

# 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 June 2011

## Kenya 2011

When we left the U.S. in April for our fifth teaching mission to Kenya, Laurie and I were prepared to see old friends, speak at schools and churches, and do our best to encourage believers wherever we went. Even though we thought we knew what to expect, we were not prepared for the overwhelming doors of opportunity that opened for us during our time in Kenya.



For the last five years my core responsibility has been to teach a group of around 30 pastors and church leaders for two weeks at the Manna Bible Institute outside Nairobi. Laurie, concurrently, leads women's seminars at various locations on prayer, women's issues, and, now, peacemaking. This time was no different, and we were blessed to meet new students who have come to further develop their ministry skills. While I had a mere five-minute drive to Manna, Laurie had a two-plus hour drive just to reach the church in Kitengela where she lead a three-day seminar.



Our first weekend brought us to the All Nations Gospel Church in Nairobi South B, an area bordering a slum. We have known the pastor of the church, Bishop Samuel Munai, for five years, and were blessed to return to speak at the two Sunday services at South B (the first in English, the second translated into Swahili). There were around one thousand believers who attended the services. After the second service Laurie taught a seminar on peacemaking for the ladies of the church.



For our second weekend we had been invited to come to Kabarak University, located about 300 kilometers from Nairobi near Lake Nakuru. Kabarak has a university, law school, high school, junior high and elementary school, and is renowned for its academic excellence and

for championing education from a Christian perspective. Last year was our first visit to Kabarak, and we were privileged to have been invited to the home of the founder of Kabarak, His Excellency, President Daniel Arap Moi, the second President of Kenya (from Kenya's independence in 1963 to 1978 Moi was the Vice-President of Kenya, and from 1978 to 2002 he was the President; the current President, Mwai Kabaki, was Moi's Vice-President). President Moi graciously spent more than an hour with us, hearing our vision, and giving us his perspective on many things affecting Kenya and the world. Kabarak's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Dankit Nassiuma, was also at the meeting.



For our visit to Kabarak this year, I was invited to speak at the Sunday chapel service. Laurie and I were joined on our excursion by Bishop Munai and Pastor George Muguro, Principal of Manna Bible Institute. Before chapel we met the campus pastor and others, and while the chapel filled with around 2,000 people, ranging from 10-year-old students, to university students, to members of the public, we waited out front. President Moi arrived with his security detail, and we followed him in a processional. I was honored to sit next to him, a man whose face appears on the coins of Kenya.

## Kenya 2011 (cont.)

After hearing several songs of special music from various student ensembles and choirs, I was introduced. I lead off with a gorilla story that had them roaring with laughter, and was blessed to challenge them to consider their calling (I Corinthians 1:26) and purpose in life. It was one of the most attentive audiences I have ever addressed, and I realized that I was looking out at the future of Kenya as I spoke to many of the leading students in the country. After the service President Moi made a point of telling the Vice Chancellor that he wanted us to come back and be part of Kabarak.



We had a mountaintop experience at Lake Nakuru, with more happening than space permits me to include. Suffice to say that doors were opened wide for us, and we were humbled to have been chosen to minister at Kabarak.

Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, the Lord's grace again exceeded our wildest dreams. We had a chance to meet the new General Overseer of the denomination (P.E.F.A.) that founded Manna Bible Institute. We had heard about Bishop Moffat, who pastors a large church in Doonholm, on the outskirts of Nairobi, and when we met him and his lovely wife, we felt an instant connection. Bishop Moffat invited us to consider speaking at a future PEFA pastor's conference where often 1-2,000 pastors assemble, and his wife invited Laurie to speak when they host a PEFA-wide women's conference. We look forward to seeing how our schedule can accommodate these future seminars. There would likely be several Manna

graduates among the pastors that would attend the pastor's conference.



The day after we met Bishop Moffat, I was invited to appear on a Christian television show that airs all over greater Nairobi. I was interviewed for half an hour by the charming host Winnie, who gave me plenty of opportunities to make a case for the resurrection (this was just a few days before Easter, which they refer to as "Resurrection Sunday" in Kenya) and talk about Rolling Stone Ministries (including why two lawyers from America keep coming back to Kenya). The interview went quite well, and we are confident that the show reached the right people who needed to hear that Christianity is an intelligent faith, rooted in history.



We left Africa on Good Friday, but before our afternoon flight out of Nairobi we stopped off at a PEFA orphanage where we had visited the year before. Seeing those beautiful children reminded us of the challenges of sub-Saharan Africa, and the scourge of H.I.V. that has taken a whole generation of parents, leaving so many children to be raised by relatives or in orphanages. I was able to toss the football (actually a rugby ball) with the boys as Laurie interacted with the girls. I

get misty eyed thinking of those dear ones, always wishing at the time that I could secret a couple of them in my suitcase and bring them back to the U.S. It is comforting to know, however, how well they are taken care of at that orphanage, including their spiritual needs, educational needs, and physical needs, due to the commitment of caring Christians. It is the compassion and sense of calling among believers from all over the world who come to Kenya to serve that has assisted the church in fulfilling her ministry of evangelism, discipleship, and ministry to the poor and needy.



Those of you who partner with us with encouragement, prayer and financial support have made possible our ministry in Kenya. We thank you for your confidence in the work of RSM, and we truly could not have done it without you. But the Lord knows our needs, and he has been meeting our needs through you so that we can continue our work.

Bwana asifiwe! ("Praise the Lord" in Swahili).

*John*





## Teaching report from Denny & Mary

We would like to thank each of you for your prayers during our April trip to a Muslim country where for the most part Christianity is not allowed. We were able to teach English to thirteen men for two weeks. We met with one group in the mornings and another group in the afternoon. The daily lessons were designed to foster discussions about family, integrity, honor, honesty, ethics, character and other topics that would naturally lead to thoughts about what it takes to lead a good life. We couldn't bring up our faith but we were allowed to respond to questions about our Lord.

During our stay we met many brave Christians who have lived in this country for some time. One of these men provided a good analogy of the type of ministry required in this country and others like it. He compared each of the students to assailing a castle with several outer walls. As we taught these students beginning English we were toppling the outer wall with the love and joy demonstrated as we began to know and work with each of them. It's amazing how close you feel to these young people as you spend time with them and learn of their hopes and desires. It is our prayer that seeds of

salvation were planted in their hearts. All of them intend to return for the intermediate lessons at which time we pray that the next wall will be toppled with the joy and love expressed by the next team. The castle keep (their hearts) lies within the outer walls and as they return for their final course of advanced English it is our prayer that they would actively seek the joy of Christ that they see in the teachers from three different teams. The group that went before us a month earlier were able to provide Bibles to four students.

Please pray for our next trip this month to a Central Asian Muslim country very similar to the one described above. We will be teaching teachers and students in separate classes, along with widows and prison ministry. Pray their hearts would come to understand Isaiah 45:22 "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other." Please pray for safety, good health, and team unity.

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26*

## Send a Pastor to Bible School

Above this article is a photo of me giving a check to Pastor George Muguro, Principal of the Manna Bible Institute. In January we discovered that around 20 of the pastors who have been attending Manna were not able to afford even the modest tuition to return to their studies. I immediately felt lead to tell George, who seemed somewhat discouraged, that I would put the word out to our Rolling Stone Ministries ("RSM") supporters and see if we could help. George was blessed that we would even make the effort.

I decided to call our campaign for raising funds for Manna, "Send A Pastor to Bible School." As the word went out via our RSM website and newsletter, and announcements I made in my "Cutting Edge" Sunday School class at Covenant Presbyterian Church as well as at our church's Wednesday night service ("Kirk Night"), the response was instant and overwhelming. We wired Pastor George \$3,600 before we left for Kenya in April, and brought with us a check for \$4,445. In short, RSM raised, through you, over \$8,000, which allowed 20 pastors to continue their biblical studies and leadership training. Pastor George was overjoyed, and repeatedly referred to the gift as "a miracle." Thanks to all who were able to contribute. I had a class of over 30 students, filled with several pastors who were there because of your generous support.





## Examine Yourself

Do you know where you will spend eternity? Do you think you are going to heaven? Why? Because you once prayed "the sinner's prayer?" Because you go to church...most Sundays? Because you were baptized? Because you know the Bible? Because you pray...sometimes. Because you are conservative? Because you hang out with Christians? Because your spouse is saved? Because you believe...what?

*But do you know Jesus?*

Jesus told us, "'Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but **only he who does the will of my Father** who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, **I never knew you.** Away from me, you evildoers!'" Matt. 7:21-23

The word Jesus uses for "knew" when he says, "I never *knew* you" is *ginōskō*, which means an intimate knowledge by experience, similar to an intimate, face to face knowledge between husbands and wives.

Those who will enter heaven will be those who *know* God through a personal relationship with His Son Jesus Christ. Those who *know* Him will obey Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. Those who claim to believe in Jesus have faith and will trust and obey.

Paul exhorts us "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you--unless, of course, you fail the test?" 2 Cor. 13:5

If you don't yet know Jesus, meet Him today and get to *know* Him by spending time with Him in prayer and in His Word. Rejoice in becoming a part of God's eternal family!



## Return to Israel

This news just in...

John has been invited back to Israel to teach in September. John and Laurie are scheduled to stay in Jerusalem (the Old City) while teaching. There are more plans still in the works regarding their return to the Holy Land, but as of this time they are waiting for confirmation. As soon as the details are firmed up, they will let you know. Needless to say, they are excited about this new invitation and opportunity to teach. Please pray for guidance and that the right doors will be opened for them this fall.



## Megan graduates from VPHS

John and Laurie are delighted to announce that on June 16, 2011 Megan graduates from Villa Park High School with highest honors, Summa Cum Laude, having earned a 4.97 GPA and 4 Medallions. And she loves Jesus!

During high school Megan took 13 AP classes, and received 5's on all her AP exams--as reported so far. She exercised her creative talents as Editor In Chief for the school magazine and yearbook, and demonstrated leadership skills as secretary of National Honor Society. Megan, a Thespian, revealed her theatrical talents in two school plays and one church play. She faithfully served others as a Teacher's Assistant for AP English Language and Composition, extensive tutoring through S2S club, teaching children's Sunday School, and volunteering at a hospital. Megan demonstrated her scientific intellect when she worked as a summer intern with the American Cancer Society at UCI, working along side college graduates and undergrads. She is a member of CSF, and a Gold Key recipient from the California Writing Project, a regional representative of the National Scholastic Writing Competition. Megan received a scholarship from the California Masonic Society for \$10,000 for her academic achievements.

Megan will be attending U.C. Berkeley in the fall and is interested in studying anthropology or peace & conflict studies. Join us in praising the Lord and praying God guides her future!

# Events 2011



January-June ~ John teaches "The Cutting Edge" adult class

Sundays 10:30 am at Covenant Pres. Church (CPC) in Orange, CA.

January 26 ~ John teaches "The Rapture" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

February 14-March 5 ~ John and Laurie travel to Israel for teaching.

March 9 ~ Laurie teaches on "Resolving Conflict Biblically" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

March 23 ~ John teaches "First to Zion" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

March 30 ~ Laurie teaches on "Peace with God, with Others, & with Ourselves" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

April ~ John and Laurie travel to Kenya for teaching.

April 30 ~ Laurie speaks on "Daughters of the King" at Bethany Bible Fellowship's Women's Spring Brunch in Westminster, CA.

May 4 ~ John teaches "Good News From Kenya" at Kirk Night at CPC in Orange, CA.

June-August ~ Sabbatical in Iowa.

June -August ~ Laurie leads women's small group study on biblical peacemaking in Panora, IA

September ~ John and Laurie travel to Israel for teaching.

## PARTNER WITH ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES

We invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with RSM today. When you offer support, you partner with RSM in the mission field and share in building the Kingdom. Becoming a Treasure Builder (a monthly partner with RSM) will go a long way to provide for basic needs to help minister more effectively to fulfill the Great Commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matt. 28:19-20*



\_\_\_\_ I will pray for RSM

\_\_\_\_ I will contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly to RSM to enable it to be a full time ministry.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a contribution to RSM in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

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RSM is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Send your gifts to: **ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES, INC.**

P.O. Box 6271

Orange, CA 92863-6271



## TEXT MESSAGES FROM GOD By John Stewart

ORDER TODAY [www.rollingtonministries.org/store](http://www.rollingtonministries.org/store)

*Text Messages From God* is the gripping story of Dave, a hard-driving, successful attorney, whose self-centered existence suddenly turns upside down by text messages he receives from a mysterious person claiming to be God. Dave, who likes to be in control and prides himself on being self sufficient, notices that the messages draw out another side of him, exposing that he is not an impenetrable fortress after all. Gradually Dave's skepticism gives way to curiosity and he plays along with captivating challenges from the message sender. As he cautiously begins to take the messages to heart, Dave is forced to deal with painful memories that he had blocked out for many years. Dave's tough shell finally begins to crack and he is faced with making a decision that could change his life forever.



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