

MY MISSION TRIPS INTO EAST AFRICA



Kenya

Rwanda




FEBRUARY / MARCH 2015

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trips 35 & 36

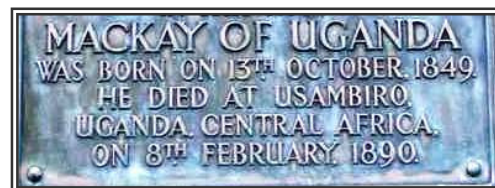
INTRODUCTION

The Lord has graciously opened many doors for me to teach the Bible across Africa this year. Mission trips are planned to Kenya, Rwanda, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In addition, our missionary college is full; we have had the largest intake of first year students for many years. I will be giving 25 lectures a week and leading an evening Bible study every Thursday, which is wonderful for me. The bishops of KZN have also asked me to act as Rector for our Church in Imbali for 2015 ... so my plate is full. How I thank the Lord for every opportunity to teach the Word and lead precious souls to Christ across Africa, the continent I love and want to give my life for.

During the December holidays, I was able to read Henry Morton Stanley's two volumes on  **DARKEST AFRICA** which give us a record of his explorations throughout Central Africa. He did an amazing job in opening up places like the Congo, for missionaries to later follow and plant Churches. But in reading these two volumes, I was so deeply stirred by what he said of two of my heroes - Alexander MacKay and David Livingstone - two unbelievable men who did so much to open up Africa for the Gospel. Listen to what Stanley wrote of them:



"**MACKAY** has thousands of books, in the dining-room, bedroom, and the church, everywhere. Books! Ah, loads upon loads of them!" And while I was sipping real coffee, and eating homemade bread and butter for the first time for thirty months, I thoroughly sympathized with MacKay's love of books. But it becomes quite clear why, amongst so many books, and children, and outdoor work, Mackay cannot find leisure to brood and become morbid, and think of "drearinesses", wildernesses, despair and loneliness.' A clever writer later wrote a book about a man who spent much time in Africa, which from beginning to end is a long-drawn wail. It would have cured both writer and hero of all moping to have seen the manner of MacKay's life. He has no time to fret and groan and weep, and God knows if ever man had reason to think of "graves and worms and oblivion," and to be doleful and lonely and sad, Mackay had, when, after murdering his Bishop, and burning his pupils, and strangling his converts, and clubbing to death his dark friends, Mwanga turned his eye of death on him. And yet the little man met it with calm blue eyes that never winked. To see one man of this kind, working day after day for twelve years bravely, and without a syllable of complaint or a moan amid the "wildernesses", and to hear him lead his little flock to show forth God's loving kindness in the morning, and His faithfulness every night, is worth going a long journey, for the moral courage and contentment that one derives from it."



How I long to one day become a man like that, Mackay was truly an amazing man, someone "worth going a long journey to be with".



When I was commissioned, while yet a very young man, for the relief of **DAVID LIVINGSTONE**, the missionary, I had no very fixed idea as to what manner of man he was. The newspapers described him as worthy of the Christian worlds' best regard; privately men whispered strange things of him. One, that he had married an African princess, and was comfortably domiciled in Africa; another, that he was something of a misanthrope, and would take care to maintain a discreet distance from any European who might be tempted to visit him. Not knowing whom to believe, I proceeded to him with indifference, ready to take umbrage, but I parted from him in tears. The newspapers were right in his case."

When this hardened explorer Stanley left Livingstone, he was in tears ... what a testimony to the life of Livingstone.

So now, I head off, to follow in the footsteps of Mackay and Livingstone and Stanley, what a huge privilege!!



The other book I read was on  **The life and ministry of ROBERT GRAY**, the first Anglican bishop in South Africa, who came out to Africa from England to develop the Anglican work. At one time he was discouraged, his health had collapsed, and he went back to England to recover. Listen to what the book says:

"And now, in England, with another, greater cloud coming over the horizon, he must have been tempted to give up the struggle. He had been there long enough to watch the autumn fade into the winter and the winter blossom into spring. There were so many loved ones who were always imploring him to stay. Here, in some gentle country parish, surely it was possible to serve God as faithfully as in that sultry atmosphere beyond the seas. Wasn't life in England his natural inheritance? So his friends, and voices in his own mind, may have argued. But he knew he dared not listen. There was another, more compelling sound in his ears to which he felt bound to respond. This was the call of Africa, which, once heard, seems never to cease to haunt the mind. Fifteen years before, scarcely dreaming what it was to which he was being called, **ROBERT GRAY** had heard his call. There could be no withdrawing now."

Nothing could take him away from AFRICA "this was the call of Africa, which once heard, seems never to cease to haunt the mind." Wow ... I understand that and like these three men, I dedicate myself afresh to Africa, to serve her precious people and to extend the Kingdom of Jesus.

So enjoy this journal of my trips into Kenya and Rwanda.

Kenya

Republic of Kenya

Africa

Geography

Most people live in the fertile plateaus of the south and west. Much of the north and east is desert. Only 8.9% of the land is cultivable.

Population: 40,862,900

Capital: Nairobi

Urbanites: 22.2%

Peoples

Peoples: 115 (31% unreached)

Official language: English,

Swahili Languages: 74

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

There is full freedom of religion and much of the population professes to be Christian.



Answers and Challenges for Prayer

1 Kenya's continued key role as a solid base for Christian ministry to Africa and the world.

2 Kenya has 36%, or 13 million Evangelicals - Africa's second highest percentage and nearly equal to all Evangelicals in Europe.

3 The growth of a missions' vision in Kenya's churches. Kenya is moving from a mere mission's vision to a reality. *Finish the Task* movement is mobilizing the Church for saturation church planting and for reaching every unreached people in the nation.

1 Praise God for the great freedom to preach the gospel since independence. Pray for the receptivity of the people and for the exciting growth of the Church.

2 The Protestant and indigenous churches have grown fast, and the proportion of Evangelicals is high. The **Africa Inland Church**, the daughter body birthed out of the large missionary input of **AIM**. Few countries in Africa have been more extensively evangelized.

4 Long-term and rapid growth has brought its problems:

a) Nominalism has become a major issue.

b) Tribalism and tribal customs have caused endless divisions. Pray for unity.

c) The need for trained leaders for the more than 80,000 congregations gives cause for concern.

5 Missions vision has significantly altered Kenya's church scene. A large and increased number of Kenyans are serving cross-culturally within Kenya or abroad. Pray for their missionary endeavours.

6 Foreign missions have seen great fruit in Kenya, but their role is changing. Since Kenyans are clearly capable of leading national ministries, expats focus more on partnering with nationals in pioneer outreach, Bible teaching and service ministries.

MY DIARY

FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

Today I catch the first flight out of Pietermaritzburg so I must get up earlier in order to spend time with the Lord in Bible reading and prayer. My readings were from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. This is critical to listen to God at the start of the day. After then spending time in prayer, as you know, I read from "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers. Today he wrote:

"Leave Him to be the source of all your dreams and joys and delights, and go out and obey what He has said. If you are in love, you do not sit down and dream about the one you love all the time - you go and do something for him - and this is what Jesus Christ expects us to do."

From Pietermaritzburg I flew to Johannesburg and from there on to Nairobi. It will be wonderful to be back there. I will never forget, last time I was in Nairobi I preached 4 times in the A.I.M. church on the Sunday and each service was packed with 2000 people. Jason Musyoka one of our past students, kindly sets up these visits for me. One of the church branches has started a group of students who are studying our C.Th programme using the MegaVoice Audio Envoy, so I will be meeting with the students, preaching on Sunday and leading a seminar for the Church leadership. It is a very full programme for me, which is what I like.

For this trip, I have brought an old classic missionary  book to read
"THE JUBILEE STORY OF THE CHINA INLAND MISSION" by Marshall Broomhall.

It looks wonderful; so on my way up to Nairobi I started reading it. As you know, **HUDSON TAYLOR** started the C.I.M. so listen to how he describes his conversion, the wonder of his coming to Christ.

CONVERSION

"Well do I remember that occasion," he wrote in later years, "how in the gladness of my heart I poured out my soul before God, and again and again confessed my grateful love to Him who had done everything for me - who had saved me when I had given up all hope and even desire for salvation. I besought Him to give me some work to do for Him, as an outlet for love and gratitude; some self-denying service, no matter what it might be, however trying and trivial; some thing with which He would be pleased and that I might do for Him who had done so much for me. Well I do remember, as in unreserved consecration I put myself, my life, my friends, my all, upon the altar, the deep solemnity that came over my soul with the assurance that my offering was accepted. The presence of God became unutterably real and blessed; and though but a child ... I remember stretching myself on the ground and lying there silent before Him with unspeakable awe and unspeakable joy."



Nairobi International Airport was humming with people but as I came out of the arrival hall, there was Pastor Sammy and Shadrach to meet me. We immediately made our way to the pastor's home, enjoyed a cup of tea, and then headed off to the Church for my first meeting. I preached from Jude v 17-25 on "SURVIVING IN THE LAST DAYS" and it seemed to have been a blessing to them. There was a wonderful group of men, grounded in the Bible so I enjoyed some rich fellowship with them. Afterwards we went back along a bumpy and busy road to the pastor's home, enjoyed a lovely supper and then I headed for my room ... the traffic is horrendous, packed with busses, matatus, taxis and boda bodas with the tuk-tuks cutting in everywhere ...

It is wonderful to be back, now to spend the evening with my Bible preparing for tomorrow and reading this classic missionary book ... wow ... so very privileged.

TAYLOR'S CALL TO CHINA

"Never shall I forget the feeling that came over me then. Words can never describe it. I felt I was in the presence of God, entering into covenant with the Almighty. I felt as though I wished to withdraw my promise, but could not. Something seemed to say, "Your prayer is answered, your conditions are accepted." And from that time the conviction never left me that I was called to China."

It is now late, let me fall asleep right in the heart of Africa, but let me bring you up to date on the AIC denomination, it is fantastic to be amongst them.

In 1895, **PETER CAMERON-SCOTT** came out to Kenya as a missionary.



Sadly, his ministry was very short and he died at the age of 29, BUT as a result of what he did, the AFRICA INLAND MISSION began.

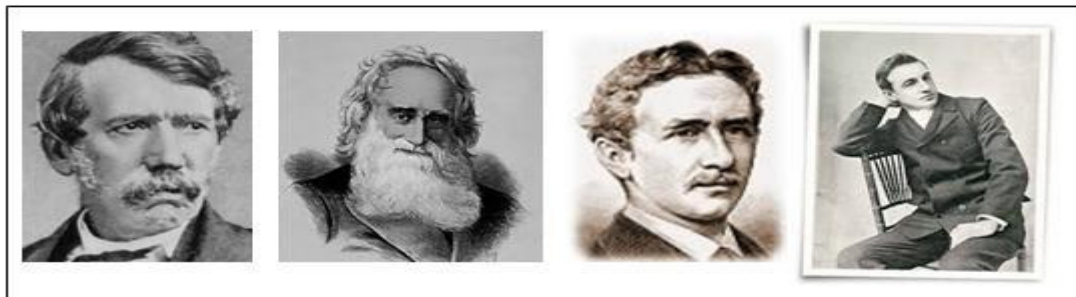
Out of the work of A.I.M. grew the **AFRICA INLAND CHURCH**.

Today it is one of the largest denominations in Kenya, is soundly evangelical, passionate for missions, and numbers about 6 million. Across Kenya, the A.I.C. is divided into 14 districts, so I am working in the **DANDORA** district with Pastor Sammy Muthuka



It is fantastic to be among these precious people, for me a real privilege and maybe in the kindness of God, doors for training and teaching will open in the future up here in Kenya.

I was so hoping to visit the grave of Peter Cameron-Scott but it is too far away so, God willing, I will visit it on my next trip. But again the work of those early pioneering missionaries was phenomenal, Livingstone in Malawi and Zambia, McKay in Uganda, Scott here in Kenya and Bingham, Moffat and so many others brought the Gospel to Africa.



David Livingstone

Robert Moffat

Alexander McKay

Peter Cameron-Scott

SATURDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

Amazing to wake up and know I am in Kenya, the place where so many of the pioneer missionaries did such an incredible work. Today my Bible readings continued from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. After my time in prayer, Oswald Chambers reminded me:

"have I ever been carried away to do something for God not because it was my duty, nor because it was useful, nor because there was anything in it at all beyond the fact that I love Him ... perfect love casts out all that when we are abandoned to God."

Before breakfast, I spent some time reading from this great book on the history of the first 50 years of the China Inland Mission. Listen to what HUDSON TAYLOR wrote to his mother concerning his call to China:

CALL TO MISSIONS

"Oh mother, I cannot tell you, I cannot describe how I long to be a missionary – to carry the Gospel to poor perishing sinners, to spend and to be spent for Him who died for me. I feel as if for this I could give up everything, every idol, however dear ... I feel as if I could not live if something is not done for China."

Such moving words which I can relate to so very much. Now off to breakfast and then teach the Bible all day until 6:00pm....



Dandora Church building

Church Missions Department Board

Church Mission Statement

What a brilliant day!! Taught the group of Distance Study learners all morning, then spoke to a leader's seminar all afternoon, surely nothing could be better than this, training and equipping Christians in Africa. Being in this church is a huge privilege, a strong evangelical, missionary-minded church is very seldom seen (their Missions Department is represented by 52 ministers ... the photo above captures it

Contacts have now been made and I think some great doors are about to open up here in Kenya. We made our way home to a lovely supper and then I was able to do some reading. So many now want to come to KMBC for the Missions Course, it looks promising.

What a great day!!! Exhausted after teaching all day so how better to end the day reading this great book. Listen to this quote from REV. DYER; it tares the heart apart:

DYER

"Do you ask me what I think of China, looking at it from the gates of the grave? Oh, my heart is big to the overflow: it swells, and enlarges, and expands, and is nigh unto bursting. If I thought anything could prevent my dying for China, the thoughts would crush me. Our only wish is to live for China, and to die in pointing the Chinese TO HIS REDEEMING BLOOD, AND SAY BEHOLD THE WAY TO GOD!" Rev. Samuel Dyer.

(Father of the first Mrs. Hudson Taylor, in a letter to his sister written at the bedside of his dying child.)

SUNDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

I will be preaching at three services today, which makes my time with the Lord so very important. Never will I forget what Leonard Ravenhill once said:

"there is nothing worse than a half-filled Christian trying to overflow."

My readings continued with Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians after which Oswald Chambers wrote:

"If hopes are being disappointed just now, it makes that they are being purified. There is nothing noble the human mind has ever hoped for or dreamed of that will not be fulfilled."

What an encouragement that is. Before breakfast I again so enjoyed reading my book on the early missionaries to China.

THE
NEED

It was while **Hudson Taylor** was in this state of heart and mind that his old friend, Mr. George Pearse, concerned about his health, invited him to Brighton. Concerning the crisis which followed, we must quote Mr. Taylor's own words. These are as follows:

"On Sunday, June 25th, 1865, unable to bear the sight of a congregation of a thousand or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security, while millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual agony; and there the Lord conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered myself to God for this service. I told Him that all the responsibility as to issue and consequences must rest on Him; that as His servant, it was mine to obey and to follow Him – His, to direct, to care for, and to guide me and those who labour with me. Need I say that peace at once flowed into my burdened heart? There and then I asked Him for twenty-four fellow-workers, two for each of the eleven inland provinces which were without a missionary, and two for Mongolia; and writing the petition on the margin of the Bible I had with me, I returned home with a heart enjoying rest such as it had been a stranger to for months, and with an assurance that the Lord would bless His own work, and that I should share in the blessing."



The three services went so well and were all packed. I preached on **"THE NOMINAL CHRISTIAN"** at the 2 morning services and afterwards there was a wonderful response as souls were saved. In the afternoon, I preached on Hebrews 12 on **"RUNNING THE RACE"**. It was something wonderful to be in an African congregation, which was packed, the majority were under 40 years of age and the men and women were about equal. Being evangelical there was none of the charismatic influence you find in so many Churches across Africa. We again enjoyed lunch together which had been lovingly prepared by the women, making it a day never to be forgotten. Amazingly, they just want me to come back; I think they loved the teaching. Somehow, we really bonded, they loved having me.

It has been fantastic preaching at all 3 services but now I can spend time finishing this book which has touched my heart, then get ready to fly home ... then back to my teaching at KMBC, preparing pastors for Africa.

Read these three quotes slowly, they show the missionary's heart:

"I hold not my life of any account, as dear unto myself, so that I may accomplish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God."
St. Paul.

"But I do humbly conceive that when we devote ourselves to missionary work, we should lay our all, yea, and our lives too, upon the missionary altar; and then joy, come sorrow; come success, come disappointment; come sickness, come health; come life, come death; all, and everything, shall be a sweet privilege in the service of such a Master as Jesus Christ."
Rev. Samuel Dyer.

O that I had a martyr's heart, if not a martyr's death and a martyr's crown.
J. Hudson Taylor.

AFRICA IS FULL OF LOVELY SURPRISES.....

When I had finished preaching, the pastor called me to the front, sat me on a chair and I was made an **"elder of Kenya"** given the name MUSYOKA which means "come again".

I was given a hat and T-shirt
A Kenyan blanket
The Chief's "stick" of authority

And then they prayed for me ... I got all choked up ... it meant so much to me to see their warmth and love.



Being made an "Elder of Kenya"



MONDAY, 23 FEBRUARY

Today I will be flying at odd hours so did my readings on the plane and continued this morning from Exodus, Luke, Job and 1 Corinthians. Afterwards Oswald Chambers was very challenging, listen to what he wrote:

"according to Jesus Christ, we are called to be the door mat of other men, their spiritual leader, but never their superior. If we are devoted to the cause of humanity, we shall soon be crushed and broken hearted, for we shall often meet with more ingratitude from men than we would from a dog."

By God's grace, I want to become like that, as I move through Africa. It has been a great visit and very blessed to visit Kenya again.

- Being with the students was exhilarating, they are fired up
- Preaching on Sunday was a real privilege and such a joy
- Spending time with the Pastor and his leadership was special
- Reading that great book was fantastic
- Seeing what the Envoys can accomplish is so encouraging
- Now pray that some will come to KMBC in the future

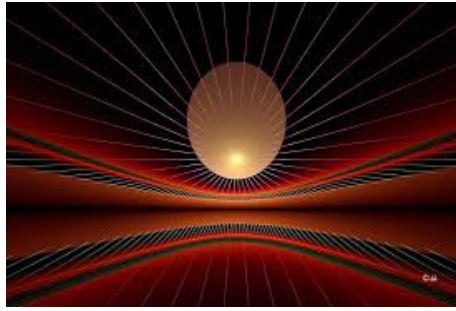
From Nairobi, I flew down to Johannesburg, and then on to Pietermaritzburg, both were excellent flights. Time to catch up tonight then tomorrow I will be giving 5 lectures at KMBC and giving a tutorial to all our Diploma in Missions students ... so privileged

Our past students are all over Africa, some of them are even pasturing Churches in England, Pakistan, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, which is amazing. My dream when I started this College was to train pastors and missionaries especially for Africa, so it is so humbling but so wonderful to now see students all over teaching the Word. **OSWALD CHAMBERS** who also ran a Bible College wrote what so portrays my own heart and vision:

"it was not its practical activities that are the strength of this Bible Training College, its whole strength lies in the fact that here you are put into soak before God. Here in this College, God is at work, bending, moulding, doing just as He chooses ... one student a year who hears God's call would be sufficient for God to have called this College into being. This College as an organization is not worth anything, it is not academic it is for nothing else but for God to help Himself to lives."

I relate so much to that - it is amazing and that summarizes everything at KMBC for me ... it is for nothing else but for God to help Himself to lives. Over these 29 years over 250 have now gone out ...

How better to close than with the African Blessing I love it



*"May the African sun
Always shine on you
May the rhythm of its drums
Beat deeply in your heart
May the vision of its glory
Fill you with joy
And may the memory of Africa
Be with you always"*



John Piper reminds us:



"the highest missionary motive is neither obedience to the Great Commission (as important as that is), nor the love for sinners who are alienated and perishing (strong as that incentive is) but rather ZEAL – burning and passionate zeal for the glory of Jesus Christ."

I will be home for a while then I will head off to **RWANDA** where three of our students are in Kigali - Jean-Marie, Fred and Emmanuel.



MY PERSONAL



These are from my heart and reveal just how the Lord is teaching me at the moment and what is really in my mind:

1. MY LIFE

My 30 years in Pietermaritzburg, my 6 years in Pinetown and my 12 years as Bishop, I believe all prepared me for what I am now doing. This trip has been phenomenal, the need for teaching and training has never been greater and to be a small part of this across Africa is more than a dream come true. The classes absolutely loved the teaching and some of them now want to come down and study with me at KMBC. As I poured my heart out, I often said to myself - "if only this had happened years before. However, I know I was not ready, the Lord was getting me ready, and Jon's death was the final nail. I could not be more fulfilled in life; I so love my work and treasure each moment of training and equipping pastors for Africa. Thank you my friends, for your support without which I could not travel across Africa teaching the Bible and in a very real sense, living my dream. Living in the pastor's home showed me again ... Africa is where I belong. As the advert says -

"Some call it AfricaI call it home."

2. KMBC

In spite of criticism over these years, KMBC IS DOING A PHENOMENAL WORK. Working among the less privileged, focusing on Africans and majoring on the Bible and missions, the work has been blessed of the Lord, and now we are seeing much fruit. I think that in the future our Diploma in Missions will become our main course and this means we can invite mature pastors who have had little or no training to come to us. Wherever I travel across Africa, they love the expository preaching and now they just want to send men down to us.

I am also reading  **"DRIPS FROM A LEAKING TAP" BY GEORGE VERWER**, listen to what he wrote on Bible Colleges, it makes interesting reading ... keeps both KMBC and me on track ...

Do you see any trend in culture that makes it hard to recruit people for missions?

Verwer: *"I see tremendous materialism. People are used to living an easy life. Young people have everything they want, except of course, the things they cannot buy: emotional peace and joy. But look at the soft life of materialism. Bible schools are giving better food; they have less rules; they have better accommodation; telephones in the rooms, television sets down the hall. It is tough to go and recruit people of this and convert them into a spiritual guerrilla force, ready to live on the essentials, ready to suffer for Christ, ready to spend hours in the streets of tropical countries, in evangelism, willing to live with people of different nationalities, and eating foods they do not like. I mean, you are talking about a whole new world. That is why it takes years to wean people off this culture."*

So for the years that remain in my life, I want to keep on track, training pastors and missionaries for Africa at KMBC and then heading up into Africa, leading Pastor's Conferences, equipping others for ministry and caring for our beloved students....

***GOD BLESS AFRICA
Guard her children
Guide her leaders
And give her peace***



***Now come with me as I head off to
Kigali in Rwanda ...***



Kigali, Rwanda



BACKGROUND

Our students do assignments on Livingstone, Studd, MacKay, Slessor, Burns, Martyn, Carey, Taylor, Edwards, David Brainerd and many other missionaries. These biographies fire up their hearts for missions, so listen to **Brainerd** who wrote many years ago:

Here I am, send me to the ends of the earth: send me to the rough: the savage lost in the wilderness: send me from all that is called comfort on earth, send me even to death itself, if it be but in your service and to promote your Kingdom."

Pray that same spirit may live in my heart as I now go up to Rwanda, visiting our past students, preaching at a conference and then preaching on Sunday. This will be my third visit to Rwanda and a full programme has been put together, so I am very grateful. Across Rwanda, Evangelicals grew rapidly in the aftermath of the genocide due to very active evangelism, aid programs to the hurting and a message of hope for all. The East African Revival of the 1930's began in Rwanda, so what a great time to visit. Two books on Africa I read recently helped me to better understand Africa a little more.

📖 **ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE** by M. Mbeki - this excellent book contains articles by different leaders, all who show an unwavering will to contribute to a more prosperous Africa.

📖 **TOWARD AN AFRICAN THEOLOGY** by J. Pobee - Pobee says that African Theology is the attempt to couch essential Christianity into African categories and thought forms. But we must remember that there are certain aspects of the Christian faith, which are NON-NEGOTIABLE. For example, the Cross of Christ, to lose it is to lose the Christian message. We must first preach the Gospel and allow it to bear fruit with the culture. And social activity, though also important in Christian witness is not the first purpose of mission, it is secondary as you will read later in this journal.

So into East Africa I now go longing to equip pastors and missionaries, encourage our students and preach my heart out. **Charles Simeon** once said to his students these amazing words ...

"You are training to ascend to the most valuable, most honourable, most important and most glorious office in the world – to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ, train accordingly, no sacrifice is too great."

As an ambassador of Jesus Christ, although a very poor one I am afraid, I head off to Rwanda. It should be a fantastic time. For this trip, I have brought three books to go over.

- 📖 **So Send I you** – Oswald Chambers
- 📖 **The Church Jesus Prayed For** – Michael Cassidy
- 📖 **Drops from a Leaking Tap** – George Verwer

My Bible and notes are in the bag, my books, my malaria tablets together with a few odds and ends, so I head off into Rwanda.

On the 4 May 1874, **Alexander MacKay** wrote, reading carefully:

*"this day last year Livingstone died, a Scotsman and a Christian, loving God and his neighbour in the heart of Africa. **GO** thou and do likewise."*



So I am listening ... going in their footsteps and doing likewise!!!

But first, an update on Rwanda from *Operation World*:

Rwanda

Republic of Rwanda
Africa

Geography

Area: 26,338 sq km

A fertile, mountainous country similar to its southern neighbour, Burundi.

Population: 10,277,212

Capital: Kigali

A massive 25% population loss in 1994-5 through massacres, genocide (nearly 1 million) and flight of refugees (over 1 million). Most of the latter have returned

Official language: French, English, kiNyarwanda.
The entire population speaks kiNyarwanda

Religion

There is full freedom of religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion		Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	9,159,051	89.12	2.7
Evangelicals	2,761,140	26.9	3.0



Challenges for Prayer

1. **Children and young people** were deeply scarred by the events of the 1990s, but they are now the young adults and future leaders of Rwanda. They carry a painful legacy and difficult burdens no young people should have to bear.

Pray for:

a) **Ministry to university students.** Pray for more workers and resources.

b) **Young people's ministries**, such as Scripture Union, AEE/Rwanda(AE), YWAM, YFC, Moucecore, Solace Ministries and Christ for the Nations Ministries, which work across denominations. Bible reading programmes, prayer groups, youth camps, alternate education programmes, AIDS awareness as well as assisting orphans, street kids and child heads-of-households are all aspects of current work.

c) **Orphans from genocide**, war and AIDS may number up to 900,000 - 30% of all Rwandan children. There are over 30,000 child-led households caring for 100,000. They are the most vulnerable to exploitation.

Pray for:

i) **Counseling** for those who witnessed or suffered traumatic experiences and for those who must live without parents. Their numbers are vast, their pain is deep and the church is still learning how to offer such ministry.

ii) **Social networks** - such as the extended families of these children - to offer love, mercy and kindness to them, treating them as their own. Pray also for friends for these orphans; 74% say they have none, and 40% feel life is meaningless.

iii) **The children of genocide perpetrators.** Pray for the breaking of any ties that might carry on the legacy of guilt and violence; pray for freedom in Christ and a new identity.

iv) **Models of family and community**, which these children have not experienced. Pray for churches, ministries and relations to teach and show them how to live as part of a family, a community and a society in a manner that glorifies God.

2. **Missionary presence continues to increase.**

Missionaries have returned since 1994. There is also a growing host of NGOs helping with development work. Government policy has been instrumental in assisting the increase of evangelical missionaries.

The need is still great for counseling and reconciliation ministries, discipleship and church work, education, health, income generation and much more.

Pray that ministry might empower Rwandans rather than create dependency; pray also that the many programmes and workers might reach beyond Kigali and into the villages and rural areas.

Answers to Prayer

1. Rwanda has made great progress in many areas since the tragic events of 1994/5.

- a. The nations' infrastructure was brutalized during the conflicts. Political stability since 2000 allows for rebuilding and developing roads, buildings,

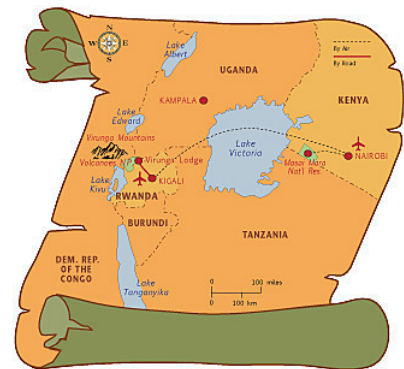
government services, water and sanitation, education and communications systems. It is amazing to see.

- b. Financial recovery is encouraging with Rwanda becoming one of the future growing economies in Africa. Eco-tourism is flourishing, as is the tea and coffee industry.
- c. The presence of women in leadership, so that half of the elected parliament are female (also many of the pastors are women).
- d. Give praise for the commitment to reconcile and peace, and to move away from such a terrible past and toward a brighter future.

2. **Evangelicals emerge from the ashes** to grow rapidly after 1994. Rwanda has been reshaped by the 1990's. A country in which 80% call themselves Christian, and yet allowed and perpetrated such atrocities, might have been Christianized but not converted. So the East African Revival of the 1930's began in Rwanda, let us pray for a new revival to break out, one that places tribalism and revenge at the foot of the Cross and is characterized by repentance and reconciliation. Sadly, today some evangelicals seem concerned only with numerical growth rather than discipleship and transformation.


MY DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 25 MARCH



It is crazy but all the flight schedules have changed which means I now fly out of Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg, then all the way to Nairobi and finally on to Kigali, a long, long day. So let me make sure I spend some time reading from the precious Word of God and in prayer. My Bible readings continued with Exodus, John, Proverbs and Ephesians. Then my friend and mentor, **Oswald Chambers wrote** from "My Utmost for His Highest":

"sometimes there is nothing to obey; the ONLY thing to do is to MAINTAIN a vital connection with Jesus Christ, to see that nothing interferes with that."

Friends that is so important, nothing must interfere with our vital connection with Jesus Christ. I continued reading **George Verwer's book**; he really is radical and so passionate for missions. This is what he wrote in  "DROPS FROM A LEAKING TAP", regarding O.M.

"people were drawn to our radical message about discipleship, forsaking all, world missions and prayer. Rather than feeling we needed to import a foreign missionary every time we wanted to get something done, we partnered with the Church in India and supported nationals in ministry."

Pray that I will follow Verwer as I seek to be **RADICAL** ... forsaking all and promoting missions.

After three flights, I eventually arrived in Kigali at 7pm. People often ask me how do our students hear of KMBC because we do not advertise, preferring to leave it to the Lord who sends those whom He wants us to train. On the plane, reading **George Verwer**, he wrote this on RECRUITMENT:

RECRUITING

"THE GREATEST PUBLICITY, WE BELIEVE, IS A HOLY LIFE. When a young person has this training, and has come into an understanding of the Lordship of Christ and a walk with Christ – we hope in a very down-to-earth way, not in a super-spiritual way – he is our best recruiter."

Also on the plane, I dipped into **Chamber's** book 📖 'SO I SEND YOU'. Listen to how he says we should go about our work.

A
LOVE
SLAVE

"I am not to come among men as a superior person, I am to come among men as the love slave of Jesus Christ, realizing that if I am worth anything at all it is through the Redemption."

So here I am in Kigali as a love slave of Jesus Christ, so wonderful to see Jean-Marie Hakuzimana waiting for me ... he has been so good to me ...



Three flights, 14 hours since I left home, leaves me drained, but to walk across the tarmac at Kigali International Airport, sorts me out ... only to be surprised by the new law that I must have a Visa. Phew, praise the Lord, I always carry \$50 just in case this happens!! So Jean-Marie and I headed off for the outlying rural areas where I will live with the pastor. They were all so warm and hospitable and a lovely meal was prepared for us, enjoying African hospitality is a real privilege.

After a lovely time of fellowship and supper, I was able to be alone with my Bible and books. Listen now to **Chambers** in 📖 "So Send I You":

"the great battle all along is not so much against sin as against being so absorbed in the work that we are not ready to face Jesus Christ."

Let me now fall asleep under the mosquito net but so thrilled to be able to be in Rwanda teaching the Bible, encouraging our students.

THURSDAY, 26 MARCH

My readings from the Bible continued in Exodus, John, Proverbs and Ephesians. As always I close off with prayer and the reading of "My Utmost for His Highest". This morning Oswald Chambers wrote on THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE:

THE
MISSIONARY
ENTERPRISE

"To be a Christian – must be based, NOT on the pathos of pity but on the passion of obedience."

That of course is similar to what Oswald Smith once wrote:

"if God wills the evangelization of the world, and you refuse to support missions, then you are opposed to the will of God."

Afterwards I finished that book by George Verwer ... what a man, so passionate for missions and reaching the lost souls for Christ, things you seldom hear today. So now some breakfast and then into the day. Lots of fruit, a slice of bread and a cup of black tea fires you up for the day ahead.

Jean-Marie and I then went to his Church for our first meeting. It was wonderful to see the building of "THE VINEYARD CHURCH OF RWANDA". This is part of a worldwide denomination so this Church receives sponsorship from Canada. It is a beautiful structure for ± 300 people and then alongside are the three offices, one for the pastor, one for Jean-Marie, and one for the secretary. Jean-Marie is nicely set up as the assistant pastor of the Church.



Afterwards I met the missionaries from the U.S.A. and then left for the centre of Kigali to meet with Clementine Kachungu another of our past students. She is flourishing, running her own little shop and serving in the Church. I took her and Jean-Marie for lunch, which was a lovely time of fellowship over a scrumptious meal.



Clementine at her shop

Sharing lunch

I love the boda bodas

From there I got on a "boda boda", a 100cc motor bike taxi and took my life to the edge as we weaved among the traffic to the taxi rank where we caught a taxi to NYIMATA, the place I have wanted to visit for years, the Church where 10,000 Tutsis were slaughtered during the genocide in 1994. When the taxi was packed with 20 people, we headed off on our way, a one-hour journey, arriving in NYIMATA where we caught another boda boda to the Church. Friends it was horrendous ... 10,000 were slaughtered as they met in the Church. Today the Church is a memorial, the benches are covered with the clothes of those killed and the skeletons are displayed. If you look at my photos, you can clearly see those who were shot through the head and those who were butchered with machetes. It was horrible, especially to go down into the mass graves where 50,000 are buried. You can also see the GATE they broke through to enter the Church and the floor pitted with bullet holes. The most tragic lesson is that this all took place in a country claiming to be Christian and even being part of the East African Revival. What a reminder of the danger of NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY, it is deadly ...



Gate they broke through

Bullet holes in the floor

Mass graves

The skeletons showing the machete wounds

The Church



After supper, I was able to read and prepare my talks for tomorrow. Recently I re-read that brilliant book by **Archbishop Burnett** 📖 'ANGLICANS IN NATAL'/. He tells us of the early days of one of my heroes **BISHOP CHARLES FREDERICK MCKENZIE** whose short missionary life began the Anglican Church in Malawi and who is still revered there today.

Read this quote from the book:



"The Bishop's second-in-command was the Reverend C.F. Mackenzie, M.A. He was a Fellow and Tutor of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and had been led by the famous missionary Bishop Selwyn's course of sermons before the University, to devote his life to work in the mission field. Colenso had chosen him as his Archdeacon of Maritzburg. To judge from his short sojourn in Natal he was not what folk like to call a practical man, and his intellectual powers were not outstanding, but he had far greater gifts of humility and gentleness and a deep devotion to his Lord and His work. He appears to have achieved nothing very obviously in Natal where he was constantly moved from pillar to post. As the first Bishop to Central Africa, he died of fever as the result of the upsetting of the canoe carrying all the party's medicine, before his mission had even began. Devotion such as his, however, can never be offered fruitlessly, and his life remains a beacon of light. When he heard the call for men to go to Africa he said, "Others will not go, so I will", and to African he went. He believed that Christ's servants should consider themselves as labourers in one great field, and be ready to go to any part where there was work to be done."

It has been a great day, now to fall asleep in the heart of Rwanda.

FRIDAY, 27 MARCH

Another beautiful morning up here in Kigali so with everything coming to life let me continue with my readings from Exodus, John, Proverbs and Philipians. Afterwards **Oswald Chambers** reminded me so strongly of the key to missions:

THE KEY TO MISSIONS

"That key is put into our hands by Jesus Christ, and it is not a common sense key. It is not a medical key, nor a civilizing key, nor an educational key, not even an evangelical key, the key is PRAYER."

Phew ... how I need to pray so much more and less running around doing things. That is perhaps a real word for today in many Churches. In this classic missionary book, **Chambers** also warns us of the danger of becoming USELESS. What a warning ... read it slowly:

BECOMING USELESS

"If you do not worship as occasion serves at home, you will be of no use in the foreign field, but if you put the worship of God first, i.e. get the revelation of who God is to you, then when the call comes you will be ready for it, because in the private unseen life under the fig tree, the life which no one saw but God, you have been learning and preparing, and now when the strain comes you are perfectly fit to be relied on by God. Worshipping is greater than work in that it absorbs work.

And He saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man. Our Lord is the One in whom God and man can meet as one. If that has never been learned in our private worshipping life, it will never be realized in active public work. There is no need to have this private worship of God, I cannot be expected to live in sanctified life in the circumstances I am in; there is no time for praying just now, no time for Bible reading, when I get out into the work and the opportunity comes for all that, of course I shall be all right. If you have not been worshipping as occasion serves, you will not only be useless yourself when you get out into service but a tremendous hindrance to those who are associated with you."

After breakfast, Jean-Marie and I then went to Pastor Miriam's house (where I had stayed on my previous two visits to Rwanda). Here I met with our other past students Fred Kiiza and his wife and Emmanuel Ruheza. What a great time we had together, so very encouraging. They are all growing and serving the Lord.



From there we made our way back to the Church for the next meeting where I preach on the danger of NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY from Matthew 7. By God's grace there was a great response. It is the most wonderful thing to see people turning to Christ. Afterwards we took a slow walk back home and shared a lovely supper together.

After a brilliant day, let **Michael Cassidy** close off with a great challenge from his book

"Now here comes the major component of the divine indictment on the prophets – in other words the religious leaders of the time: 'I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied. But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doing.' Jeremiah 23:21-22.

In other words, the prophets were running and speaking in ineffectual, wasted, non-mandated, and not divinely directed religious activity. This is hectic, frenzied, ever-so-busy religious activity. Here are these prophets giving not divinely mandated or God-guided content to the people. Wasted words, in fact. Big religious energy expended, but without God behind it. Therefore fruitless."

Wow ... what a reminder as I drift off to sleep after another brilliant day in AFRICA.

SATURDAY, 28 MARCH

So very blessed to be in Rwanda teaching the Bible. This morning I continued with Exodus, John, Proverbs, and Philipians. What a perfect example from the greatest missionary, our Lord Jesus Christ ... who emptied Himself ... afterwards **Chambers** wrote on "The heart of a missionary" having described over the last two days, the key to missions and the missionary enterprise.

THE HEART OF A MISSIONARY

"The one dominating purpose and passion at the heart of the missionary is his personal relationship to Jesus Christ. A missionary is a construction made through the Atonement by the God who made the universe. It is not a sentiment, it is true, that God spoils a man or woman for any other use in the world saving for one thing only, to win souls to Jesus and to disciple them in His Name. The sad thing is to see a man or woman who gave great promise of being a power for God in the world, fizzle out, and become an extinct volcano."

After prayer, we enjoyed a lovely breakfast of some African tea and two slices of bread with a banana, so I am now ready for today, teaching, training, encouraging and loving the believers up here.

With Fred and Jean-Marie we went to look at the Anglican Cathedral, St. Etienne's which was an excellent visit, but when I looked around the grave yard I never saw any graves of the early missionaries ...

St. Etienne's,
Anglican
Cathedral



From there they took me to the NEW CREATION MINISTRIES who run a discipleship-training course, doing a brilliant work here in Kigali.

From there we made our way to the AFRICA COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY where Emmanuel set up an appointment for me to meet the Academic Dean, Dr. Gary Friesen. Some of you will recognize the name. He was the Dean of Dallas Theological Seminary for 37 years but now has come out to Africa to set this College up. He also is the author of the book "Decision Making and the Will of God". So there I was with three of my students before this big man. He was thrilled with our work and has even given Fred a position of lecturing in Greek ... I felt very proud. He wanted to know whether I would be able to come and lecture some courses, which bowled me over!!! So ... a wonderful link has been set up with this College, it looks so very promising, a great visit.



As we left and bound our way to the Church where I was to speak on 'RUNNING THE CHRISTIAN LIFE' from Hebrews 12:1-3, I felt so very fulfilled and blessed. The best advert for KMBC is our students and to see them at work up here in wonderful. To see Jean-Marie leading the meetings brought me so much joy, and now Fred is lecturing Greek is awesome!

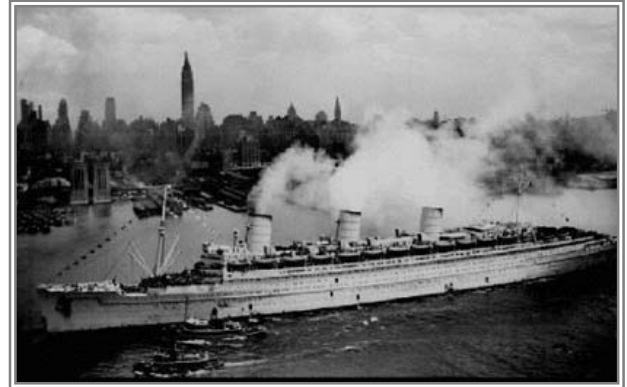
What also struck me was to see how, on this the last Saturday of the month, everybody in Rwanda is out, cleaning and sweeping the streets, picking up litter ... it is fantastic to see BUT what a rebuke to us back in South Africa where we see so much litter all around.

After the service, we again walked home, enjoyed supper and then I was free to read. As I close another wonderful day, read this fantastic article by **Ralph Winter** on the lifestyle we should be adopting as Christians today, a wartime lifestyle. It is challenging ... (The article is one of the resources published on website of [Joshua Project.com](http://JoshuaProject.com))

RE-CONSECRATION TO A WARTIME LIFESTYLE

BY DR. RALPH D. WINTER

The Queen Mary, lying in repose in the harbour at Long Beach, California is a fascinating museum of the past. Used both as a luxury liner in peacetime and a troop transport during the Second World War, its present status as a museum the length of three football fields afford a stunning contrast between the lifestyles appropriate in peace and war.



One side of a partition you see the dining room reconstructed to depict the peacetime table setting that was appropriate to the wealthy patrons of high culture for whom a dazzling array of knives and forks and spoons held no mysteries. On the other side of the partition, the evidences of wartime austerities are in sharp contrast. One metal tray with indentation replaces fifteen plates and saucers. Bunks eight tiers high explain how the peacetime capacity of 3000 passengers gave way to 15,000 troops on board in wartime.



How repugnant to the peacetime master this transformation must have been! To do it took a national emergency, of course. The survival of a nation depended upon it. The essence of the Great Commission today is that the survival of many millions of people depends on its fulfillment.

But obedience to the Great Commission has more consistently been poisoned by affluence than by anything else. The antidote for affluence is reconsecration.

Remember how affluence never hindered C.T. Studd - he gave away his inheritance to go as a missionary. In the same way did Robert Jaffrey and William Borden ... and so must we be characterized by a wartime lifestyle.

SUNDAY, 29 MARCH

With another beautiful day dawning, my Bible readings continued in Exodus, John, Proverbs, and Philippians. Afterwards **Oswald Chambers** again was such a challenge to me; to be careful about being caught up on secondary issues ... keep the main thing the main thing ...

SECONDARY
MATTERS

Missionary enterprise on the line of education and healing and social amelioration is magnificent, but it is secondary, and the danger is to give it the first place. The temptation is more subtle to-day than every it has been, because

the countries of the world are being opened up as never before, and the appeal is being made along the line of secondary importance, because it misses out the primary motive for missionary enterprises, viz., the personal sanctification of the missionary and the need to obey his Lord's command and make disciples of all nations. It sounds so plausible and right to say – Heal the people, teach them, put them in better surroundings, and then evangelize them; but it is fundamentally wrong. The cry "Civilize first, and then evangelize" has honeycombed itself into missionary work in every land, and it takes the Spirit of God to shoe where it is in direct opposition to God's line.

What a reminder to keep close to Jesus and passionate for making disciples of all nations, even up here in Rwanda ... everything else is secondary. So off I go to preach my heart out.

Michael Cassidy in his book 📖 "THE CHURCH JESUS PRAYED FOR" quotes John Wycliffe on preaching:

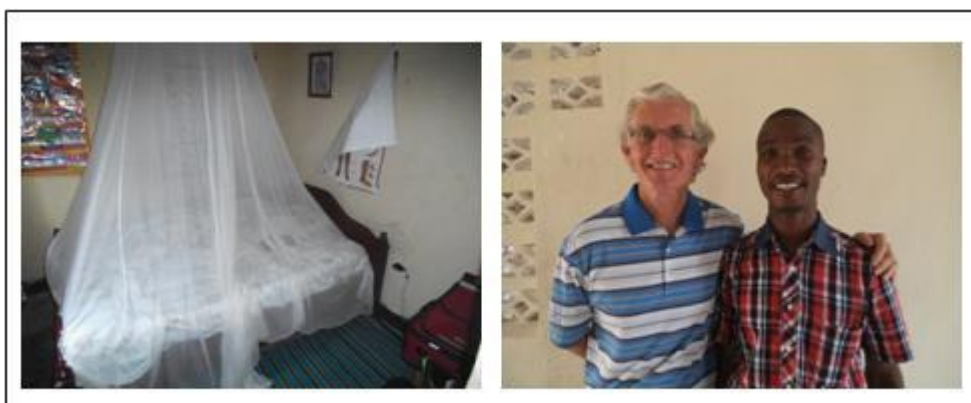
"The highest service that man may attain to on earth is to preach the Word of God."

He also quoted **Alexander Whyte** who said:

"Never think of giving up preaching. The angels around the throne envy you and your great work."

I preached on the closing verses of JUDE and the people were very appreciative. The service was long so we only left after 12 but it was excellent, even though it took four hours.

After lunch all that remained for me was to pack up everything, my books are read, I have preached my heart out fantastic contacts have been made, so now I head back home to continue with my lecturing at KMBC, preparing pastors and missionaries and even Greek lecturers for Africa. My plane leaves at 03:00am, so the pastor will just drop me at the airport and I will pass the time reading and writing. A book I have brought looks exciting 📖 "KNOWING JESUS THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT" ... so I will get into that.



My room and the pastor who hosted me in his home

Jean-Marie has been amazing and my little heart was sad to say good-bye it has been a brilliant trip, shared with our amazing students.

MONDAY, 30 MARCH

Can you believe this ... my plane left at 03:35 am, which meant I did my readings on the flight to Nairobi. I continued my Bible readings from Exodus, John, Proverbs, and Philippians. Seeing out students all over Africa made the reading afterwards from **Chambers** so moving ...

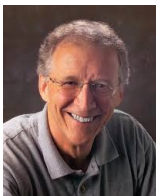
COMPETITIONS

"with us there are things that compete for the strength that should be given to God only. Thank God for such places as this Bible College where God gives us time to be shut in quietly. He is letting us see how competitors for our strength will knock the consciousness of His call clean out when we get out into active work ... the purpose of such place as this Bible College is for the testing of material to be used in God's service."

So another trip into East Africa draws to a close, it has been brilliant:

- The joy of seeing our past students in ministry is so rewarding
- My books are read and summarized, they were excellent
- Traveling around Rwanda was such a thrill on the taxis and boda bodas
- Preaching my heart out was the greatest
- Living in the Pastor's home was such a privilege especially being able to live in a cross cultural situation
- The link with the Africa College of Theology is exciting
- Spending time with our past students, Jean-Marie, Fred, Clementine and Emmanuel was wonderful, they are friends for life
- Now hopefully more will come to KMBC in the future
- The trip to the genocide memorial in NYIMATA will never be forgotten

From Kigali, I flew up to Nairobi then on to Johannesburg and finally home to Pietermaritzburg ... a long, long day of fifteen hours traveling but I am so grateful for another footprint left in Africa.



So let **Piper** close off this 36th trip into Africa.

"when you are involved in MISSIONS, when you are laying down your life to rescue people from perishing, it tends to authenticate your faith and deepen your assurance and sweeten your fellowship with Jesus, and heighten your love for people and sharpens your doctrines of Christ and heaven and hell."

That so wonderfully summarizes everything I believe to live for!

SIYABONGA MAMA AFRICA

and

Thank you, my precious friends for your support without which I could never do this work and go into Africa ... thank you ...

MY PERSONAL



Here I pour out my heart with those things that are burning in my heart, so bear with me and pray for me. There are three issues which have been so very relevant on these two trips into Africa:

1. **MISSIONS** - Read these great quotes of missions, they say it all ...

"The church exists by mission, as fire exists by burning." **Emil Brunner**

"The Spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions, and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely missionary we must become." **Henry Martyn**

"The Living God of the Bible is a sending God." **John Stott**

"Recognizing that mission has at its heart s sense of sending and being sent only raises another questions: sent to do what?" **Christopher J.H. Wright**

"We are committed to world mission because it is central to our understanding of God, the Bible, the church, human history and the ultimate future."

They remind us that we serve a missionary God, a sending God, and therefore we should be a passionate missionary people. My visit to Kenya ushered me into an African Church, which is evangelical and driven by missions where 52 of their pastors serve in the mission department. Sadly, some denominations do not even have a missions committee ... so very tragic ... it breaks my heart!! Please pray that KMBC may always remain a missionary training College and that I may burn with a mission's heart ... this is critical, everything else is secondary. During this term at KMBC it has been fantastic having some of our students visit us, all now serving as missionaries across the globe. Mark Fynes-Clinton now with O.M. in Singapore on board the Logos Hope, Gregg and Yvonne Cameron serving under S.I.M. in Paraguay, Jinx and Dawn Reyneke serving in Mozambique with A.I.M. and Sipho and Amanda Moyo from W.E.C. All have

kept the missions fire burning at the College. And now to see our students in Kigali was so encouraging.

2. LEADERSHIP FOR AFRICA

Tokunboh Adeyemo a well-known evangelical Christian leader across Africa has written an amazing book  'AFRICA'S ENIGMA AND LEADERSHIP SOLUTIONS.' Listen to some of the things he wrote, it is a bit long but it is on the button ...

“Leadership is the measure of any nation, institution, or organization. If the people in leadership are intellectually and morally bankrupt and moribund, chances are that the nation, institution, or organization will be unprogressive and backward. But where there is dynamic, visionary, altruistic, and integral leadership, you will find that the followers are forward-looking, engaging, committed, and generally optimistic.

In national leadership, cases abound all over the world where inept people who are bankrupt of ideas hold leadership positions and bring war and destruction to their nations. But there are also some leaders who have moved their nations from degradation and ruin into a state of peace, prosperity, and progress. One good example is the story of Lee Kuan Yew, prime minister of Singapore from 1959 to 1990. His leadership transformed the little known city-state of Singapore from Third World conditions to today's First World status. At independence in 1965, few gave this Singapore any chance of survival. It was a case worse than that of many African nations at the time. Today, Singapore boasts of the world's best airline, airport, the busiest port of trade and has the world's fourth-highest per capita real income.

What is at stake over leadership is high. That is why some have said that leadership is everything. Nations rise or fall depending on the caliber of their leaders. The period between the death of Joshua and the coronation of Saul as Israel's first king in about 1028BC, lasted about 300 years. During this period, the new nation suffered from political instability, economic stagnation, internal turbulence, paralysis, military defeats, and external oppression. Of all the twelve judges raised to lead the nation at the time, none succeeded in attaining the degree of success and global significance as King David achieved during his reign.

It will be recalled that in the struggle against colonial imperialism of the 20th century, there emerged in Africa a class of leaders who came to be seen as 'freedom fighters'. Most of these leaders and their fighters were products of Christian mission schools. They were filled with dynamism and determination to free their people from oppression and their land from foreign rule. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana preached: “A bad self-government is better than the best of foreign rule.” In the same address, he told his rapt audience to “seek first political kingdom and all else will be added unto you.”

Nkrumah was not a lone voice in the wilderness of political negotiation and armed struggle against imperialism. The brave efforts and commendable sacrifices of the late Mzee Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya), Mwalimu Julius Nyerere (Tanzania), Patrick Lumumba (Congo DR), Nnamdi Azikwe (Nigeria), Leopold Senghor (Senegal), Emperor Haile Selassie (Ethiopia), Kamuzu Banda (Malawi), Samora Machel (Mozambique), Walter Sisulu (South Africa), Houphouet Boigny (Ivory Coast), and Kenneth Kaunda (Zambia) can never be forgotten in African history.

As freedom fighters their primary vision was to free Africa at all costs, unite the shattered fragments of a bitterly divided continent and create an earthly paradise or at least something much better than what they were taking over. It was a fight against poverty, illiteracy, disease, and human indignity. The general expectation of the populace was that the attainment of political independence would terminate their sufferings and usher in an era of peace, plenty and prosperity.

By and large, that generation of leaders succeeded in their primary objective. Within a space of 40 to 50 years, a duration unparalleled in world's political history, all foreign flags in Africa were replaced with national flags and the affairs of governing African nations were in the hands of Africans. Proudly, African heads of states took their seats at the United National General Assembly and threw their weight around various UN organizations. But sadly, they under-performed at home and failed to deliver their independence pledges to the people. It sounds like an irony of history that such a champion of freedom like Nkrumah died in exile – away from the country he loved and fought for. Far from being the paradise envisaged at independence, Africa has been variously described as a bleeding continent by former Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya, a lost continent in economic terms by the International Monetary Fund and as a retarded continent by Professor Ali Mazrui.

So, what happened? Some say that it is due to political immaturity. Some blame Africa's current miseries on her past slavery and colonization. Others trace it to a culture of superstition and primitive (or traditional) worldviews. Still other lay the blame on neo-colonialism accusing the former colonial masters of not wanting the young independent nations to succeed. Each one of these propositions has some merits and demerits, which cannot be ignored. However, I subsume all of these theories under "leadership and management ineptitude".

Such perceptive writing – we need to focus continually on training up African leaders so that they can lead the Churches, Bible Colleges, even the countries right across Africa. Please pray that we will continue to focus on what has driven us for the past 29 years ... to raise up a new generation of African pastors and missionaries for Africa. The challenge is huge, but by God's grace as we teach the Bible, may the Lord use our students to His glory ... maybe we will train another JOSEPH for Africa



3. NOMINAL CHRISTIANITY

The visit to the NYIMATA Church was a jolt from heaven. To hear the guide say how it was the Church leaders who led the people into the Church and then who showed the militia how to get in was tragic. To hear how 10,000 Tutsis fled into that Church and believed they were safe was heart wrenching. All this in a strong Christian country having been through the East African Revival is shattering but a reminder of what nominal Christianity does. To travel across Africa, as I now do is such a privilege to teach the Bible and train pastors is perhaps the greatest thing I could do for Africa. True Biblical Christianity which is passionate for Christ, saturated with the Bible, prepared to give up everything, not being sucked into our materialistic world, driven by a missionary vision is what I want to live and teach till the day the Lord calls me home. But you do not find this passionate discipleship as taught by Verwer and Chambers today ... the Church has become soft and weak and focusing on secondary issues.

Now **Robert McQuilken** will close off my 36th trip into Africa:

"acknowledging Christ as Lord demands an active pursuit of God's purposes in the world. It means commitment of ones total life to make the greatest possible impact for Jesus Christ. And for those who are not yet certain of God's vocational appointment in life, true discipleship must surely include complete openness to the most needed and most neglected of all vocations: pioneer missionary evangelism."



If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:

- ☑ Pray for one of the countries and the past students who are working there
- ☑ Sponsor a student's training
- ☑ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ☑ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ☑ General support

Visit us on:

Website: www.footprintsintoafrica.com

Contact details:

200 Pine Street, Pietermaritzburg 3201

Cell: 082 920 1147

Office: (033) 346 0635

E-mail: footprintspmb@gmail.com

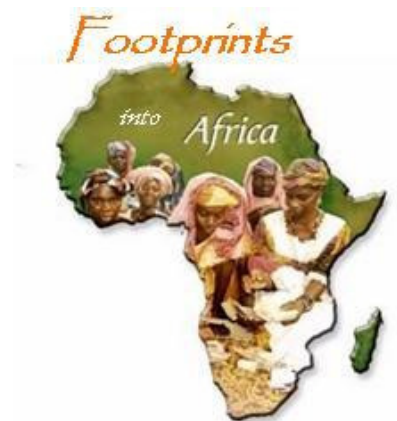
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GOD BLESS AFRIKA