

"Look to the fields. . ."

SHAD WILLIAMS EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION

"We Go To Them"

October 2023

2023 TEAM MEETINGS - A GLORIOUS REUNION

Words are not sufficient to express how wonderful it was to reconnect with our family in Africa after a three-and-a-half-year separation. When we left Tanzania following the January 2020 campaign, we had no idea that the Covid pandemic and other complications would keep us away for so long. But God, in His fathomless wisdom, used that time to drastically expand the team, not just numerically but also geographically. During that time, more than 20 new teams were formed, with many new members added, to work in numerous new stations throughout east and central Africa. It was our great joy to meet many of them for the first time.

On October 4, after three days of travel, we arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, where our first conference was held. It was a thrill to walk out of the terminal and be greeted by the hugs and smiles of about 20 team members! It was like coming HOME! After a day of rest and recuperation, we spent two full days with 65 team members and affiliates from stations throughout Kenya and Tanzania. Many of them were the "old veterans" with whom we have worked for the past 30+ years, but at least half of the group were new to us. Sheila and I spent the time in sharing ministry history, 50 years of personal experience, the vision and goals for the years ahead, plus encouragement and instruction for the work at hand. It was so inspiring, encouraging, refreshing, and unifying to have everyone together in the same place at the same time. It was a glorious reunion!

On Sunday October 8 we flew to Kigali, Rwanda where we were also welcomed upon arrival by an enthusiastic group of team members. We spent all day Monday and Tuesday sharing with a group of 70, much the same way as we did in Kenya, with a lot of emphasis on how to trust God by faith. To both groups I presented the question, are you in this for the short term or for life? Will you be doing this until the day you die? I have never seen such an extraordinary level of commitment among any group anywhere for reaching the unsaved with the Gospel. A couple of days ago, I received this message from Willie Andabwa (WGTT Field Coordinator Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo) which said, "For the past two weeks, I have seen a huge change in the team after you pouring your heart into them! The kind of energy I have never seen before. They are on fire!"

In both conferences we agreed together to believe God for 1000 evangelists in the field over the next ten years. I told them that the day is coming when we will have a "team meeting", but it won't be a conference of a hundred or so; it will be a WE GO TO THEM CONVENTION attended by several THOUSAND team members from countries all over Africa and beyond. My prayer is that we will live long enough to see it. It will be a GLORIOUS REUNION! Then someday, perhaps generations from now, we will all gather around the Lord Jesus - millions of us - for another GLORIOUS REUNION. I'm looking forward to THAT day!

THIRD QUARTER SUMMARY - 10.5 MILLION SAY YES TO JESUS

September was another victorious month! The teams conducted 1,218 evangelistic events: 869 school assemblies, 253 open-air events, 73 film shows, 17 prisons, and 6 sports events. They averaged presenting the Gospel to 35,500 people PER DAY! The total number of people praying to receive Jesus was 1,020,104.

From January 1 through September 30, they conducted 13,421 events. During that nine-month period the 30 plus teams (made up of approximately 200 people) delivered the simple message of salvation through Jesus Christ to an average of 43,000 people per day. The total number who prayed to receive Him in their heart was 10,568,857.

THANK YOU FOR THE IMPACT YOU ARE MAKING

I want to say a word to those of you, our friends, who are investing financially in this work. I have mentioned it before, but I'm saying it again anyway, because I think it is good for you to know JUST HOW MUCH of an impact you are having for the Kingdom of God. I know it's hard to imagine, but the current average cost of ONE of our evangelistic meetings is only about \$16.50. The average attendance of a meeting is 850. So, that means that each \$100 invested results in 6 events conducted and 5000 unsaved people having an opportunity to receive Jesus in their heart. That realization causes me to want to say to you guys who are helping this work continue -THANK YOU!! THANK YOU FOR THE TREMENDOUS IMPACT YOU ARE MAKING THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY! Thank you for your prayers, and for being with us, AND STAYING WITH US, as WE GO TO THEM!



Shad speaking to Kenya and Tanzania teams about faith



Having lunch together in Kigali, Rwanda



Shad and Wilfred Andabwa in Kigali



Sheila sharing with the teams in Nairobi, Kenya



Sheila sharing about leadership in Kigali



Shad sharing future expansion and goals in Nairobi



Rwanda, Burundi, and Congo teams



Shad with the ministry logo in Africa

Ebenezer - Jehovah Jireh

THE LORD HAS PROVIDED – THE LORD WILL PROVIDE

“A Knock at the Door”

Shad Williams

In November 1981, I made an initial trip to Malawi, Central Africa to investigate the potential of starting ministry there. It looked promising, and I planned to return. But for the next four years, we were busy setting up ministry in other countries. Finally, in September 1985, arrangements were completed for a five-week campaign in Malawi, preceded by 10 days in England. Not surprisingly, however, we were met with fierce opposition from the enemy of the Gospel - we always are upon entering new territory. This challenge was in the area of finances. We calculated that we would need about \$10,000 to cover everything. As the day of departure approached, there was a lot of preparation, communication, prayer, and enthusiasm, but no money - as in literally NO MONEY! We had our plane tickets, but there was not one penny for the 47 days in England and Malawi. We were set to depart at 3:20pm on Saturday, September 7.

On Friday morning, the day before departure, I went to the post office, hoping and praying for supply. The PO box was empty. So, Sheila and I spent the day doing everything we could do that did not require money. We didn't need Divine intervention to pack bags. We could do that. We could get things around the house prepared for us to be away for a while. But what we could NOT do is produce \$10,000. During the afternoon, we discussed and prayed about the situation. The question arose in our minds, should we just give up, cancel the trip, and try to get our money back on the tickets? The temptation to quit was almost overwhelming. How could two people in their right mind embark upon a 47-day trip with no money in their pockets and no foreseeable way to get any? The voice of the enemy said loudly, “You guys are fools!” But in our hearts, we just could not let it go. Finally, at midnight, I called my old friend, Evangelist Larry Baskin in Memphis. We talked, and he said, “Shad, I know in my spirit it is God's will for you to make this trip. Just trust God and go.” That little encouragement, that little wind in the sails of faith, was all we needed.

At 2:00am we went to sleep, having made the decision that money or no money, we were getting on the plane by faith, trusting God to provide. We were up by 8:00, busily getting ready to go to the airport - still no money. We needed to leave the house by noon, and at 11:45 we began loading bags in the car. At exactly 12:00, as we were walking out the door to the garage, I heard a knock at the front door. I thought, “Oh, no! I don't know who that is, but there is no way I have time to find out!” But they knocked again and rang the doorbell. So, I rushed to the door and saw that it was our friend and board member, Jim, from a town two hours away. I said, “Jim! What are you doing here?” He said, “When are you leaving for Africa?” I replied, RIGHT NOW! Our flight leaves in three hours, and we were just walking out the door. Then He said, “Well, I couldn't remember when you were leaving, but very early this morning God woke me up and told me to raise some money for you. So, I went around town and collected as much as I could by 10:00, and then got here as fast as I could to give it to you.” Then he handed me an envelope bulging with cash. It was \$5000! I could hardly believe what was happening, and I didn't know what to say. So, I just said, “Praise God, brother! Thank you for this!” It was half of what we needed and a huge encouragement to continue believing that God would take care of what we still needed, somehow.

I stuffed the money in my pocket, and we headed for the airport, thanking God for what He had provided, and praising Him that He had enabled us to hang on and not give up. What we didn't know, however, was that God was not finished. We arrived in London early Sunday morning where we were met by missionary friends. I preached in a church that night and then spent several days with our friends until departing for Malawi. At that point we were still praising God for His miraculous supply, but also wondering how we were going to manage for the next 35 days of ministry with only half of what the budget called for. But, as always, God had a way. When I figured the expenses for the campaign, I went by the exchange rate that was in place on our last trip there. But, to our surprise, we learned upon arrival that the dollar had just recently exactly doubled in value against the Kwacha (the local currency) automatically turning our five thousand dollars into TEN THOUSAND!

LESSON: When operating in the will of God, we can ALWAYS trust Him to provide – even down to the last minute. And there is always more at stake than we can see. That first campaign was not huge. We only saw 5000 people come to Jesus. BUT – it was the beginning of a ministry that has existed now for 38 years and has seen hundreds of thousands of people come into the Kingdom of God. It would have never happened if we had yielded to reasoning, common sense, and circumstances. We had no idea what all was contained in that single decision to hang on and trust God – but, HE DID!