



Joshua + Ruth Barron

Church Catalyst in Kenya



JUNE 2016



Greetings from Kenya!

It is a wonderful privilege to serve as a co-minister of reconciliation of Christ Jesus our Lord and friend. We would love to hear what God is doing through and around you in the place God has you. Read on for a sample of a few of things God is doing through and around us in Kenya.

Stewardship

An important part of the life of Christian faithfulness and holiness is stewardship. Stewardship is far more than a campaign to encourage the giving of tithes and offerings. Rather, Christian stewardship is about the way of life which proceeds from a generous heart. We are called to faithfully steward not only our finances, but all of our resources and even our relationships and the gospel itself.

cmfi.org/jrbarron
JoshuaBarron@cmfi.org
RuthBarron@cmfi.org

I (Joshua) spent a week in April in Turkana teaching a stewardship seminar with Walter Mwambushi to a group of more than 73 pastors and elders. Seventy-three attended the whole seminar; some sessions had more than 80 in attendance. This was an expanded version of the “Christian Stewardship and Congregational Finances” course that Walter and I team taught for TBTI last September. Walter is an elder of the Narok Community Christian Church (CCC).

The parable of the goat

We often emphasize the giving of tithes and offerings and neglect the broader and deeper aspects of total Christian stewardship.

Christian stewardship is like a goat. Generous giving (often expressed in tithes and offerings) is the skin of the goat. The only way to have a large, healthy goat skin is to have a full-grown healthy goat. If the goat-skin is too small, or full of holes, that is a clear indication either that the goat is still immature or that it is malnourished or sick. When it seems that the giving of tithes and offerings is too little to meet the needs of the congregation, that is a clear sign that the “goat” of stewardship needs some attention.



Joshua teaching at the stewardship seminar. Simon Eipa is translating, as the Turkana aren't fluent in Maa. The writing behind us is in NgaTurkana.

- Please pray that that seeds Walter and I planted will sprout, root deeply, and mature into fruitful faithfulness in the Turkana congregations of the CCC.

Discipleship Training Institute

Our Discipleship Training School has been renamed to “Discipleship Training Institute” (DTI). Our whole family spent the second week of May with our “mobile DTI” at the CCC training center in Kawai, serving the Kawai and Pusanki clusters of congregations in the TransMara District. (The DTI base is still in Olepishet, in the Naroosura cluster of churches in the Narok South District.)

Ruth and I each taught a two-day course. I taught on sexual purity and Ruth taught on repentance, forgiveness, restitution and reconciliation. We were in Kawai for the DTI graduation on June 19 and also visited with some of the area pastors.

Currently, we have a single, three-month DTI session each year. Together with Francis Yenke and Moses Mashipei (the Director and Assistant Director), we have a vision to return to having two DTI sessions each year. We would like to have one session at the DTI base in Olepishet, where Francis lives, and one “mobile DTI” in different geographical areas, such as Transmara, Loita Hills, the Mara, and Kajiado in Maasailand, and also in Lodwar for Turkana and Maralal for Samburu. At present we lack sufficient finances for this ministry expansion, although the need is there.

- **Please pray for Moses and Francis, that God will continue to sustain them in their work and provide for them.**
- **Pray for the 10 DTI students listed, that the cultivation they received at DTI will bear fruit.**
- **Pray that the DTI will receive additional financial partnership so that its ministry can grow.**



This session's DTI students:

Paul Koshal, Dennis Karbolo, Ezekiel Nang'ida, Peter Dapash, Disckon Tunai, David Tulenyi, Joshua Tulenyi, Yohana Kekuta, Simon Tao, Wilson Lankas.



CCBTI

An important part of our ministry is general oversight of and teaching for our Community Christian Bible Training Institute (CCBTI). Things are going well! I'll return to Lodwar to teach church history at TBTI (the Turkana branch of CCBTI) the second week of July.

We hope to restart NBTI (the long-defunct CCBTI branch for the Maasai of Narok County) at Ewaso Ng'iro in August and plant a new branch, KBTI, in Nga'tataek to serve the Maasai believers in Kajiado County with classes starting in September. I had a lot of traveling the week before we were in Kawai with the DTI. On Wednesday I was meeting with church leaders in Narok town and on Thursday I met with church leaders at the Kajiado Training Centre in Ng'atataek -- two long drives in opposite directions! I met again with the steering committee in Narok on May 27. At the moment, it looks as though we may be on schedule.

- **Please pray for the rebirth of Maasai branches of CCBTI in God's timing. Pray also for Sam Tome and I as we coordinate this work.**

Fun Fact:

“Olkoroi” is the Maa name for the colobus monkey, of which there are many in the area. So the Olkoroi CCC is “Monkey Community Christian Church” and the adjacent mountain is “Monkey Mountain.” It just sounds ordinary in Maa, but the English translation makes me laugh!

Olkoroi

On June 16, Sam Tome and I visited Olkoroi to meet with the elders and pastors of the congregations in that cluster. The Olkoroi CCC hosts the small Olkoroi Bible School, which was founded by a former CMF missionary. We discussed whether the Olkoroi Bible School, which primarily serves the Mara South cluster of CCC congregations together with some 12 church plants across the border in Tanzania, should become a new branch of the CCBTI.

Finances

We thank God for our many generous support partners, both congregations and individuals! However, our ministry budget remains underfunded.

- **Please pray that God will break through with full support for our ministry.**

Are you interested in financially partnering with our ministry?

Give online at: cmfi.org/jrbarron
or

Contact Joshua: JoshuaBarron@cmfi.org

Rejoice with us in all that God is doing here in Kenya.

Grace and peace to you all in Jesus,



Joshua and Ruth Barron

