

SWEA-GFE IS EXPANDING

new ministry opens up in the Democratic Republic of Congo

During a campaign in Kenya in January 2007, Ben Bahati introduced me to a young man named Oyelo Ulimwengu and told me that he was from The Democratic Republic of the Congo. He had been living in Kenya for some time and had been working with Ben learning to do field evangelism. He struck me as a very serious minded young guy and as a very spiritual young man. His enthusiasm for evangelism was obvious. When we sat down to talk, he told me that he had learned much from Ben, and now he wanted to go with his wife and children back to his homeland and establish the ministry there. So we agreed to pray and seek the will of God and then revisit the issue later. I left him with a copy of my "WeGoToThem - a manual for field evangelism" and told him to read it.

When we returned to Kenya in June, we met with Oyelo again, and he had not only read the book but had practically memorized it. He said, "Brother Shad, I cannot wait to get to the Congo and do what is in this book. I have been doing it with Ben, but now I must go home and reach people there. I am so excited!" In further talks with Ben we discussed the expenses of a possible start up in Congo and agreed to pray and look to the Lord for His timing and His provision. God moved quicker than we anticipated.

With us on that trip was our dear friend, Rev. John Crimmins, Pastor of Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church - Houston, Texas. He was

conducting a conference for 100 pastors. One day at lunch we were casually discussing the possible expansion into the Congo and John said that he would be very interested in getting involved in that work, to the point that he would be willing to at



Evangelist Oyelo Ulimwengu and his wife during his commissioning service in Eldoret...

least present the idea to the church. Well, to make a long story short, Pastor Crimmins did present the ministry opportunity to the missions committee of CEPC and they enthusiastically embraced it and voted to

fund the start up and ongoing operation of the new work for the first year. I must say I was not surprised because CEPC has a long history of enthusiasm for and generosity toward real evangelism throughout the world.

As a result of the generosity of CEPC and the leadership of God, Evangelist Oyelo is now in Goma, Congo. A commissioning service was held for him at Ben's church in Eldoret on Sunday, February 17. It is exciting to see that GFE Kenya is not only doing a great work there in Kenya, but is now sending missionaries to other countries. Oyelo is getting things organized in Goma and preparing for the arrival of his family in a couple of weeks. Ben will be joining him there soon for their first evangelistic project. Of course we will also be going there in the months to come and I am excited to see how God uses this new work for His glory and the growth of His Kingdom.

In addition to the Congo we are also looking at expansion into Uganda and Nigeria. Ben will be going to Nigeria in April to do a project with a young man that we believe God has sent to us to start the work of GFE in that country. Also, in June we will be joining Ben and the team in a campaign in Kampala, Uganda. We will be working with another young man, Isaac Kigozi, whom we believe God is going use to establish another arm of the work there. Needless to say we are very excited about all God is doing. I am asking God to expand the We Go To Them ministry of field evangelism into every country of the world.

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus, our precious friends and co-laborers in Christ, I want to ask you to pray for these things and want to thank you for being with us in the wonderful enterprise of reaching the world for Jesus. As I have said many times before, this is a TEAM effort and we cannot do this ministry without you. Do you know why? Well, it is because God planned it that way, and I am glad He did. Till next time, God bless you all.



Triumph out of Tragedy 50, 000 lives changed through Jesus

Second Corinthians 2:14 reads, "Now thanks be to God, who always causes us to triumph in Christ". That has certainly proven to be the case with the ministry in Kenya over the past two months. God has truly brought great triumph out of almost indescribable tragedy in that country, especially in the Rift Valley region where our ministry is based. The Bible does not say that God makes us triumphant *sometimes*, but ALWAYS, even when things are at their worst – even in times when the country is torn apart by tribal war. Hundreds of lives have been lost to senseless violence, thousands of homes have been burned and thousands of people have been displaced, but out of all that, God has raised up the banner of the Gospel and thousands have been saved.

In the first few days of January the violence and chaos of tribal war was unleashed upon Kenya like no one has ever seen before, and our entire ministry team was caught up in the middle of it. All of a sudden we were getting emails and phone calls from team members in towns everywhere telling us that they were trapped in their homes and could not move due to roadblocks at which people were being dragged from their cars and killed on the spot. Ben and Mary Bahati and their daughters were stopped on their way into Eldoret and Mary was almost dragged from their car and killed by an angry mob. God's angels intervened and saved them. On January 6 Ben and his family managed to make it to the airport in Eldoret and God miraculously gave them seats on a plane to Nairobi. Ben put his family on a flight to the USA on Friday, January 11 while he stayed behind to oversee the ministry.

After they left, he made his way back to Eldoret to do what he could for those who were in so much need. On the 18th Ben told



They climbed trees so that they could see and hear...

me, "Shad, we decided we must do something, so the team and I went to a big slum where smoke is still rising

from burned homes and we set up the equipment to preach. Brother, 2000 people came out and listened. They were afraid, but they came, and 500 of them accepted

Jesus!" He went on to say, "I can see that the people are receptive and we must do something for them. The problem is that it is going to take money. We need to advertise and we need to provide food for helpers and we need to buy thousands of Bibles to give out". I told him, "Ben, you go ahead with what God tells you to do and we will trust Him for the money". So he planned to do five big four-day festivals in the hardest hit locations in and around Eldoret. Week by week he and the team preached the Gospel and week by week our beloved support team (YOU) here in the States prayed and sent in money to help. The festival meetings concluded on Sunday, February 24 and by the close of that last meeting over 70,000 people had heard the Gospel and 50,000 had prayed to receive Jesus! Praise God! Triumph out of tragedy!



As Ben preaches, hundreds pray to receive Jesus...

A man from the Kikuyu tribe, the most victimized of all, came to Ben after one of the meetings and said, "Brother Ben, I came here today with hate and bitterness in my heart because I have lost everything. I was a successful businessman, but my home was burned down as well as my business. My two vehicles were burned and all my possessions. All I have left are the clothes I am wearing and they were loaned to me. I have nothing. But today the hate and bitterness has been replaced with love and forgiveness, because after hearing your words, I have accepted Jesus into my heart and all the anger and hate is gone. I am a new man and I have a clean heart. Now all I want is a Bible. I just want to know the Word of God." When Ben told me this testimony on the phone I felt tears coming in my eyes and joy in my heart over the reality of the Gospel. Because of the generosity of our friends back here, that man

received his Bible along with thousands of others. Triumph out of tragedy!

One of the meetings was held in a type of no man's land, an open unoccupied strip of land located between two rival tribes. No one dared to enter into that ground – until the Gospel came. Ben set up on that ground and when the songs about Jesus began, people started venturing out. Then more came during the message. On the first night only 700 came out, but on the fourth night 7000 came and over 5000 were saved. In another meeting all the people came carrying spears, bows and arrows, machetes and stones – all poised and ready to fight. But Ben preached, "Today you came with weapons of war, but I give you the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God". With that they dropped the weapons of death to the ground, bowed their heads to receive Jesus and became new born children of God. Triumph out of tragedy!



even this child knows the way to eternal life...

God is using the GFE team mightily in Kenya and He is still working miracles. One of which is the explosive growth of the church. Because of all the evangelism Ben has done over the past few weeks, his church and others are packed to overflowing. Out of necessity he is renting a piece of ground and erecting a steel frame and tin structure that will accommodate 2000 people. Many of his people have lost everything they have in the chaos and literally have nothing, but they are standing with Ben by faith and trusting God to build their church. As a result they will see the glory of God and experience TRIUMPH OUT OF TRAGEDY.

dear friends...

Please Continue to pray for the needs of the GFE Kenya ministry. Funding is still needed for these specific items:

Current evangelistic efforts - \$5000

Bibles - \$1000

Construction on church building - \$9000