

WE GO TO THEM

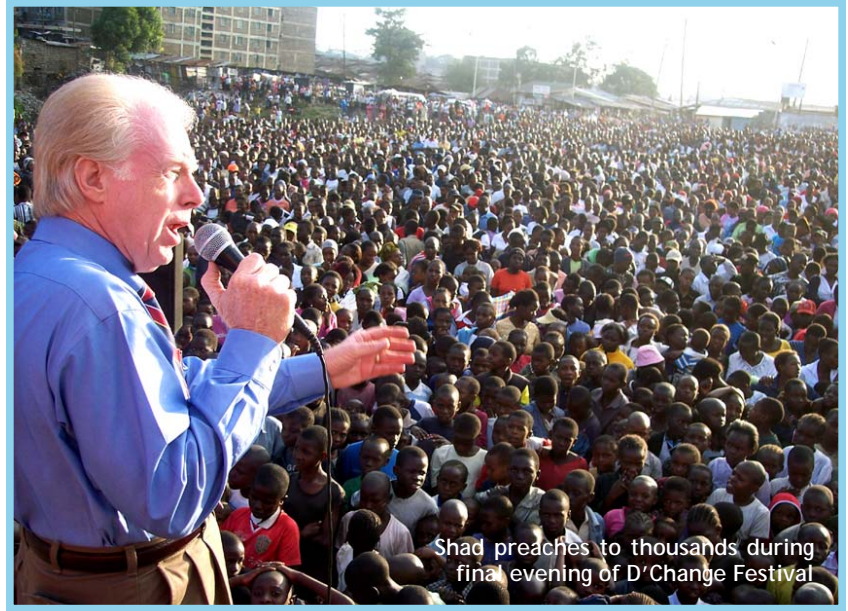
February 2009

taking the gosepel to where the people are...

A GREAT BEGINNING TO 2009 NAKURU / NAIROBI, KENYA CAMPAIGN

85,000 People Pray to Receive Christ

It was 12:30 in the afternoon on Saturday, January 17 as I stood in front of 800 teen-aged boys in a rural high school located a few miles out of Nakuru, Kenya. We had just arrived there after three days of travel from the USA and a two-hour drive from the capital city of Nairobi. This was the first of 26 meetings that would take place here over the next five days before going back to Nairobi. The GFE Kenya music team, the "Field Marshals", had done a great job of preparing the students for the message and now it was my turn. As I looked at them sitting there in their blue uniforms, I was reminded of the days when I was in high school, and I told them so. "As I look at you guys



Shad preaches to thousands during final evening of D'Change Festival



Sheila & Mary Bahati at D'Change Festival

I am reminded of when I was your age, and I remember having dreams in my heart and goals in my life. I remember thinking about my future and wondering how it would turn out. I never dreamed I would be here today. Well, I have some good news for you. God has a plan for you, even better than you have for yourself, and it can come to pass if you will take three simple steps here today." I proceeded to tell them how to know God's plan by knowing God's Son and when I gave the invitation to receive Jesus, nearly 700 of them responded – quickly, boldly and enthusiastically. What a great beginning to a campaign that ended up far greater than any of us ever imagined.

From there we went to another school where another 650 students prayed to receive Jesus and then to another where 280 said yes to Him also. The final meeting of the day was an open-air meeting conducted back in town during the last hour of daylight. Just as the last rays of light disappeared, over 250 people prayed to receive Jesus out there on the street. And so it continued day by day over the next five days – school assemblies and open-air venues during the day and film shows at night. And back in Nairobi another team was also busy conducting evening film shows and making preparations for the four-day festival that would take place at the end. GFE Pastor/ vangelist Alfred Egeyse (stationed in Nakuru) had done a great job of arranging venues. Alfred was saved in a street meeting conducted by Ben in Nairobi 14 years ago. At the time he himself was a street thug, but today he is a wonderful husband, father, pastor and evangelist and is being used of God to win people to Jesus on the streets of Nakuru and disciple them in his church. By the time we made the trip back to Nairobi, over 16,000 people had prayed to receive Jesus. One day I asked Ben Bahati how many people he thought we would see come to Christ during the project. He said 50,000 and I agreed. Turns out we were both wrong.

By noon Thursday we were back in Nairobi, and before the day was over another open-air meeting and a film show had been completed in which



GFE "Field Marshals" sing and dance to draw a crowd

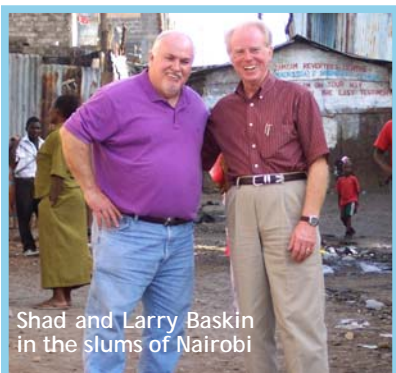


Raised hands represent yielded hearts

2125 people came to Christ. Early Friday morning we picked up our friend of 32 years, Larry Baskin, and his friend Greg Lackey who had just arrived from Memphis. We gave them just enough time to check into the guesthouse and then we hit the streets doing three open-air meetings before dark. Brother Larry conducts a very busy and fruitful prison ministry in Memphis, which is different, of course, than what we do in field evangelism. But it did not take long for him to adapt to the methodology we use in the field and by the next day he was preaching the “Three Steps” and seeing people come to Jesus. Over the next five days (Sat – Wed) the team conducted an average of 7 meetings per day. Then on Thursday afternoon it was time for the D`Change Festival to begin in Mathare slum.

Ben had selected an ideal venue, a large open ground right in the heart of the sprawling crowded slum where thousands of people pass every day. It is unusual to find such a place, and the only reason it was vacant is that all the houses that once occupied the land were burned in January 2008 in tribal violence that swept the city and the country. It has been known since as a place of conflict and hatred and because of that, the local pastors told Ben it might be unwise to use it. But Ben told them that God would transform it into a place of love, reconciliation and restored relationships. And that is exactly what happened. He printed and distributed hundreds of colorful posters and hung big banners throughout the area announcing that a meeting would be held in this forbidden area. A sound truck was also deployed throughout the huge slum for several days. People

watched in amazement as a big stage and PA system scaffolding was erected on this place where many feared to go. Then came the opening night. The top Christian musicians in east Africa gathered on the ground along with the GFE Kenya team, and so did the



Shad and Larry Baskin in the slums of Nairobi

people. They came by the thousands and stood in the afternoon sun for hours listening to music and testimonies of God’s transforming love. Then at 6:30 with 30 minutes of daylight left, Ben and I took the stage to preach. Ben reminded them, “Friends everything here tonight and every night is free. You can relax; there will be no offering. We are here to give, give, give, not to receive.” The message was short, less than 15 minutes, but the response was huge. On that first night over 9,000 people took the “three simple steps” and prayed to receive Christ!



Students respond to the Gospel

The crowds grew on the second and third nights with responses on both nights exceeding the first. Then on the final night the ground was so packed that it looked as if it could not contain another person. In the final service over 11,500 people responded, bringing the project total to 85,040 decisions for Jesus. Truly God had turned that ground into a place of redemption. Many tribes were represented in that huge crowd, tribes that were at war and were killing each other just a year ago. Now on this final night they were shaking hands, welcoming each other into the family of God, smiling, embracing and rejoicing together in belonging to the great tribe of heaven, the eternal family of God. As the sun sank below the horizon I shouted to the audience, “The sun is going down, but the Son of God has arisen in your hearts!” At that the crowd cheered and applauded in agreement. Sitting here now in my office at home I can still hear those cheers and I can still see those faces. And I must tell you, those are the most beautiful sights and sounds I have ever seen – the sights and sounds of the transforming love of God. Amazing, absolutely amazing!



GFE singing team one of many



Sheila shares how Jesus changed her life