

# Joshua & Ruth Barron

Alitzah, Hannah Gail, Eliana,  
Zerachiah, Ahaviah

Partnering with Community Christian Church in Kenya



We missionaries are often asked to describe our typical day. That may be the hardest question we've ever asked. We tend to have multiple responsibilities and vocational ministry can be full of surprises. But we do understand why the question is asked. So since it has been awhile since we've shared a general ministry summary, we thought it might be helpful to some of you for us to do that.

## *An equipping ministry*

We serve on the CMF church planting (or "church catalyst") team in Kenya, partnering with the CMF-planted churches which began among the Maasai and Turkana peoples.

## *Our strategies*

Our primary ministry strategy is to teach, train, and disciple church leaders and church teachers (both current ones and potential ones).

While we teach various seminars and workshops, both for church leaders and teachers and at the grassroots, when asked by the churches, our work can be divided into five main areas.

### **1. Curriculum Development**

We assist the Community Christian Church (CCC, the fellowship of CMF-planted churches together with their daughter and granddaughter congregations) by developing biblically based and culturally appropriate curricula and teaching materials in the local languages of Kenya. As we have learned the Maa language, we have had a stronger focus on developing materials for the Maasai believers and churches. However, our first kiSwahili project is finally ready to take to the printer (in August 2014). We also have a draft for a church history in Nga Turkana.

As part of this work, we are working with national believers for current projects being developed. This both gives the churches a sense of ownership of the resultant curricula and also trains up church leaders who will be able to develop lessons on their own.

Current projects under development include an introduction to the Bible and a stewardship curriculum. Ruth is working with a multi-ethnic ministry team (Maasai, Samburu, Kamba) to write a children's curriculum.

### **2. Training of Teachers**

If we had libraries full of the best teaching materials in the Maa, Nga Turkana and kiSwahili languages but those materials never left their shelves, we have only provided food for termites and nesting material for rats. So a very important part of our ministry is to train teachers for the churches. We train them how to implement the curricula we develop and also train them simply how to teach, whether or not they have available materials. We do this primarily through intensive training seminars but also through select mentoring of a few teachers.



Intoyie Maasai ile (six Maasai girls)

### 3. Bible Training Institutes

CMF has a strong tradition of striving to provide biblical training for elders, pastors, preachers, evangelists, and church teachers. Here in Kenya we have Turkana Bible Training Institute (TBTI) in Lodwar to serve our Turkana churches. Joshua is one of the instructors. As this endeavor is transitioning from being a CMF ministry to being a CMF-CCC partnership, the CCC has formed Community Christian Bible Training Institute (CCBTI) to provide unified teaching and training for our church leaders. CCBTI has general oversight over TBTI. Currently CCBTI is in the process of founding Kajiado Bible Training Institute (KBTI) to serve the Maasai churches. We hope that KBTI classes will begin in January 2015. The CCC has asked Joshua to serve as chair of the CCBTI steering committee. Joshua will also teach two courses for KBTI.

### 4. Discipleship Training School (DTS)

The CMF-DTS was a ministry founded in 2000. Students come for a three-month intensive course in Christian discipleship and outreach. It is a wonderfully fruitful ministry. The CCC has congregations in Samburu land because a young Samburu man attended the DTS in 2008 and returned home as a church planter. But 2009, the DTS floundered: there were no more sessions after 2008. (We tell that story elsewhere.) After much labor, we have been able to resurrect the DTS as a CCC-CMF partnership ministry. Joshua & Ruth have both served as instructors. Joshua also assists our close Maasai friend, Francis Yenke, in his work as DTS Director by serving as the chair of the DTS steering committee.

### 5. Maa Bible Translation

The Maa Bible translation (completed 1991) was prepared from the English RSV, without reference to the biblical languages. Consequently, there are many passages that monolingual Maasai are not able to understand. With his combined knowledge of the biblical languages and culture and the Maa language and Maasai culture, Joshua is assisting the Bible Society of Kenya with this important work.

### *Other responsibilities*

There are different CMF field teams in Kenya. For some things (and for everything related to the Kenyan government), we are united as CMF's "Kenya Field Team" (KFT). This year Joshua has been chosen to serve as KFT chair.

Last year our team (KART) and the Turkana team began to merge into a single new team (KCaT), as we serve a single national church (CCC). In April, our team leader went to America for a year's furlough. During that year, Joshua is serving as "team communicator" or interim acting team leader. Among other duties, this includes pastoral oversight for our teammates.

### *A few highlights*

As we wrote in our most recent update, the rebirth of the DTS with the resulting harvest is probably our biggest ministry highlight so far this year. After not meeting for 5 years, our DTS ministry resumed in February. As a direct result of the DTS ministry between February and May, at least 226 former unbelievers have declared themselves for Jesus!

Our first Swahili project (an adaptation of our *Eating the Word of God* curriculum) should go to press this month. An introduction to the Bible, in Maa, is on track to be printed later this year.

In May, our team participated with 20 some Kenyan church leaders for a Partnership Training Seminar that was a time of sweet fellowship and mutual growth and challenge.

*grace & peace,*  
*JOSHUA & Ruth*

[joshuaruthbarron@cmfmissionary.org](mailto:joshuaruthbarron@cmfmissionary.org)

ph +245 733 790 810

CMF International  
PO Box 501020  
Indianapolis, IN  
46250  
317.578.2700  
[missions@cmfi.org](mailto:missions@cmfi.org)



Joshua & Ruth Barron  
PO Box 1197  
00502 Karen  
Nairobi, KENYA  
East Africa