



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

30 November 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Kenya! On this “Giving Tuesday” we want to thank our support partners for their financial support and our prayer partners for praying with and for us. We also want to provide you with a chance to give back in response to the blessings you’ve received. But more on that in a moment. First, let us share a little of what’s been going on here in our work in Kenya. (Remember that you can always find previous updates at [www.barronfamilymission.net](http://www.barronfamilymission.net).)

### CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

The editing for my (Joshua’s) completed Maa language introduction to the Bible has continued progressing a snail’s pace, but it is progressing. We should hear back by the end of the month whether ACTEA will be inviting us to join their staff. As y’all know, all of our ministry work involves intensive research into Maasai (and other African) language and culture, as well as into Scripture. This is mostly background work that often isn’t seen — just like most people don’t see the foundations and footers of the house they live in. But because my PhD program requires that students publish a certain amount of research, I’ve had a few articles published recently (and a few others accepted that will be published within the next few months). I’m mentioning them here so you can see some of the work that goes into what we do.

- “African Christian Theology: Utilizing Social Media.” *Journal of African Christian Biography* 6, no. 2 (April 2021): 67–68.
- “Andrew F. Walls: Apostle of World Christianity.” *Missio Dei* [forthcoming]
- “Conversion or Proselytization? Being Maasai, Becoming Christian.” *Global Missiology* 18, no. 2 (April 2021): 11 pages.
- “An Enkiteng Hermeneutics—Reading (and Hearing!) the Bible with Maasai Christians: A review essay and proposal.” *Global Missiology* 18, no. 4 (October 2021): 2–16.
- “A Four-in-One Book Review: A Four-in-One Book Review: On the Bible and Intercultural Hermeneutics among the Maasai.” *International Review of Mission* 110, no. 2 (November 2021): 358–363
- “Lessons from Scripture for Maasai Christianity, Lessons from Maasai Culture for the Global Church.” *Priscilla Papers* 33, no. 2 (Spring 2019): 17–23.
- “Mutual Submission, Mutual Respect: Reciprocal *enkanyit* in Ephesians 5 in the Maasai context.” *Stellenbosch Theological Journal* [forthcoming]
- “My God is enkAi: a reflection of vernacular theology.” *Journal of Language, Culture, and Religion* 2, no. 1 (2021): 1–20.
- “Is the Prosperity Gospel, Gospel? An Examination of the Prosperity and Productivity Gospels in African Christianity.” *Conspectus: The Journal of the South African Theological Seminary* [Forthcoming in the March/April 2022 issue, vol. 33, no. 1]

If you would like copies of any of these, just ask and I will be happy to send them to you.

## Expanding Reach

Our work has continued to be noticed by others. We were recently contacted by the president of Cape Town Baptist Seminary in South Africa; he invited us to join their faculty as missions profs/missiologists (an unsalaried position, continuing on missions support). As much as we enjoyed our time in South Africa in 2000–2001, however, we have no plans to relocate from Kenya. But we are honored by the invitation. I (Joshua) have also joined the peer review teams of four theological journals: *Priscilla Papers* (the editor is Jeff Miller, the NT prof at Milligan), *Missio Dei: A Journal of Missional Theology and Praxis* (a Restoration Movement journal), *Conspectus: The Journal of the South African Theological Seminary*, and *The South African Baptist Journal of Theology* (published by Cape Town Baptist Seminary; note that “baptist” here is from the British tradition; there isn’t an affiliation with Southern Baptists or Free Will Baptists from America). Being a reviewer has a minimal time requirement, but serves to strengthen theological and ministerial education across Africa.

**Nnaemeka Ali Omi**, a pastor-theologian from Nigeria serving as a missionary in Quebec, Canada, recently wrote to me (Joshua; but his words are equally applicable to Ruth):

*I feel a kindred spirit seeing all your love and devotion to see that African voice is heard and valued theology. I know many Africans who studied theology but who reason like they have never stepped their foot on the African soil, but you have always promoted and worked for these silenced voices to be heard.*

*Your love for your mission, the language of your people and their spirituality inspires me to believe that humanity have future with souls like yours.*



## CCBTI and MIEA

You will recall that we have spent a lot of time helping to develop the Community Christian Bible Training Institute and teaching courses in its venues in Maasai Land and in Turkana Land. CCBTI is in the process of a restructuring. This restructure includes an effective merger with Mission Institute East Africa, for which Ruth and I also have taught courses and helped with curriculum development. (You might remember that I taught a “History of Missions” course for MIEA in 2020.) The CCBTI steering committee (which I chaired from 2013–2018) has been replaced by a small board. I have not been asked to serve on the board because, the CCBTI leadership tells me, if I am on the board “then CMF might push to be represented on the board as well and we don’t want CMF missionaries” to be involved. The CCC church leaders are telling us of problems with the CMF team in Kenya (our former colleagues). Nonetheless, CCBTI requests that we continue to teach and help oversee curriculum development for the school. CCBTI is also working to become registered with the Government of Kenya’s Ministry of Education; for reasons that I don’t have time to explain, this may require a name change. “East Africa Seminary” is on CCBTI’s short list of possible names approved by the Ministry. The original Maa edition of *Enkinosata Ororei Le Nkai* (“Eating the Word of God”) is nearly out-of-print, as it is the primary text for one of the CCBTI courses, and so we are being asked to prepare a second edition.

## NEWS FROM THE BUSH

In the traditional Christian calendars, Advent is the season preceding Christmas (the 12 days from 25 December – 5 January). In more “formal” liturgically minded congregations, this past Sunday (28 November) is considered the first Sunday of Advent. In ancient Celtic Christianity, however, Advent started 40 days before Christmas (so on my birthday, 15 November) and was a time of

fasting and prayer before the celebrations of Christmas and Epiphany. This year, some of “our” Maasai congregations have adopted a similar practice. Here is one of the kick-off events:

### **Inkolong’i Artam too nkejek e Yesu**

*(“Forty Days at Jesus’s feet” seminar)*



(photo credit: Josephat ole Mashati)

### **OTHER NEWS**

By God’s grace, we’ve been enabled to be effective at what we do here in Kenya. But we have so far never been particularly effective at support raising. Due to CMF’s libel and slander against us, we lost some key supporting congregations. We’ve lost a couple of others which have themselves suffered economically. Some of our individual supporters have gone ahead of us to receive their reward in Christ. And so while we have also gained the support of one new congregation and of new individual supporters, we have been struggling to make ends meet. Currently for this term, our budgetary shortfall is \$24,653 (an average of \$821.76/month over 30 months). The lion’s share of this represents our furlough travel reserve fund being \$13,500 in the red and our health insurance reserve fund (to purchase insurance for May 2022–April 2023) being \$5,100 in the red. Frankly, if not for the pandemic relief funds we would be worse off. Well. That was difficult to write.

In other news, earlier this month Alitzah, our firstborn, turned 18. (!) How did that happen so quickly?!

And of course, various public health measures, such as the wearing of masks, continue here in Kenya:





## PRAY

- That God through God's people will provide for our financial needs;
- For wisdom as we continue to help Alitzah through her final year of high school and to prepare for what's next for her;
- For God's guidance as we consider the possibility of partnering with ACTEA (Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa; see our previous update)); if this happens we would transition sometime in 2022.

## CONSIDER

- Whether y'all might be able to provide another contribution to help offset our current deficit or even to become a regular support partner. Thank you!

*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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