

Reflections from a Participant of the 2010 MBC Missions Trip To East Africa

Going on missions to any country is no small feat. It takes great sacrifice, commitment, study, and certainly monies to go on missions abroad. Given that, I answered the biblical call to "Go" according to Matt 28: 19-20 and went this time to Kenya, East Africa. There were many aspects of the trip that made a lasting impact on my life that I will share.



I went with our team of short-term missionaries to participate in a National Christian Women's Conference and Pastors and Leadership Seminar. For the **National Christian Women's Conference**, there were well over 600 women who came from near and far. They made great sacrifices to be a part of this mighty move of God. Many brought their children and slept on the floor of the compound.

They began their intercession and worship in the early morning and continued to worship even after we left for the day. Their tenacity and stamina to worship and offer praise to God was extremely amazing as they went for hours. They danced inside and outside on the church ground. No one to my knowledge, left once they went outside – now that was surprising. There was even a Jesus march from the church thru the main part of the small town and back to the church.



I saw lives changed by the ministry of the Word of God. Each one of us had a part to play whether it was preaching, teaching, giving a testimony, praying, or serving. We also praised God alongside our new Kenyan Christians. It was indeed a wonderful time.

Each Team member touched lives. I saw people getting healed, delivered, encouraged and set free by the power of the living God. Only God knows the impacts we had on each life. That included the women, the children and even the men who were present. And, for all we know there were those who recommitted their lives, had new hope, and even got saved - turned their lives over to Jesus. God knows who and certainly knew our hearts' desire for the people.



Then, we had the **Pastors and Leaders Seminar**. During this event, we visibly witnessed 3 people who gave their life to the Lord. (2 females and 1 Islamic Moslem male) Again, the power of God was present, and God moved by His Holy Spirit. There was such a great hunger and thirst for the Word of God. We provided training for over 100 Pastors and Leaders.

As parting gifts, the church where we ministered adorned us in Masai garb and made us honorary members of the tribe. This was so exciting. I could now trace my historical roots back to the Masai tribe even if it was for a brief moment.



As part of the trip, we toured the countryside. This was to get a feel for the culture of the people. We went to one of the Kenyan National Parks and saw their famous flamingos among other wild life species. There was also a trip to the market and other places of interest.

In addition, the food in some ways was similar to the US. They ate a lot of rice and being from Louisiana was a plus as I grew up eating lots of rice. They had fish, chicken, beef, pork chops and even goat. The fish which was tilapia usually came with the head included unless you instructed otherwise. The Kenyans also believe in eating lots of vegetables so there was quite a bit of carrots, spinach, and cabbage to name a few. To my surprise, I actually could eat the cabbage without having heartburn. And, it was tasty.

One of the scariest things I experienced was the "Baboon Scam". The lead Baboon distracted the team by posing for photos in the open gazebo while his cohorts entered the van from the opened door and the opened top of the van. They managed to escape with a bag of candy and cookies. No purses were taken thank the Lord. We later saw one of the Baboons with his share of the stash.



My worldview which is shaped by my values and belief system was challenged by what I experienced this time on the continent of Africa. I felt a stronger sense of connection with the peoples of Kenya even though my paternal grandfather always said we came from Ethiopia.

I saw firsthand again that God is in fact a missionary God and that he is at work in the hearts of men, women, boys, and girls around the globe. I believe that God is expecting us to do our part in proclaiming His gospel and that of making disciples. And, to be a blessing to the peoples in tangible ways.

Finally, our team gave a special presentation of what God did from a team perspective as well as what He did individually. It was indeed a tremendous blessing to be a part of being on missions with God and with our mission minded Team!

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