

Rolling Stone

ministries

"An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it... And the angel...said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who as been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen just as He said.'" Matthew 28:2, 5-6

Newsletter

MAY 2010

India Mission 2010

In 2009 we enjoyed our first teaching mission to India. Our host was the Hindustan Bible Institute ("HBI") in Chennai (Madras) in southeast India, in the state of Tamil Nadu. Chennai is the headquarters and main campus for HBI where we were blessed to teach graduate students in theology and biblical studies, speak in chapels, preach at the church on campus, and lead seminars for the staff. We were excited to hear how literally millions of Indians are coming to faith in Christ.

Our 2009 trip inspired us to re-visit India, but in 2010 we wanted to do leadership training in more remote areas. Thus, we were invited to HBI's regional training center in Jaipur, in the northwest Indian state of Rajasthan, which borders Pakistan. Only .13% of the population of Rajasthan is Christian. On the way to Jaipur we met with fellow believers in Delhi, India's capital city, and had the privilege to speak to the Christian Legal Association, a group of believing lawyers who gather together regularly for meetings and fellowship.



After a five-hour bus ride to Jaipur from Delhi, we met our host from HBI Jaipur, Raj. From the minute we met Raj, we felt welcomed and cared for. We were encouraged by his enthusiasm and servant's heart. Raj and his new wife are both graduates of HBI in Chennai.



We were scheduled to teach a pair of two-day seminars, with me teaching the pastors and Laurie teaching the women. We were blessed to find that HBI Chennai had sent a national team to Jaipur to facilitate the leadership seminars, including Abash, Esther, and Robbie the videographer. Our teaching was translated into Hindi, since many of those attending are not fluent in English. After the sessions many asked for my notes and outlines.



A pastor named Walter Masih came up to me after one of the sessions, introduced himself, and told me that a couple of years before he had been beaten by a gang of Hindu thugs who ransacked his house-church and left him bloody. Walter told me that a camera crew filmed the incident, and it was on the internet. When I got back to the U.S. I looked up the video of the incident, and all I can say is I am humbled to have had the privilege to teach a man who was nearly killed for his testimony. The video is difficult to watch, but I encourage you to go to this link (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c12iYWwN4kY>) and see what Christian leaders in other countries often must endure. Walter is seen in the video calling to Jesus during the attack, then standing outside his house-church afterwards, preaching love and forgiveness to those who had persecuted him. Thankfully, no bones were broken, but Pastor Walter still suffers some residual physical problems from the attack.

We thank God for the opportunity to see with our eyes how dedicated Christian leaders are building congregations from the ground up, with few resources, but with a mighty faith in the Jehovah Jireh, the God who is sufficient to meet our needs. Please continue to pray for India, and for protection for the persecuted church there, so that the making of disciples in India will continue as the church grows in numbers and strength.

John



Africa 2010

It is not hyperbole to say that Africa has become our second home (well, tied with Iowa for second place). Our 2010 Africa mission marked the fourth consecutive year we have journeyed to Africa to teach, preach, help out in the slums, and have fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Kenya.

As is typical for us, we hit the ground running, arriving on Good Friday. I was asked to preach at a wedding and appear on the radio the very next day. We were honored to attend the first wedding at the new church plant in Kitengela, about 30 miles outside of Nairobi, where our friend Sammy Ondieki is the pastor. That same Saturday we drove back to Nairobi, where I spent an hour being interviewed on the Africa Inland Church radio station. On Easter Sunday I preached at the Victory Evangelical Ministries International Church near the Nairobi airport. Pastor Boniface, whom we met last December while Laurie and I were speaking at a camping convention in Colorado, and his wife Bonnie, hosted us. We returned there the following Thursday and Friday where we both taught at a VEMI pastor's conference, with people attending from all over Kenya and some from Tanzania.

The Monday after our arrival I began teaching at Manna Bible Institute, about 20 miles southwest of Nairobi. I taught five hours per day, alternating between apologetics and early church history. This two-week assignment is our main focus when we are in Kenya. The class had around 30 pastors and church leaders attending. The classes are taught in English. At all church services our teaching and preaching is translated into Swahili.

This trip marked a first for us, in that Laurie and I had a traveling companion—Andrew Krueger from Redfield, Iowa. Andy just turned 18 prior to our trip, and is already a skilled videographer. We saw his work from last summer when Megan attended a summer camp in Iowa and Andy did the highlight video. Andy raised his own support for our Kenya mission and joining us took a huge step of faith on his part. Until our trip to Kenya Andy had only been as far as Canada and Florida. He was a blessing to have along and became like our son. He worked hard filming my classes every day and put together a video collage to show at our home church less than two weeks after we returned to the U.S.A. Andy is spending the summer videotaping at Summit Ministries in Colorado. We are sure that the Kenya mission was unforgettable for him. We were able to visit an orphanage in Nairobi during our stay and the kids loved playing with Andy. It will be very helpful for the students at Manna Bible Institute to have DVDs of my classes available, so Andy has helped create a long-lasting resource to train pastors and Christian leaders.

Our last weekend in Kenya involved a rare opportunity to have a meeting with the former President of Kenya, His Excellency Daniel Arap Moi. President Moi, who lives about three hours outside of Nairobi near Lake Nakuru, was the second President of Kenya, and served as Kenya's President and Commander-In-Chief for over twenty years. We met him at his home and discussed many things that are currently affecting Kenya. He was a gracious host and invited us to return and have a meal with him. Our meeting with President Moi began and ended with prayer—something I imagine that few, if any, heads of state or former heads of state in the world practice.

It was our privilege to consult once again with the African Nazarene University, providing guidance and suggestions regarding establishing a new law program that teaches law from a biblical perspective.

We had an opportunity to meet with three of our four longtime pastor friends during our last night in Kenya—Pastor George Muguro, Bishop Samuel Munai, and Pastor Sammy Ondieki. Bishop Reuben was unable to attend, but we had an opportunity a week or so earlier to visit him in Kibera, where he has a thriving church in the middle of the second largest slum in the world. We were blessed to bring eyeglasses and medical equipment to the medical clinic located at his church, gifts from our supporters at our home church in Orange, California.

Please pray for Kenya, as this summer they will be voting on a new Constitution. The proposed Constitution was revised to incorporate language that is similar to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, essentially providing for abortion on demand. The proposed Constitution also makes Islamic courts officially part of the Kenyan judicial system. These two issues we believe are not good for Kenya, and we are hoping that the citizens of Kenya reject the proposed Constitution, and that the country would be spared from violence during and after the election. Kenya is a country with strong Christian roots, and we pray that the church there would continue to be strong, and be a light to Kenya and all of Africa. Bwana asifiwe ("Praise the Lord" in Swahili).

John

STARDOM - the position of a star



Someone recently asked me what was the most spiritual thing that happened on our recent mission trip to Kenya. An interesting question. Many responses came to mind. I hardly knew where to begin.

I thought of how I feared a carjacking while out on the Kenyan roads at night and yet God kept us safe. I thought of our three flat tires while navigating the dangerous roads and how God protected us and provided for us each time. I thought of how a smiling group of orphan boys sang an impromptu song for me from Annie “You are Never Fully Dressed Without a Smile.” I thought of meeting the former President Daniel Moi and how we opened and closed the meeting with prayer. I thought of all the slum children in Lake Naivasha without a school and how they could be helped. I thought of the little church service in a tiny tin-roofed

shack in Kitengela and how the presence of God was powerful in worship. I thought of the wonder of God’s creatures when we gazed upon glorious animals like the giraffe, zebra and flamingo. I thought of all the testimonies of how God transforms lives and rescues people from the chains that kept them in bondage. I thought of the beautiful, most spectacular clouds in the world.

Then I thought of the event that had the deepest impact on me. It didn’t come as an earthquake. It came as a gentle whisper. A word of encouragement from my dear sister in Christ, Suzanne Galvin. Daniel 12:3 “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like stars forever.”

Those who turn many to righteousness are like stars forever. Wow. Doesn’t that make you want to shine for Jesus? It does me!

Let’s pursue wisdom as we willingly allow Him to transform us by His mighty Word. Let’s turn many to righteousness by serving others. Serving others brings them to the cross. Jesus himself is our example to follow. We will be like stars forever. That is a kind of stardom worth pursuing!

Laurie

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