



Expanding Christ's Kingdom in Kenya ... and beyond

23 June 2021

Dear friends,

The topsy-turviness of 2020 has continued into 2021. Pandemic travel and curfews restrictions are relaxed so we resume working on scheduling courses with CCBTI and MIEA, and then our part of the country is shut down again. Restrictions are relaxed again in our region of Kenya, and then the entire western region of the country is put on a hard lockdown. Meanwhile, vaccinations not yet available for our demographic. Nonetheless, we continue to be strive for faithfulness as God provides opportunity.

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

Many years ago (I think in 2010), our former missionary team rebranded itself as “Kenya Administration & Resource Team” (KART). This largely arose from Dan Crum’s vision for a broader impact to other parts of Africa beyond Maasai Land and Turkana Land here in Kenya 🇰🇪. The team was supposed to be a resource, and provide resources for, Kingdom work beyond its traditional area. The Crums were seconded to another organization which focused on member care for missionaries across the continent of Africa before they retired from field service. But ultimately nothing ever came of this vision within KART itself. Since we have been with MissionStream, however, we have been able to realize that old vision in our own ministry. Only a few days after we learned that we were being unjustly fired from CMF, some missionaries working with the baTonga people of Zambia 🇱🇲 reached out to us asking about adapting our *Eating the Word of God* curriculum for the Tonga culture and chiTonga language. (The baTonga live primarily in southern Zambia and northern Zimbabwe 🇱🇲, with some populations in Mozambique 🇲🇼.) Since then things have accelerated.

Dr Essamuah:

African Christian Theology network

We introduced you to this new group last year in our July update. In December, this group had a bit more than 1430 members. Today it has approximately 2200 members as our reach expands. In the first quarter of this year I (Joshua) fielded a request for assistance from well-known Ghanaian 🇬🇭 theologian Casely Essamuah, the Secretary (executive officer) of Global Christian Forum. I confess I was surprised when he reached out to me! Through contacts in the ACT group, we have helped to provide resources for a Post Graduate Diploma program offered by IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) in Nigeria 🇳🇮. Gwali Melton, one of the instructors, (pictured on the next page with his family) wrote to thank me for “a great job well done” for sharing the resources, “they are serving some of us greatly.” He has also asked whether I might be able to provide a video lecture series



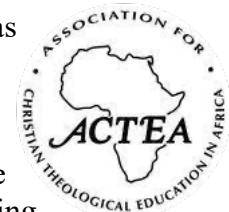
providing a survey of Christian history from and for African perspectives. I would *love* to be able to do that, but we currently lack the resources to produce a project of that source. (The teaching itself, of course, I could do at the drop of hat — and drop the hat myself!)

Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA)

ACTEA is the accrediting body of theological and ministerial training education for the entire continent of Africa. Some of you may remember that our dear friend and colleague Sam Ntinga ole Tome has met with ACTEA representatives regarding eventual accreditation of Community Christian Bible Training Institute (CCBTI), for which both Ruth and I have taught and for which I continue to help oversee curriculum.

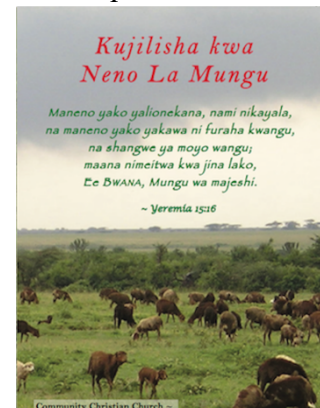


Dr. David Kirwa arap Tarus serves as the Executive Director of ACTEA. We met together this month at his request. All too often, he said, training of ministers at bible colleges, seminaries, and bible training institutes here in Africa follow Western models of teaching both in terms of methods of instruction (the nerd in me wants to say “*pedagogical methodologies*”) and in terms of content. As a result, too often the students simply are not adequately prepared to minister



in their own African contexts and in their own vernaculars (mother tongues). An important part of ACTEA’s ministry is helping institutions that not only meet the academic requirements of the various governments of African countries but also to ensure that the curricula used will actually prepare students to effectively engage in Kingdom work in their local contexts. Having seen some of the teaching I’ve done in the ACT groups and some of my other writing, he hopes that I will be able to join ACTEA in their work. We will meet again soon to consider that possibility.

As David is also the minister/preacher at the Milimani congregation of Africa Inland Church (AIC) in Nairobi, I introduced him to our *Eating the Word of God* curriculum and gave him a copy of the Swahili edition of our book, *Kujilisha kwa Neno La Mungu*.



African Theology Worldwide

Two colleague-friends, Dr. Benno van den Toren and Dr. J. Bosco Bangura, have started a sister ministry to the African Christian Theology group. Benno is from the Netherlands but taught for several years at the Bangui Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in the Central African Republic. Bosco is from Sierra Leone. [African Theology Worldwide](#) is a platform which helps provide resources and educational opportunities to African Christian leaders. In March we met via Zoom to discuss ways to share resources and to build opportunities for theological and biblical education for churches in Africa.



NEWS FROM THE BUSH

Empukani Choir



Empukani means “steppe” or “savannah;” it is a common placename in Maasai Land. The Empukani congregation neighbors the Inkiito CCC congregation in Kajiado County where our former student Amos ole Solonko is the pastor; the congregations cooperate. (photo credit: Amos ole Solonko)

OTHER NEWS

The children are doing well in HomeSchool, though not without challenges. I was afraid that I was going to flunk my Swahili test today but managed to pass it. (The older four children, Ruth, and I all took the test.) Swahili, a Bantu language, is complicated in completely different ways from Maa and Sampur, Nilotic languages. Ruth’s writing is continuing to minister to those who have survived trauma, both here in Africa as well as in the States. We have more to share, but will save it for the next update.

Mainosa ilomon! ... neaku taa lelo.

(Let’s chew the news! ... And that’s the way things are.)

grace and peace and thanks to you in our Lord Jesus,

Joshua & Ruth

joshua & ruth

with alitzah, hannahgail, eliana, zerachiah, ahaviah, & shalviah

MissionStream-Kenya



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