

February 22, 2013

Jambo (Hello)

We have just returned from our journey into the bush in western Kenya. We wanted you to hear firsthand about the mission and the people God sent us to.

The Journey and Accommodations:

After three flights to arrive in Nairobi, Kenya, nearly 28 hours travel time, we rested overnight in Nairobi and prepared to leave the morning before the conference to travel on a fourth flight to a place called Eldoret. Eldoret can be found on the map, it is walking distance from the Ugandan border. People who live in this area walk across the border all the time in their daily activities. One of the ladies offered to bring me across the border to pick out fabric to have a tribal dress made before I left. She stated she would put me on the back of a moped and we would be there and back in 20 min. I just told her that I sure my husband would not permit me to go across the border on a shopping trip. When we arrived in Eldoret we were met at the airport by the conference host, Bishop Papa and our driver Lucas. Lucas is a member of the group we would minister to and a business owner in the area. Bishop Papa is the presiding organizational bishop over this area and oversees hundreds of pastors. We were there at his invitation and request. From the Eldoret airport we drove 2.5 hours to the Geddie guest house in Malaba where we would stay for our time there. You are not likely to find Malaba on the map. Our accommodations were modest but extremely clean and also comfortable. We had a room with a bed and a private bathroom with a shower, sink, and flushing toilet and warm water. The guest house was guarded by armed soldiers at all times and entry and exist monitored and facilitated through the heavy steel doors of this facility. Guest could even park their vehicles inside of this building to keep it safe as well. We were not exactly sure why all of this protection was needed but we were happy to see that we had it. So we just said, Thank you Jesus.

Our final destination, where we held the conference, was an additional 45 min drive from the guest house, into the bush. We would make this trip daily but only once in and once out. It was a long and difficult drive. The road was clay and rock and dust lingered in the air. As a result we were engaged with the people from the moment we arrived around 10am until we left for the day around 6pm. We had our breaks with them. The bathroom facilities here were outhouses with holes in the ground. The people were humble but demonstrated a great love for God and extended great hospitality toward us. We felt welcome. They would say, "Karibu", "you are welcome".

Our food:

During our five day stay in Malaba, we dined on peanut butter and crackers that we carried with us from the US and fresh bananas that we bought along the road as we drove to the conference site each morning. We were able to purchase bottled water from the restaurant next door. The women of this village prepared food for all of the attendees, two meals each day, but we held fast to our diet of peanut butter and bananas. The prepared red kidney beans and rice, chicken

killed fresh that morning, greens, kale and maize. On the final day they offered bottle soda's with the meal in addition to their regular drinking water.

The host church and the Teso tribe:

The Pastor who hosted the conference at his church was Pastor David and his wife Pastor Joile. This entire community of people belongs to the Teso tribe including Bishop Papa. Each family had their own home made either of handmade brick or huts made of straw similar to the Samburu tribe. There is no school building for the children. They obtain their lessons under the shade of trees with a great eagerness to learn. After church on Sunday they played soccer with a makeshift ball. There was a church made of stone with a tin roof. There was no running water. People live by farming the land and we were there during planting season. Downpours of rain would come and quickly go away to help prepare the soil for planting before the rainy season starts in April. They also had farm animals such as chickens, goats, cows, and an occasional pig.

These are a people of great poverty and little knowledge of the deeper things of God's Word. They have a remarkable willingness to praise God with the highest praise, something they could teach us, and my thought was that this willingness to praise God this way sustains them.

The Conference:

The conference began on Thursday and ended on Sunday at the Sunday service. The initial day was a plowing. It was like climbing uphill but it became easier and easier as we continued and as the people got to know us. The attendance grew each day much like it would in America as it became closer to the weekend more people came and Sunday was the biggest attendance with at least 200 -250 people. There was standing room only by Sunday and some sat outside the doors to hear who could fit to stand inside. We both ministered each day taking turns to deliver specific teachings. Our topics focused on 1) The Authority of the Believer 2) How to Receive from God and 3) Prosperity is in the Soul which focused on how to pray the prayer that receives the answer and leading an uncompromised life where you and word of God become one. We worked with interpreters and the word and the teachings were well received. It was impression that the lesson that most spoke to them and encouraged them was the one on the authority we have as believers. Before we left we heard some say, "I was a Christian before, but now I am a Christian Believer!" They arrived at this conclusion after a lesson on how one can give their lives to Christ and accept Him into their heart as Savior and thus become a Christian but choose not to believe the promises in the bible are for them. A believer is one who has accepted Christ and accepted all of the promises that come with that new relationship. So, they were transformed from Christians to Believers. This was not just a semantic distinction; they really understood that they had not chosen to BELIEVE and had now made the decision to believe. This has the power to change lives for them because the advice Jesus gives is "only believe". Within the first meeting they had been moved from Christian to Believer. The next morning, when the pastor asked, "how many Christians do we have here this morning?", not one had went up. (my heart dropped..... what had happened? I didn't realize the profound transformation

this one lesson had made. Then he asked the next question, “how many believer’s do we have here this morning?”, and every hand in the room went up..... I got it.

At the onset and the very first meeting there came a rainstorm that was so heavy and loud that we could not speak over the noise it made on the tin roof. We stopped and waited for the rain to finish. I was astounded later to realize there was no evidence of rain on the ground when we went outside the church. The ground was a dry and dusty and rocky as before the rain. The water just runs off. We were reminded about the parable of the sower and seed and began to see what this spoke about the group we were ministering to. We quickly realized that the only perception regarding a way of blessing was by the hands of an American Christian. We taught and demonstrated the higher way of receiving from God Himself.

One morning as Sabrina ministered, she began to prophecy God’s heart to these people and the people began to weep and weep and weep. She gave a word of prophecy to some individuals as well and some of them wept deeply at the words the Lord spoke to them. James continued in every message he ministered to call the leaders to God’s standard of righteousness in their own lives. It was clearly a word from the Lord Himself. There were pastors and other bishops in attendance. He could not seem to get away from this and he did not back down to delivering it the people. Righteousness exalts a nation. On Sunday James ministered the Sunday service in a dynamic manner in great command of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and encouraged the people to ask largely of God. He laid hands on every person in attendance. One lady said, she only had ½ her hearing and when Rev James began to pray she was able to hear and received a healing. Sabrina again prophesied to the Pastor of this Church and his wife with specific instructions from God on how to move forward after these teachings instructing them to go deeper and develop the people in the lessons taught in these days stating God had increased his capacity to receive it and develop the others by watering the word we had planted. He wept and fell to his knees.

The conference was a great success and we were well received. We were treated with the highest hospitality and were asked immediately to please return to teach them more. Many stated, “I have never heard teachings like this before. It has changed my life”.

Our Observations and Experiences:

It was apparent to us that our assignment was to the community of Teso people as well as to Bishop Papa and so we worked while we were there to exhort and encourage and teach in both manners. The Lord provided actual demonstrations through us of the very lessons we were ministering to them. God was saying rely on Me alone, not man, God can provide more. It became clear to them that we were those to follow the instruction of the Holy Spirit and will not go another way. This is what God wants to develop in them and they stated to us that they saw it in us.

We witnessed first had corruption in the government when the car we were driving in in Nairobi was arrested for having tinted windows. The officer attempted to separate us from our guides (not yet in Malaba) and our guides refused to leave us. The officer launched an assault on this vehicle. The officer yelled and pointed her finger in the driver’s face. When the guide refused to

leave us and go with her to the police station she simply arrested the entire vehicle with us in it. Our guide got in the back seat with us and explained as much as he could at time what was taking place and explained more later. The driver drove us all including the officer to the police station. When we arrived at the police station the guide escorted us out the vehicle and walked us two blocks away to the Norfolk hotel where we waited with him for another vehicle and driver. There he explained that the officer was attempting to get the driver or guide or us to bribe them with money to let us go. He stated that the officers work under harsh conditions and are underpaid and when they see American's in the vehicles they think it is an opportunity to obtain a bribe. Once he removed us, the driver and the vehicle were later released but they forced the driver to remove the tint from the windows. We did not get nervous in the service.

At the Sunday service in Malaba, James was able to lay hands on and pray for several people running for governmental office at the upcoming elections on March 4th and exhorted them to lead the people righteously.

We also witnessed firsthand those in positions of authority who govern righteously. We met a police officer in Eldoret named Caesar. (In America, the police must have reasonable cause to stop and search you or your vehicle. In Kenya, the police don't drive around in cars. They stand in pairs along the roadside and they stop you first and search and then look for cause, this is the process) The officer named Caesar pulled our vehicle over because Bishop Papa did not have his seatbelt on. He asked Bishop Papa, "Are you a preacher? A bishop?", to which Bishop Papa answered "yes". He said, "The bible says in Matthew 22:21, Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. I am Caesar (pointing to his name tag). Put on your seatbelt". We all laughed. He then spoke to us and asked us to pray for the police officers in Kenya who are God fearing people.

We know it will take more to help these people rise to level that God desires for them. As God continues to lead us to them and send us to them, we will continue to go.

The people there wanted to send their greetings to you and to thank YOU for sending us to them. We join them in thanking you for helping to send us to them, YOU INDEED HAVE DONE A GREAT WORK !!!

End of the journey:

We ended our journey with a rest at Lake Nakuru where on safari we saw the pink flamingos, while rhinos and an aardvark as well as a leopard or two resting in the trees.

Testimonies of people who attended the conference:

- "The man who is failing is the man who knows everything. I am learning too". (one of the Bishops in attendance)
- "Before I was just a Christian but now since I understand this teaching of the authority of the believer, I have become a Christian Believer."

- “I know now that the devil must obey me IF I believe. I did not know this before. This makes me a believer. Authority belongs to the believer not the Christian”. (one of the pastors in attendance)
- “I now know I should not pay attention to the devil. I should only pay attention to God. I must build my relationship with God and the devil will run away. I submit to God first and then resist the devil and the he will flee. I have paid too much attention to the devil”.
- “These teachings will change the world these people live in”. (one of the bishops in attendance)
- “Now I know that if the devil does not leave when I first tell him to leave, I can keep telling him to leave until he does; not just one time. When I really believe it myself and mean it that is when he will go”.
- “It was like I didn’t know nothing. I was half deaf but when you prayed I got my hearing”.
- “I thank God for the teaching on authority. God had a purpose for bringing me here. We suffer because we do not know how to use authority. I have already used it”.
- “Understanding the trinity of the human being, spirit, soul, and body and division within the trinity brings no answer. Understanding this will change my life. If the trinity does not agree, if the soul does not agree with the sprit I can make the soul agree. I can command it to agree and then my answer will come”.
- “We should not take these teachings for granted. These ministers have come all the way from American to teach us this. We do not find this everywhere.”
- “These teachings were so high those of us who came should be able to obtain a certificate to show what we were taught and what we learned for official reasons. Please send us certificates showing we attended your teachings. Come back and teach us more”.
- “I believe these teachings were just for me. Revs James and Sabrina came to Malaba just to teach me how do pray. I thought I knew how to pray but I know I did not know how to pray. Now I know how to pray and my life will no longer be the same. You came just for me. I am so happy”.
- “Rev Sabrina, you have challenged me as a woman. You have raised the standard for me as a woman. I thank you. You have encouraged me for more.”
- “We love you”

We are grateful to you for your support and prayers as we commit to ongoing spiritual development in this area of Kenya as God directs.

Asanti (Thank You)
 Blessings to You
 James & Sabrina