

Joshua & Ruth Barron

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Partnering with the Community Christian Churches in Kenya



It's a time of changing colors. For most of you, the leaves are changing from summer green to the colors of autumn. Here things are changing from dusty browns (even the green things have been covered with dust) to greens as the short rains begin. This is supposed to be an *El Niño* year – **please pray that it will bring abundant drought-ending rains** but will NOT bring the severe and deadly flooding often associated with *El Niño* weather.

This year has been exceptionally busy thus far. We have spent three weeks up in Turkana Land and have been running up our odometer visiting different parts of Maasai Land. The months have been flying by and we realized that we haven't made an opportunity to sit down and write to you.

Visitors

The Maa word for "visitors" is also the word for "news": *ilomon*. A common greeting is *mainosa ilomon*, "let's chew the news." It is important not to translate this as "let's eat the visitors"! This has been our Year of the Visitors. We were blessed to have an opportunity to host visitors from two of our churches. Fairmount Christian Church of Mechanicsville, VA sent a delegation to visit us in March. First Christian Church of Greeneville, TN sent us a short term team of nine in June–July. Then we had family visitors from Ohio and California and Virginia-Tennessee in July and August, including one set of the grandparents from West Hills Christian Church in Bristol, TN-VA. We were happy to say *karibu tena* ("y'all come back, now") to all of them. It was good to touch base with our support partners from these three congregations.



Rick Nienaber of FCC-Greeneville, with Patrick Sayialel translating, at a Stewardship seminar in Olepishet

Church Planting & Baptisms

Planting new congregations and giving birth to new believers is part of the DNA of Christ's Church. CMF has successfully passed this on to our national churches in Kenya. Because Kenya is just a little smaller than Texas with CMF work on far ends of the country, and the primary areas of our CMF team's ministry cover an area about the size of North Carolina, it is hard to keep track with every new church plant and baptism. So let us just "chew the news" about the Mara North cluster of churches, which covers an area of about 510 square miles. In January 2014 we reported eleven congregations. In January 2015 we reported sixteen congregations. Currently there are twenty congregations. In April congregations in Olkurroto (a new plant) and Olkimitare dedicated buildings. July saw the official opening of churches in Erishata Ondoinyo and Intumot. Our friend William Kuya, a church elder in Endoinyo Erinka, reports that a conference in August held at Olesere saw thirty-six receive salvation in Christ – 15 men and 21 women.

For perspective, the Mara North area is as large as the cities of Bristol, Mechanicsville, Richmond, Roanoke & Salem in **Virginia** PLUS Bristol, Elizabethton, Knoxville & Johnson City in **Tennessee** PLUS Omaha in **Nebraska** PLUS Council Bluffs in **Iowa**.



dedication of new church building at Intumot



conference at Olesere

Community Christian Bible Training Institute (CCBTI)

Our CCBTI continues to develop. With our Maasai ministry partner Sam Tome (*Toe-may*), I (Joshua) have been working to revamp and upgrade the syllabi and course notes for each of the twenty courses. In April, I provided some teacher's training to our Turkana teachers, based on our *Eating the Word of God* lessons. In September, I team-taught a new course, "Christian Stewardship & Congregational Finances,"

in Lodwar at TBTI with Walter Mwambushi (an elder at our Narok congregation). The following week I taught “Eating the Word of God.” The October TBTI courses were “Spiritual Disciplines” and “Church Administration & Church Discipline.” “Spiritual Disciplines” was team-taught by Evarline Olochoki of the Ntulele cluster, the leader of the Maasai Women’s ministry and NBTI graduate, and our teammate Dori Cazier. Wilson Kutinkala, a Maasai pastor, went up to teach the second course. I worked extensively with these three to help them prepare to teach these courses. By all reports, both classes were excellent.



skit during April TBTI teachers' training

The opening of our Kajiado BTI (in Ng’ataek) and Mara BTI (in Endoinyo Erinka) branches continue to be delayed. Kajiado is still largely in drought-recovery mode and we have run into some logistical difficulties in Mara North. **Please pray that God will straighten the path of the CCBTI ministries. Praise God for the effectiveness of TBTI. Intercede that God will enable CCBTI to renew much needed ministry training in the Maasai areas.** We thank God for wonderful Kenyan co-workers like Evarline, Sam, and Wilson, and for wonderful CMF teammates like Dori.

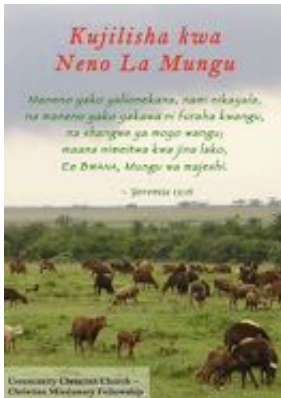
Accounting & Budgets

Ah, budgets and accounting! Part of our time is always spent with accounting. We oversee the CMF share of the CCBTI and DTS budgets, help Francis and Moses prepare the annual DTS budget, and are responsible for curriculum development accounts – in addition to our regular ministry budget. Monthly expense reports need to be turned in for all of these. CMF is audited annually both in Kenya and in the States. **Please pray that we will find joy instead of tedium as we practice this part of accountability in stewardship.**

Each August our budgets for the following year are approved by our team and forwarded to the CMF board for approval in September. Our full budget for 2016 requires an additional \$1,625/month in support. **Please pray that Jehovah-Jireh will be our provider, and will surprise us with his provision.**

If you are not currently one of our partner-investors and would like to be, please contact us for more details. There is also an online “give” link at www.cmfi.org/wherewework/missionary/jrbarron.

Curriculum Development



This has been a more visibly productive year for our curriculum development projects. We have published our first kiSwahili book of lessons, *Kujilisha kwa Neno La Mungu*, an adaptation/translation of our “Eating the Word of God” book of lessons. The rough draft of the Nga Turkana version of this book is nearing completion as well. I hope to have the Maa language *Kainyoo doi Biblia?* ready for the printer before the end of the year. “What is the Bible?” is an introduction to the Bible and each of its sections, with a brief introduction to each book’s major themes, teachings, and characters. As mentioned above, we have also been working on the CCBTI and DTS curricula, successfully completing new material for four courses.

Thanksgiving

We give thanks and praise to our God for our many support partners – those who pray, those who give, those who write, those who visit. May our Lord bless you even as you are a blessing.

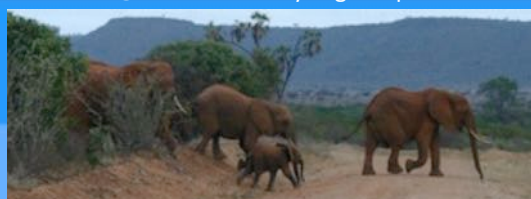
grace & peace,
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