

Rendille Visit July 2019

Nkubu & Miathene

Tom Richwine, one of the Elders at Grace Baptist Church, Carlisle PA, Manases and Gloria Bor, and I travelled together to Meru and Marsabit Counties on the 24th July 2019. The purpose of the visit was to show Tom what is happening in the Rendille community, an outreach ministry which the church has supported over the years. Manases came into contact with us through this work and became a member of TBC, where he met Gloria. Gloria herself has been very interested in the missions work, and their respective passion for missions is one of the important things that made their love to bloom.

On our way to Miathene, we passed by Ebenezar's home in Nkubu, where we met his mother. Ebenezar is a member of the church who is interested in ministry but he has had to relocate to his parents' home in Nkubu. However, since there is no reformed congregation known near him he travels about 38 kms. to be at the church in Miathene or Muthara. He expressed his desire and willingness to be further involved in the work in the Muthara church plant. He rode his bicycle on the Saturday and spent the night with Mucheru's family. Speaking with Joshua Kairithia in Miathene later in the day, he expressed how pleased he was that the Lord has sent someone to help him with the work. Ebenezar also went to be with the KeMU (Kenya Methodist University, Meru) students on Sunday along with Joseph Mucheru. This is another ministry that he could be involved further to develop. There is another brother in Nairobi who could be sent to settle down in Meru town at the beginning of next year so that he can begin to put measures in place that will see to it a reformed congregation is started, as well as to strengthen the ongoing work among the University students.

In Miathene, we joined about 20 brethren for their mid-week prayer meeting. I led it from the book that they are doing, Joel 2:28-32. The listening was very good. We also met Geoffrey Muriuki who is a teacher in Miathene High School but who has recently embraced the doctrines of grace and is so pleased that he can join a church that is reformed in his own area. He attends with his wife and a colleague. He is now pursuing church membership.

Lekuchula

We arrived in Lekuchula at around midday. Gloria immediately took up the preschool kids and taught them the word of God before spending a considerable amount of time teaching them various games. We sent the word that we would be back on Monday to preach and to give the food to the people in the four goobs. Some organization has fenced off the school with wire netting all round.



Gloria Playing With the Children in Lekuchula

We also found out that Full Gospel, a Pentecostal and possibly Charismatic church, has recently put up a church building behind the school.

On our way back we passed by and I preached from Matthew 4:4 pointing the need to properly know the real need we have, which is sin.

There were more than 100 present as distributed the food so that by the time we left, all the 217 families were given 4Kgs of maize meal flour and 2Kgs of beans.

They pleaded with us to plant the TBC church in the area since those who have come are taking advantage the work we have done over the years.

The time is ripe to plant a church here. A few brethren have expressed their willingness to work here in such church planting. The headteacher at Lekuchula said that we may even build the teacher's house in the school compound and the church just by the school gate. We shall need to put up the pastors' house and meetings can be conducted in one of the classrooms. It will necessary that we consider this work with the necessary urgency to make sure that we propagate the message of the gospel to these people. Since it is possible to use some of the amenities in the school, such as water tanks, toilets etc. the costs will be reduced.

Korr

We drove on to Korr where we found many brethren waiting for us. We had a meeting with church leaders about the state of the church. We were much encouraged by one of our evangelists, brother Joseph Ogom. His zeal and love for the gospel is so refreshing. He translated for us throughout our stay in Korr and Lekuchula area. We visited various villages beginning with neighbouring California in the evening, where I preached from John 3:36. The following day we went to three different villages after Farakoren – Bang and another Ongeli village. Various brethren took turns in preaching beginning with me in Farakoren where I preached from Romans 6:23. In the evening we went to Uyam to preach and Tom preached there.

The following day we began with distributing the relief food. Then we went to Urowween where Manases preached to the wazees by the shade of the tree. We visited Silamo's mother before proceeding to Ongeli. Then Tom preached to a group of women in Ongeli, which is Ogom's village. We then proceeded to Tubcha where I preached to the wazees from Romans 6:23. On our way back we passed by AIC mission and spoke with the senior pastor, Matthew, Joseph and two men called Joshua. In the evening we went to Dubsahaay Dogo and Stanley preached there.

On Sunday, Tom took the adult Sunday school while Gloria taught the kids. I preached in the morning service on Grace of Giving from 2 Corinthians 8 & 9 and 1 Corinthians 16:2. I was so amazed by the large number of the people who attended the church on Sunday morning (see from the picture) even though not every one was willing to be on the picture.



Brother Ogom showed himself to be a capable leader and we should seek to strengthen him by giving him books to read. He needs all the Swahili books we can get for him.

Losidan

We were warmly welcomed by Martin (an evangelist), Lepakio (the local leader), and the Head Teacher, Peter Kurtumaa to Losidan. We found out that Living Waters Baptist Church has put up a church building in Losidan even though meetings only happen on Saturdays!

I spoke with Martin regarding the church that he and Seitalo has begun and whether it was necessary to begin another church. And he encouraged us to start another church so that we can evangelize the area. He had not considered the possibility of competition. In God's providence there are again brethren who have expressed interest in serving the Lord here, something we have been praying about for as long time.

I preached to the many women and men who came for the relief food from Romans 5:8. We gave food to more than 200 families and what remained was given to the church in Lontolio.

Murungi Igweta (1st August 2019)