

Report On Work In Kenya & Tanzania



Report On Work In Kenya & Tanzania

July 2 - 19, 2019

Don McClain

Overview of The Trip

On Tuesday, July 2nd, we began our journey by flying out of Little Rock. I was joined by brother Keith Sharp, the evangelist and an elder of the Highway 5 church of Christ in Mountain Home Arkansas. This was brother Sharp's twenty-first and final trip to Africa. Keith's daughter, Michelle Sharp, and Pam Lawrence, wife of Brooks Lawrence, an elder of the Prince Street Church of Christ in Conway, Arkansas, traveled with us to teach the women.

48 hours, three continents, and four flights later, we landed in Kisumu, Kenya, on the shore of Lake Victoria. Brother Henry Ogutu of Bungoma, Kenya picked us up at the airport and drove us, with our luggage, 2 1/2 hours south to Kisii, Kenya, where we stayed in a safe guest house. The accommodations were very nice by Kenyan standards. We were able to have two good, safe, meals a day, a warm shower, and a bed. Brother Sharp, brother Ogutu and I shared a room, while Michelle and Pam shared a room. The people who operated the resort and worked there were excellent!

On Friday, July 5th, we rested, attempting to adjust to the eight hour time change, and our long trip, in which we got little, if any sleep. At noon we met with Simion Sagwe, the preacher for the church in Kyorori village, and his wife Florence at our guest house to discuss our plans and what the church there had scheduled for our studies.



On Saturday July 6th, we drove out in the bush, about 45 minutes from Kisii, to where the Kyorori Church of Christ meets. Simion had arranged for 20 plus men, (18 identified themselves as preachers), to stay at his home and meet at their meeting place for Bible studies. We began our studies with a Bible class for both men and women which began at 10 that morning. I presented a lesson from Psalm 73, encouraging them to do what is right

even though it may bring hardship. By all appearances, doing evil seems to be advantageous, but we must remember the reward of the faithful is NOT in this life, and that the wicked will be punished. At 11 am we had a worship service and brother Sharp gave a lesson on the New Testament being our pattern, (Genesis 6:14-16; Hebrews 8:5; 2 Timothy 1:13). We broke for lunch and reassembled for a lengthy question and answer session.

On Sunday, July 7th, we assembled with the church in Kyorori village. I taught on what it means to be a real disciple of Jesus from Luke 6:20-49. Brother Sharp preached on "The Gospel of Jesus Christ."



On Monday, July 8th, we began our daily classes which continued through Wednesday July 10th. Brother Sharp and I took turns teaching two one hour classes each. This continued each day for the men in the church building, while Pam and Michelle took turns doing the same with the women outside under trees. Our teaching schedule was from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M each day, with an hour break for lunch of rice, beans, and bottled water. I taught through the book of Ephesians, and brother Sharp taught on issues related to Scriptural authority the brethren face in Kenya. Pam taught on the role of women in the home, and Michelle taught on the role of women in the church. Henry Ogutu and Kennedy Odongo served as our translators for the men, and Tyrim Dosila and Rose Kuwamboka translated for the women. We also had an hour or more of questions from both men and women in the church building, which brother Sharp, Henry Ogutu and I answered. We had 23 men attend the classes, 18 of which were preachers and by the end of our time in Kyorori, there were 17 students in the women's classes, most of them preachers wives, all from various congregations in Southwest Kenya.



When brother Sharp had last visited Kenya, he was not aware of any sound, (non-institutional), congregations or preachers in Southwest Kenya (near Lake Victoria and Tanzania). At that time Simion Sagwe, Kennedy Odongo, George Omolo, and Timothy Odhiambo took stands for the truth and were expelled from a preachers training school operated by institutional brethren. Now it seems there are 18



faithful preachers and as many congregations or more. None of them get regular American support, nor are we or they seeking it. They could easily get American support if they went with institutionalism. Three of these congregations now have elders.

Thursday and Friday, July 11-12, we made the long drive across Southwest, Kenya and Northern Tanzania to Moshi, Tanzania, a relatively modern city of half a million people at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa at 19,341 feet. Timothy Massawe of Moshi first contacted brother Sharp about fifteen years ago and has been asking him ever since to visit there.



We were absolutely thrilled and so encouraged at what we found in Moshi. Timothy is a 36 year old lawyer, and he and his wife Agnes kept the five of us in their home, fed us breakfast every morning and two dinners, including a going away feast of roasted goat. They have two young sons, Ricky and Alexander.

On Saturday, July 13th, we had Bible studies with some who were not Christians in a village. One of the ladies we studied with had just lost her husband a couple of days before we arrived. We then studied with a couple of women who lived in a compound where a husband and wife who were members of the church in Moshi lived. These two women were Muslims.



On Sunday, July 14th, we assembled with the young congregation in Moshi. We were all so encouraged by this newly formed band of faithful believers. They numbered over 50 in attendance and is made up of over 2/3's of a congregation that was dominated by an American sponsored, institutional school for preachers. They broke away and started a non-institutional church about two months ago. Their preacher, Wilson Mtei, was a teacher in the school, but left and is surviving with his family on the meager pay provided by the little church. I've never met anyone more dedicated to personal evangelism. They meet in a rented school auditorium in Moshi.

I taught the Bible class. I presented a lesson on “Strange Fire” (the need for scriptural authority), and brother Sharp preached, at the request of Timothy Massawe, on “The Autonomy of the Local Church.” On Sunday afternoon, at the Massawe’s home, both Sharp and I answered questions from the men, and Pam and Michelle gathered with the women outside and answered the women’s questions from 3:00 to 6:00 P.M. Again brother Ogutu translated for us as did brother Massawe. Abigail Mueni was the ladies' translator. Abigail is the spiritual leader among the women in Moshi and was a huge encouragement to both Pam and Michelle.



On Monday, July 15th, we accompanied brother Wilson on more personal Bible studies with non-members. We studied with a man who had his own self described ministry. We studied the New Testament church and the difference between the Law of Moses and the New Covenant. This study lasted about three hours. We answered several questions he had about the church and he was very receptive! We then had a study with a modern day “Cornelius,” Albert Mickeadi. He is currently a member of the Pentecostal church. He had assembled together a group of 22 souls to hear the gospel. We studied the New Testament church and the plan of salvation. He was so happy to learn the truth about the Lord’s church and that the Pentecostal church is not the same as what we read about in the New Testament. After having tea - we left and finished the day as dinner guest of brother Wilson, his wife, and other members.

On Tuesday, July 16th we accompanied Wilson for more studies. We met with two young men and a woman. Our study again focused on the church Jesus built. One of the young men, Christopher, decided to be baptized. Wilson baptized him in the mountain stream that flows through Moshi.



On Wednesday, July 17th, Henry drove us back to Nairobi, Kenya, where we were to fly out Thursday night, July 18th, for America. Our flight was delayed three hours, so we spent ten hours in the Nairobi airport, missed our connecting flight in Amsterdam to Atlanta, but KLM alertly rerouted us through Chicago, so

we were only two hours late arriving in Little Rock. Poor Pam was sick the entire way home from some airport food in Nairobi.

It is very encouraging to see the progress being made by faithful brethren in Kenya and Tanzania. The fields there are very fertile. Henry Ogutu is a mature, faithful preacher with an outstanding family who was converted and taught for over three years by the late Alan Turner. I recommend brethren in Kenya use him to teach classes for preachers and for brethren here in the USA to support him in his efforts. We could not have done the things we did without his sacrificial help.

From the depths of my heart I thank brother Sharp for inviting me to make this trip with him. His efforts in Kenya, Tanzania, and Africa as a whole is bearing much fruit for the Lord. If the Lord wills, I will do what I can to continue to help the work there. I especially thank all the brethren that supported me in this effort, for I could not have gone without your help. THANK YOU!!!

Raising of funds / Expenses

SUPPORT RECEIVED

- 1) **\$1,500** — Prince Street Conway —
- 2) **\$1,100** — Hwy 79 Pine Bluff —
- 3) **\$1000** — Hwy 65 Conway—
- 4) **\$2,000** — West 65th Street — Little Rock —

Total Support: \$5,600

EXPENSES:

Travel Expenses:

- \$980** — Passport Health - Vaccinations / Medications
- \$2970** — for airline tickets
- \$189** — for travel insurance
- \$660** — passport & Visas
- \$270** — Medijet Insurance

Expenses in country: (took \$2000 spent 1,785)

- \$693.75** — Room & board
- \$652.50** — Gas and expenses for Henry Ogutu
- \$438.75** — Food expenses

Total expenses = \$6,854