

The God of the desert is closer to his people.

Isaiah 43:19b "I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Dear Praying Families,

Calvary greetings in Jesus' name!

Settle in with a cup of coffee and savor the goodness of the Lord in the last four months.

Here's the Executive Summary; details and testimonies follow.

Your prayers and support have not been in vain! *"My dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."* (1 Corinthians 15:58)

- Four months, six missions, one five-hundred-year flood, two car breakdowns, one snake bite, ongoing riots, one wedding of an EHN team leader, and more than 500 Muslims and Traditional Religion followers accepted Christ
- Organized mission trainings on power encounters in traditional and Islamic dominated areas, the Christian response to Islam, and "Orality" - how to disciple converts who don't read.
- Linked the Kenyan Christian Mission Hospital Network to the Isiolo Health Center for placement of Interns for experience and cross-cultural exposure.
- Distributed food relief to flood victims in Merti (northeastern Kenya) and the Huruma slum in Nairobi, home to one of our biggest mission sending churches in the Eleventh Hour Network. Seventy-six people in this community were swept away by the flooding.
- Hosted visiting mission teams from Texas, Florida, and South Carolina.
- Testimonies galore!



Beginning in chapter 10, the Book of Acts recounts Paul's three missionary journeys. In that same spirit, this is the account of our 2nd Quarter Missionary Journey.



April – Duruma Mission, Team Member Wedding, Devastating Rain

Shortly after Easter in April, we traveled to Mombasa to encourage and equip the clergy of the Anglican Diocese of Mombasa in mission. Mombasa, a major port city on the Indian Ocean, was the original headquarters of early missionary

activity in East Africa. Sadly, the area is dominated today by Muslims and followers of African Traditional Religion. The Eleventh Hour Network has partnered with the Anglican Diocese to reignite a commitment to mission among the unreached people groups in their Diocese. This year the focus was on the Duruma people who are a mixture of Muslims and followers of African Traditional Religion. Their practice of African Traditional Religion involves a lot of witchcraft, divination, and casting of curses on one another. This led them to establish their homes very far from one another and to live isolated lives in scattered communities. This has made it very difficult to plant churches because of the great distances involved between families.

The pre-mission preparation involved a team of three lecturers from Africa International University in Nairobi who taught on the Christian response to Islam, the Church's response to reaching the unreached, and power encounters in traditional and Islamic-dominated areas. The local missionaries from the Diocese, accompanied by the Eleventh Hour Network, then spent a week doing door-to-door evangelistic visits to the scattered Duruma communities and evening revival meetings. We witnessed to over 680 households and more than 118 people gave their lives to Christ.

Duruma Testimony – a “Power Encounter”

Sarah (not her real name) was abandoned by her husband for another woman and left to care for their five children on her own. Two of our missionaries reached her house one morning, shared the Gospel with her, and prayed for her. That night she attended the evening revival meeting and stood up to give her testimony. By the time our missionaries had reached her house, the children had not eaten for three days and she was in such despair that she was planning to commit suicide later that day. But after the team prayed for her, she was delivered from the spirit of suicide and set free. She shared this testimony before the congregation and accepted the Lord Jesus that night as her personal Savior.



The devastating El Nino rains began just as the Duruma mission concluded and seriously prolonged our journey home. We had no idea at that time what destruction was yet to come from the rain.

April ended with a big milestone for one of our strong EHN Executive Team members – his wedding. What a joy it was to preside at his wedding and encourage them in their new life together.

May is for Maralal and Medicine

In May the Isiolo Health Center received a Resident Doctor from Chagoria Mission Hospital in Meru. This was the first of what we hope will be many Residents coming to Isiolo for cultural

exposure and a rotation. It was the result of our team at the Health Center drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kenyan Christian Mission Hospitals network to send interns and residents to our clinic for their learning and to support the clinic's health outreach ministries.



In June, we were blessed to receive a recent college graduate from Texas. She had first visited us in Isiolo with a few other youths from her church when she was in high school. She had seen been to college and studied nursing. After graduation she returned to spend ten days with us in Isiolo and volunteered at the Health Center to experience medical mission work first-hand. Betty spent a lot of time mentoring her.



The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya spent a week in Maralal on a mission to encourage the new church plants and train the leaders. It was a joy for me to be on his team, and an opportunity to reflect on the contribution the Eleventh Hour Network has made to growing the Body of Christ in this under-reached region. In only two years we have planted over 11 churches, and donated 6 motorcycles and a used Toyota Land Cruiser for evangelistic work in the region.

A week later, all the clergy of Maralal Diocese came to Nairobi for a week of rest, exposure to growing churches in the capital city, and strategic planning for ongoing mission in the Diocese.



June and Early July – Visitors, Mission, Visitors, Mission, Visitors, Mission

The first stop in this intensive six weeks was in Kajiado, near the border of Tanzania. The Kajiado area is dominated by the Maasai, a nomadic people group observing African Traditional Religion. In recent years, however, they are under a lot of pressure to convert to Islam.

The Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Kajiado and the Eleventh Hour Network gathered about 50 senior leaders from the Diocese for a week-long mission. We began with training from experts on “Orality Mission.” The Maasai culture is a very strong oral culture and the training equipped the team with

skills in how to disciple new converts using oral techniques that don't rely on having to read.

After the training, we set out on mission – door-to-door evangelism and evening revival meetings. We shared the Gospel with more than 1,000 people. 216 people gave their life to Christ and six people were delivered from drug and alcohol abuse.

Kajiado Testimony

There were three families who were seriously addicted to drugs and alcohol, which had led them to living a life in squalor with poor hygiene, malnourished, and dirty clothes. Yet, when they heard the Gospel they were touched and gave their lives to Jesus. The mission team took it upon themselves to help them get cleaned up. They washed their dirty hair and shaved their heads. They gave them new clothes and fed the family a nourishing meal. The next day they all showed up at the church that was the mission base. The women joined the other women in the kitchen, and the men joined the missionaries who were going door-to-door. Their enthusiasm because of their new life in Christ was very contagious and everyone was amazed at the instant transformation they saw before their eyes.



After the Kajiado mission, I picked up a dear brother in the Lord from the US who comes every year to support our mission outreaches. We then traveled to our second stop on this intensive mission – the town of Garissa near the Somali border. Garissa is dominated by Kenyan Somalis and is a heavily Islamized town. We spent the weekend there encouraging the few believers, preaching at the Cathedral, and supporting them in mission planning. The road to Garissa

was seriously damaged by the El Nino rains and was almost washed out in sections. Some communities lost everything in the flooding and their homes were completely washed away. It was shocking to see the devastation. We prayed for them and are trusting the Lord to provide for their needs.



From Garissa we traveled to Isiolo via Merti, one of the original places Eleventh Hour Network helped plant a church. Through your support, we received funds to purchase food relief and were able to distribute it to affected communities in Merti and later in the Huruma slum in Nairobi. Huruma is the home of our biggest partner church, Evangelical Victory Church. Like many areas, the slum was severely flooded and 76 people were swept away. Homes were destroyed and the little that people had was

completely lost. We were able to help a little bit by providing some basic food items to keep them going as they considered how to rebuild their lives.



We then passed through the Nairobi airport to pick up two men from one of our supporting churches in South Carolina. We then set out for our 3rd stop on this intensive mission. Our destination was Marsabit and the Chalbi Desert in the far reaches of northern Kenya. This day, however, was the day that a group of Nairobi youth called Generation Z (Gen-Z) began major nation-wide demonstrations against the

government. Rioting ensued followed by deadly clashes with the police and buildings set on fire. What should have been a five-hour trip from Nairobi to Isiolo took us eleven hours, as we took detours to dodge street riots and got stuck in major traffic jams in the process. It was very scary, but the Lord protected us and we reached Isiolo tired, but safe. The political instability in Kenya is still ongoing and the demonstrations take place now two days a week. Please pray for peace to prevail.



In spite of it all, the mission must go on! We left Isiolo the following day to proceed to Marsabit to meet the mission team. I decided to use an old Land Rover that had been recently sold to us for a very good price by an American missionary family who returned to the US.

My experience with this car had begun a few weeks earlier in a disturbing way. The car had been parked for a long time in someone's garage. After getting it serviced, I set out...only to quickly realize that the car had no brakes. Oh my... I drove slowly until I found the nearest garage. I left the car there for three days while I made my way to my destination using other means.

Now that the used-but-new-to-me Land Rover had working brakes, we decided to use that car to drive from Isiolo to Marsabit with our three visitors for the mission. There's a part of the trip from Isiolo to Marsabit that goes through the desert. It was on that lonely and hot section of the road that the Land Rover broke down again. Fortunately, we were able to get the car fixed after a long time and finally reached Marsabit.

Our visitors had so far been with us for only two days. We hadn't even started the mission yet. But we had driven through riots and the car had broken down in the middle of the desert. It was definitely a challenging start to their first-time visit to Kenya.

Nevertheless, once we finally got to Marsabit the visitors gave two wonderful days of teaching to about 40 pastors and evangelists. At the conclusion of the pre-mission preparation, we divided up the group into two teams – I led the team doing outreach in the greater Marsabit area, and another person led the team doing mission in the Chalbi desert, northwest of Marsabit. What a great mission it was, and so full of God working in power. The two teams were able to reach about 2,000 people with the Gospel.

Testimony – The Special Family in the Devil Worship Village

One of the villages was actually dedicated to a devil worship practice that was well known in the area. Most denominations and evangelistic ministries found them to be very resistant and had given up on them. Still, we were not discouraged. We went house-to-house. Some were willing to talk with us. Others didn't want to have anything to do with us, and a few even threatened to attack us if we didn't leave.

There was one family, however, that was special. There was a young Muslim man there who was very open to the gospel and we led him to faith in Jesus. It turns out that his mother is a Christian who had recently moved to the village. We worshiped together in their home and linked them with the pastor of a church in a nearby village who has now sent an evangelist for follow-up.

Healing Testimony

In one of the first villages we reached, the community brought to us a very sick woman who wanted prayer. The mission team gathered around her and started singing praise songs in their local language and praying for her. While we were still singing and praying, she suddenly jumped up and started praising the Lord. He had healed her instantly. "Thank you, Jesus. You are an awesome God."

Jesus Film and Snake Bite Testimony

In one of the villages we visited, they had never seen the Jesus Film. They knew nothing about the real life of Jesus, why he was born, why he was crucified, and why God raised him from the dead. The entire village was overwhelmed by the message of what the Lord had done for them. In the end, almost everyone in the village gave their life to Christ.

But, then, as I was trying to open the back of the car to pack up the film equipment, I felt a very sharp pain on my finger. It felt like I had slammed the car door on my finger, but the door wasn't open yet. I moved to the light to look at my finger and there was blood on it. It was then that I realized I had been bitten by a snake curled up in the spare tire attachment at the back of the car. We immediately went to the local dispensary to get antivenom. But, it wasn't in stock. The closest place to get it was six hours away in Marsabit.

I looked at my three American friends and said, "The only option we have is to call 911" meaning...the Lord is the only one we can call on in this situation. The team gathered around me and prayed fervently. I am writing today to testify that the Lord healed me. We were able to move to the next village, proclaiming the Gospel, evangelizing those who would listen, teaching the few who received Christ, and praying for healing and deliverance.



I remember explaining to the visitors that “the God of the desert is closer to his people.” We had seen and experienced this ourselves personally. In the Bible the desert is almost always the place where God sent his people to learn to trust him. That’s what we were doing on this mission this year in the desert.

The truth of Mark 16.15-18 became vivid to us on this mission: *“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,*



but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

Praises and Thanksgivings

- We thank God that our sons Emmanuel and Matthew finished the 10th and 8th grades. At the end of August Emmanuel will start 11th grade and Matthew will join 9th grade. It is amazing how time is flying.
- We thank God for His provision through you of resources, encouragement, and strength to achieve our ministry goals.
- We thank God for the OHI Medical Centre in Isiolo that is having great impact in the community through the medical services, water project and the women’s empowerment program.
- We thank God that the Isiolo borehole project is now complete! The solar water pump and all the plumbing has now been installed. The tank is now ready to supply water for the OHI Medical Centre and the community.
- We thank God that the government of Kenya has given us the permit to expand the medical centre in Isiolo to construct a two-story building on the current plot of land. Two of our supporting families have already given us enough money to lay the foundation. God willing, before the end of the year we will have the groundbreaking and lay the foundation.
- We thank God for Betty’s ministry at the government School for the Deaf in Isiolo.
- Emmanuel and Matthew raised support from their friends at school and Betty got contributions from local friends and some families in the US. Together they have been able to buy sanitary materials for the girls, underwear for the boys, and sandals for more than 80 kids. Betty also provides breakfast for them twice a month and leads Sunday worship with them. What a blessing it has been for everyone.

Prayers

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- Currently, the entire family is in the US for a short visit. If you've made it this far, then you may be as tired from reading as we are from having lived the last several months. Please pray that we may find streams of living water and rest for our bodies and souls.

- Emmanuel has only two more years of high school before going to college. He has his sights ultimately set on medical school. Please pray for us to find a good college that will help him transition from missionary life in Kenya to American college life, provide a strong academic foundation for medical school, and scholarships to pay for it all!

- Please pray for our ongoing church planting mission among the unreached in our six principal locations. It requires significant financial resources to do the work.
- The famous Land Rover now also needs an engine overhaul and we need \$3000 to do the job.
- We need \$10,000 to purchase Piccolo Xpress Blood Chemistry analyzer; it is a portable clinical chemistry system designed for accurate, near – patient testing.
- We need \$15,000 for the next women's empowerment group 6-month training, which also includes a matching fund upon graduation that provides micro-business start-up kits.
- We need \$5,000 to purchase 3 motor bikes to enable the pastors of the newly planted churches to move around the vast region for ongoing evangelism and discipleship.
- Please pray for the Lord to provide us with two full-time staff to help me in coordinating field ministry, administration, and communication.
- Please pray our supporting churches to consider sending us short and long term missionaries to join us, especially people with skills in civil engineering, nursing and other medical disciplines, discipleship, mentoring of pastoral leaders, and administration.
- Finally, please pray for the nation of Kenya and the surrounding countries for stability, and for the current political turmoil to be resolved peacefully.

Online donations can be sent to the link below.

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