

We Go To Them

"TAKING THE GOSPEL TO WHERE THE PEOPLE ARE"

Rained On But Not Rained Out

Over 19,000 Receive Christ in Kenya Campaign

It would seem that the key word for this 36th SWEA campaign in Kenya would be RAIN. "Oh, showers of blessing you mean". No, just rain, and lots of it! One day even hail, and lots of that, too. All of which would be no problem except for the fact that all of our ministry is outdoors. In preparation for writing this report, I looked back over the daily notes that I kept in my Daytimer during the project and I noticed written several times, "tried to do meeting – rain." Everyone kept telling us how unusual it was for it to rain that much at that time of the year, but that did not change the fact that we were missing meetings. Every day we woke up and looked at the sky. If it was not raining already, then we started as early as possible to get in as many meetings as possible before the rain started, which it was sure to do before the day was out. If it was raining, then we waited till it stopped and then did all we could do



Sheila, Shad, Ben and Team

by dark. The miraculous part of it is that by the end of the project, in spite of the rain, we completed 50 meetings (38 daytime open-air and 12 evening film shows) and in those over 19,000 people prayed to receive Jesus.

Our campaign may have been rained ON, but it was by no means rained OUT. In fact God gave us some remarkable meetings in which His presence and power was overwhelmingly felt (for lack of a better word). Let me put it this way, on many occasions the audience seemed to stand spell bound listening to the Gospel and the response was huge. After one meeting in an open-air market a man testified, "I was sitting in a truck across the street over there and I heard the music and decided to come over here to see what it was all about. Then these guys (Shad and Ben) began preaching. I was captivated and could not move. Then something happened to me that I was not expecting. All of a sudden I found myself praying a prayer and asking Jesus into my heart. Now I know I am saved. Now I know Jesus is in my heart. I can't believe this has happened to me. I was not expecting it, but now I know I am going to heaven."

Over and over again we heard these thrilling testimonies of the life changing power of Jesus. By the close of the project there were 19,132 of them. We left for Kenya on Thursday, August 23 and finally arrived in the western city of Kakamega on Sunday night. Monday morning was spent getting organized and by Monday afternoon we were conducting our first open-air meeting in a place called Butale Market. It was a good beginning with 425 people praying to receive Jesus. Then just before dark, under the threat of rain, we quickly conducted another one. Just as it began to sprinkle, another 325 people received Jesus into their heart. We did not get in a film show on this first night because it did rain, but we finished



Hundreds respond in open-air meeting

the day with 750 people having entered the Kingdom of God. So, rain or no rain, it was a wonderful day.

On Tuesday we left town to drive out a fairly long distance on a very rough road to a market that was supposed to be very large. Unfortunately, we had gotten some bad information. It seems the market was held on Wednesday, but this was Tuesday. So, when we arrived we found it empty. But some one told us that there was another market "just down the road". So we proceeded to that one. You never know what "just down the road" means in Kenya, and this time it meant a long way down the road and the "road" was more like a dried up creek bed. When we finally arrived I first checked to see if I still had all my teeth and then I looked around and surveyed the situation. The market was small, only about 150 people present. At first we were all a little disappointed, but then the thought occurred to all of us – we are here because God has engineered things for us to be here. This was not our idea, but it was His. So, let's tell these people about Jesus - and tell them we did. The Kenya team set up the equipment, started the generator, began playing music and the crowd quickly gathered. We preached the Gospel and the Spirit of God fell upon that place like a blanket. We were all amazed – and humbled. Nearly every person there gratefully and enthusiastically welcomed Jesus into their heart and life. When the meeting was over they did not want us to leave, but we had to move on. There were more people to tell about Jesus. As we drove away, Bernard Kamau (our driver and team member of 17 years) remarked, "This is a REMOTE place and I am wondering if we had not come here today, how would these people ever hear about Jesus?" I said, "Bernard, I don't know, brother. But God obviously brought us here and I praise Him that He did."

For 13 days we watched the sky, tried our best to dodge the rain, preached while we could and over and over again saw people come to Jesus. Night after night Pastor George Kimosa, who runs the GFE boys orphanage in Kakamega, led the film team out to a venue. Nearly every night they went under the threat of rain and on some nights even showed the Jesus film while it was sprinkling. Miraculously, on several occasions hundreds of people stood in the drizzle to watch and listen, and every night hundreds accepted Jesus. I praise God



Offering hope and peace to the multitudes



Three simple steps to eternal salvation

for the faith and faithfulness of George and his team who refused to give in or give up without first giving people an opportunity to say yes to Jesus.

On Monday, September 3 we moved from Kakamega to the city of Kitale. There we joined

GFE Pastor, Richard Makani for another six days of evangelism. Leaving one city and going to another did not help with the rain situation, but it did extend the outreach of the ministry. In fact it seemed that the weather got worse, but the meetings got better. During that six days we saw another 12,000 people respond to the Good News of Jesus. The next day, September 4, we celebrated our 30th anniversary in international evangelism. God blessed us

that day by allowing us to preach the Gospel 7 times and see over 3800 people come to Christ. What a wonderful way to celebrate! There was no party, no speeches and no banquet. In fact, Sheila and I sat in the old hotel restaurant that night and had a quiet prayer together thanking God for bringing 30 years of ministry to a close by allowing us to be where we were doing what we were doing. How better to spend our 30th anniversary than to end the day having seen thousands of people come into the Kingdom of God.

We finished the project on Saturday, Sept 8 with an open-air meeting held at 5:00 in the afternoon under thick black clouds and a light mist. 300 people prayed to receive Jesus. Then in the evening George conducted the last film show under the same conditions. The final 700 decisions of the campaign were recorded, not only in our record book, but also in the Lamb's Book of Life. The next day, Sunday, we began the long trip home, and we did so with grateful hearts. Sheila had severely hurt her back four days before (bad roads + bad beds), so we were moving slowly. But we were on our way home, and we were doing so with praise to God for the 19,132 people who are now on their way to their new home in heaven. Yes, our project was rained ON, but it was not rained OUT.

Life Changing Marriage Seminar

For GFE Pastors and Their Wives



Dave Lewis leading large group session

A great marriage is a wonderful thing! And, here in America, we have many tools (books, seminars, etc.) at our disposal to help us achieve good marriages. However, in most other countries these kinds of tools are virtually unheard of. During the recent trip to Kenya, we held the first Intimate Encounters Marriage Seminar. The seminar was for 50 GFE Pastors and their wives, and was held in Kakamega. The seminar was led by Rev. Dave Lewis (SWEA Board Member and Care Network Dir. at North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, GA), and he was assisted by 2 couples from his church, Phillip and Anita McCart and Curt and Martha Renshaw, who have been through the seminar themselves. Dave led the main sessions and the McCarts and Renshaws led the small group sessions.

The entire venture was an exercise in faith from the beginning to the end. It started with Shad asking Dave if he thought he could get time off from his duties at his church to lead a marriage seminar. Once Dave prayed about it, he became convinced it was the will of God and began looking for the right people to help him. Then once the others were on board, it became a real work of faith. It required everyone taking personal time off from their jobs and

time away from their families. The whole group started off not knowing where the funds would come from for tickets, food and lodging, and for translation and printing of materials – not to mention food and lodging for the 100 conference participants! It was a huge undertaking to say the least. Co-ordinating via e-mails and conference calls was also a major task, but God revealed His will and His way throughout the whole process.

From week to week, as a need came up, God provided, and by the time we all left for Kenya, every need had been provided for. God had proven Himself faithful and strong yet once again. As the seminar started on Aug. 27, we could see from the very beginning that God had a great work that He was going to do. The 50 couples had never participated in a conference together before, especially one of this type. In fact, no one had ever even heard of this type of conference. The culture in Kenya does not call for great openness and candor between husband and wife, but after attending this seminar, it was thrilling to see them talking openly with each other about their dreams, expectations, and desires for their marriage. Huge walls of mistrust, misunderstanding and hurt were broken down for some, while others discovered a whole new way to communicate with each other. They discovered the real meaning of marriage as a picture of Christ and the Church, and to see them begin to express this to one another was phenomenal!

Public, and sometimes even private, expression of affection between a husband and wife in Kenya is rare. But by the end of the week, you could see them walking hand in hand around the conference ground, talking and laughing, sharing special moments between themselves. Their countenances were visibly transformed and they were all so full of joy. The closing session was a time of testimony and rejoicing, and every couple was so excited to go back to their church and share what they had learned. Dave and the team also printed enough materials so that each couple could take 8 books each back to their own churches to use. They were extremely grateful to have these books to use with others.

I truly believe that this could be the start of a whole new era in marriage relationships in Kenya – relationships that are not built on cultural norms (either theirs or ours) but on truly being “one flesh” in Christ. The enemy will not let this new knowledge go untested, and they will need much prayer support from other brothers and sisters in Christ. Please pray for these couples as they step out into a new area of ministry in their churches and for their new-found relationships to one another.



Martha Renshaw (L) leading small group