



Dan + Connie
Crum

Missionaries to Kenya

OCTOBER 2014



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Dear Friends,

How can I encapsulate the depth and meaning of the last 26 years serving God and being a part of His Kingdom building in Kenya and East Africa? What words sum it up: beauty, challenge, wildlife, team, joy, rich, hardship, growth, drought, floods, laughter, threats, instability, success, disappointment, plenty, want, support, loneliness, ease, birth, death, harm, protection, stability, poor, family, friends, enemies, ugliness, difficulty, home.

Long ago, I wrote about life in Kenya as being one of contrasts and realize these words have rung true – a life of contrasts.

As this is our last newsletter as CMF missionaries, we could write about the growth showing accomplishment and success. In 1988, there were 61 churches with 2,241 people represented. Now in 2014, there are 170 churches with 16,000 people represented. The numbers are interesting and keep growing, but they represent real lives and that is the key. Changed, redeemed lives. People who once had no hope or salvation do now. People who lived with insecurities now live with more peace because of Christ. It's people such as Francis Yenko and Patrick Sayialel, Mary Nampaso, Nolkirrau, Jonathon – men and women who were children or young adults when we lived in Maasai communities, now lead and are committed to Christ. Men and women who were old then now live eternally in Heaven, such as Ole Kijabe and Enbirika.

The beginning meeting place of the Olepishet church with Francis and Patrick.



Our journey of deciding to go to and to leave Kenya were not quick. From the first phone call to Christian Missionary Fellowship in 1984, we boarded our first ever international flight with Sarah, age 2 1/2, and Josiah, age

10 months, in tow. Rachel joined our family in 1991, being born in Kenya.

In 2008, we began asking how much longer, Lord, and what next, as the Maasai churches became established and well grounded with not only competent, appointed leaders but national registration by the Kenyan government and land title deeds in place. Ministry shifted from full-time focus on Maasai to member, or missionary, care in 2009 with any faith-based organization or nationality working in cross-cultural settings including Kenyans working within Kenya but across tribal lines - such as Warigia, Monica, Harrison and Sammy. We touched shoulders with people working in very difficult places and challenging environments like South Sudan and northeastern Kenya bordering Somalia, and DRC. Workshops we organized and facilitated gave people tools for better interpersonal skills, a chance to tell their story following a trauma, or counsel regarding a conflict. Workers learned skills for improving member care within their own organizations, such as Samaritan's Purse, MAF, Africa Inland Mission, World Venture, SIM, people running orphanages, or with women taken out of sex trade, or medical professionals working in desert region hospitals.



Discipleship Training School at Olepishet Church.



Church building dedication.

worked through a variety of circumstances, times of prayer and fasting, and conversation with people. Not an easy decision. Kenya is where we gave the prime years of our lives, where we raised our family with a lot of moving around between worlds and people, where we built wonderful relationships and memories in places we did call home. Did it all make sense to leave at this time in life or in development of ministry? Not completely, and we thought it will require just as much faith, if not more, to return to America than it did to come to Africa in the first place. What will we go to – where will we go? But we kept moving forward.

January 2014 following back-to-back organization and facilitation of the interpersonal skills workshops in Uganda, we focused our attention on orienting and handing over the leadership of MMCT-EA to Mike and Gail Koski, faithful workers in East Africa for nearly 40 years. After our assessment and with confirmation from MMCT leadership through our supervisors and the Advisory Council, the decision was made to relocate MMCT-EA to Kampala, Uganda. This shift is currently taking place. **Continue to pray for people to join the Koskis in this greatly needed member care ministry.**



Augustin and family- Forever friends.

Memories are embedded in our minds and hearts of people, stories, growth, and healing.

By 2013, we were beginning to sense our time in Kenya was drawing to a close. God



Monica who does member care for Kenyans.

Ethiopian food was our choice for eating out, walking in the Karura forest and “breathing in” friends, church, and the beauty of Kenya was a focus. The CMF team allowed us to ship back belongings we’ve had from the beginning – that \$10 solid wooden cabinet is worth it, and there is something comforting about being able to sleep in one’s own bed when in major transition! We are forever grateful, CMF team! We had tearful good-byes, but a sense of hope, especially hearing Maasai brothers and sisters bless us with *“we will take it from here – wish you weren’t leaving, but go and be with your families.”*

Dan and I returned to Indiana at the beginning of April, hitting the ground running attending to the needs of his aging parents, spending time with financial supporters, and our own children now in Seattle, LA, and Philadelphia. After some weeks, we decided to live with Senior Crums to help provide needed assistance. Dan officially joins staff at Connection Pointe Christian Church on the west side of Indianapolis as Director of Outreach, a position that came his way quite unexpectedly but with God’s design. This position does mean periodic international travel with our first trip being to India this fall.

Hands down, a benefit to life in America is easier accessibility to our adult children and grandchildren who continue to grow and manage life with its goodness and its challenges. We have the privilege of welcoming Mehdi Rhazali into our family as he and Rachel marry this year. We are thankful to God Almighty for our children and their part in life in Kenya and in America. They have weathered storms, too.



Family time.



Packing up!



As we close this chapter of life in Kenya serving East Africa, we also acknowledge the CMF organization who has provided fellowship, team structure, accountability, faithful love and prayer. We also say thank you to the Mobile Member Care Ministry because of what we learned, grew through, and experienced. We have been blessed.

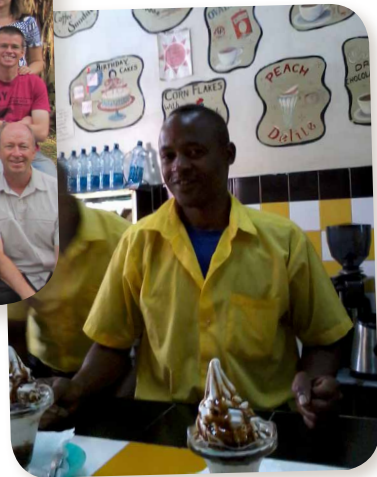
Thank you to all our financial supporters; those who prayed daily - which we never knew about; periodic anonymous financial donors; those who sent personal gifts of monies we could do anything with; those who visited, sent gifts and letters-who cared from a distance. You have been an incredible value to our lives and ministry. Thank you! May God continue to put on your mind those to pray for in East Africa – the Maasai, the Turkana, those yet to hear the full truth of Jesus, those waiting for water, those working in the hardship posts of deep poverty and war-torn, risky areas, those people also working outside of their own home culture.

God bless you, keep you, put His smiling face on you and find you faithful to the very end.

Blessed be the Strong Name of Jesus!

Dan & Connie

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*Thank you for
26 years!*

