron
DTS Steering Committee chair
CMF-Kenya Field Team chair

How Can You Partner With This Ministry?

- Please pray in support of the DTS ministry.
- One-time needs:
 - portable solar lighting system so students can read and study in the evenings (\$213)
 - small motorcycle to aid transportation needs and to be used as an income-generating activity when the DTS is not session (\$1929)
- Sustaining support to help subsidize the training of church leaders

Financial contributions may be made payable and sent to

CMF International
PO Box 501020
Indianapolis, IN 46250-6020,

Make sure you designate it for the "Discipleship Training School," account #704061.

If you would like to give online, please go to our page on the CMF website, cmfi.org/jrbarron. There is a place at the bottom of our page to give to this ministry. Any size gift will be greatly appreciated.