

Billy and Crystal Coley

Missionaries in Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

Trip to Butula, Western Kenya

After four months of lockdowns and scheduling then re-scheduling our trip to Butula Baptist Church, Bro. Cormier, his son Seth, and I were finally able to make the trip to western Kenya. One of the many pieces of advice that veteran missionaries like to give new missionaries is... "Be flexible!" One missionary half-jokingly told me that when in Kenya, a good practice is to write down your plans for the day/week/month on a piece of paper...and then crumple the paper up and throw it away.

Thankfully, not all plans needed to be scrapped, but there have been times where changing situations required flexibility. Our trip to Butula was one such occasion. We had plans to spend two days preaching and teaching while in Butula; however, shortly before we left Nairobi, we had to cut down the planned two days of preaching. Due to some funerals that required the attendance of many of his church members, Pastor Ephraim decided to change plans to just one day of preaching and teaching.



We began on a Sunday at 9 a.m. with Bro. Cormier teaching a two-hour music class which focused on defining the Biblical usage of music. After his two-hour session, we had a regular Sunday morning service where I preached in Swahili. Following the morning service, we had lunch and then another hour and a half of music class.

Since most people in the village area do not know English, I was thankful for the opportunity to be pushed in my Swahili. Pastor Ephraim's wife thanked me for "preaching in a language that they could understand." This has been our goal as we put in a lot of effort studying Swahili: to be effective communicators of God's Word to people in the language they can understand. I was thrilled to see other parts of Kenya where I had not yet been, and it was a joy to labor among the people without an interpreter.

Continued Evangelism in Embulbul

Back in the Nairobi area at Karen Baptist Church, we continued with the church-wide program of inviting people to church as well as confronting those we meet with a question such as this one from one of the tracts that we pass out, "Je! Utaishi wapi milele?" (Where will you live in eternity?) or, "Mbinguni au Kuzimu. Kwako ni wapi?" (Heaven or Hell. Which place is yours?). Most answers fall along the expected lines which often allows for follow-up questions.

One lady that I met seemed to be a little annoyed when I asked her such a question. She proceeded to tell me a lot of extra-biblical things about God and how to get to heaven. I handed her my Bible and asked her if she could show me where in God's Word did He say what she just told me? She could not. We left her a pamphlet that compared what religions say to what God says, invited her to church, and left. Pray the Lord works on her heart about her need of salvation. A man named George allowed me to show him what the Bible says about us and our relationship with God. We spent thirty to forty minutes with him. Afterwards, he assured us he had a lot think upon. Please pray the Lord continues to work on George's heart about his need of salvation.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

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