

Billy, Crystal, and Hudson Coley

Missionaries in Kenya



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Dear Pastor and Church family:

"Testifying...repentance toward God..." Ac. 20:21a

Over the past several months, I have increasingly become burdened over the average understanding of the Biblical meaning of the word "repentance." If someone were to ask me how to translate "to repent" into Swahili, I would quickly say "*kutubu*" (with which the Eng-Swa dictionary agrees); however, a brief look in one of the Swahili to English dictionaries on my desk, tells me a very narrow definition of the word. *Kutubu* is defined as "1. To ask God for forgiveness. 2. To regret mistakes." For the average Kenyan, this is the entirety of their understanding of the verb "*kutubu*." In agreement with the Hebrew and Greek texts, the meaning of "to repent" by its use in our English Bible is, "A change of mind which brings about a change of action."

This past month, I had the opportunity to speak with many men and women during church-wide evangelism. The young man who was my partner and guide during one afternoon of evangelism helped me in and out of places I had never been. He led me to one house in particular where I got the impression that he knew the house well. After knocking briefly on the door, he walked into the home, sat down on the couch, then looked expectantly at me. As it turned out, he had led me to the home of an older lady named Mary (Mama Eugene to those who know her). This lady has been somewhat faithful to attend Karen Baptist Church, but she is not yet a church member.

I began questioning her about her salvation testimony. She told me that she "believed in Christ" but was depending upon her relationship to the church, her offerings, along with other things to get her to heaven. With her works-based beliefs being contrary to clear Bible teaching, I knew I needed to take some time going through God's Word building up to the sufficiency of Christ's completed work on the cross. Before I was able to finish with the Bible study, Mama Eugene had a coughing fit and explained that she had been sick and was still recovering. At that point, I asked her if she wouldn't mind my coming back to continue the Bible study. I was welcomed to come again, and we took our leave. Please pray for Mama Eugene as we follow up with her about her salvation.

"...and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Ac. 20:21b

The day after I spoke with Mama Eugene in her home, I preached the morning service at Karen Baptist Church. The message was titled "A Call to Repentance." A first-time visitor



named Peter Mwangi responded after the service was over and Missionary Cormier asked me if I wouldn't mind taking him aside while the adult Bible study continued. Bro. Derrick and I talked to Peter and learned that Peter himself didn't feel that he had a good spiritual foundation. After a few questions, I also realized his foundation was weak; and he had much confusion regarding repentance and salvation. I carefully went through God's Word showing him the need for repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ for salvation. Peter then humbled himself before the Lord and with his own words confessed his sin and accepted Christ as his Savior. Praise the Lord! I have been able to stay in contact with Peter since that time and have encouraged him in his new walk with the Lord. Please pray for Peter Mwangi as he is seeking to grow in the Lord.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and financial support!

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