

Report visit to Kenya from 16 until 21 November 2020

Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, 28 November 2020

Dear saints of God,

As mentioned in our newsletter earlier this month, I was able to visit Kenya for about a week. With all the corona restrictions and extra measures travelling certainly hasn't become any easier, but is still possible. I have to admit, I was surprised about the large amount of people not aware of the additional entry requirements in the form of health declarations, etc., mandatory to enter some countries. Upon arrival in Kenya, many had no clue about this and were stopped from entering the country by customs officers, who told these individuals to get their paperwork in order, before making another attempt. Fortunately for them, this declaration could be filed online within a couple of minutes (provided you had a smart phone and access to internet...). Similar things happened upon return at Dublin Airport. Wearing a face mask during the entire journey (18/20 hours); in airports, planes, and cars) wasn't a very pleasant experience.

It was my first visit to Kenya, although I had met most brothers, who were present at the meetings we had, before. The original plan was for me to travel with bro. Hilvert Wijnholds, but his health condition prevented him from travelling (I'm sure he'd value your prayers in this), which meant that both the administrative and spiritual responsibilities came on my plate. At the end of each day I was able to discuss things with Hilvert. On Tuesday morning we (six brothers from Kenya and I) could discuss various matters concerning the work in Kenya and the administrative responsibilities involved with it. In the afternoon we visited the Kenyan Revenue Authorities, as some matters with them needed to be cleared up. On Wednesday our discussions continued. One of the things we discussed about reaching out to other believers is to preach Christ, rather than immediately focus on principles or doctrine and realise that this is something that might divide us. Paul didn't come to preach principles or doctrine; he preached Christ, Christ crucified (see 1 Cor. 1:23). When we preach Christ and the believer has an affection for Him, he will have the desire to do as his Lord asks, which gives opportunity to bring out other things in preaching. But the hearts first need to be warmed with the Person of the Lord Jesus.

Christianity is the life of Christ
communicated to the believer
— dwelling in him — and
flowing out from him

Charles Henry Mackintosh



Discussions with the brothers from Kenya



Lunch outside



Bookkeeping instruction



Bookkeeping instruction



Studies on the Lamb of God



Group photo including some of the guests

Wednesday evening six brothers from Uganda arrived after a long journey and waiting a day at the border for the results of their Covid-tests.

On Thursday we started with some discussions about the literature work and sharing stocks of available books in both countries. As many publications are now printed in Kampala, Uganda, we needed to streamline transport from there to Kenya. This was followed by teaching some general bookkeeping principles, which needed to be refreshed and updated. As rules in many countries in Africa are getting stricter and more similar to what we're facing in western countries, the accounting systems used by our brothers needed updating. For many years an Excel cash book was sufficient, but now they need to change to an online accounting system. Some changes are not nice, but necessary and this was one of them. The rest of Thursday morning and part of the afternoon was used to discuss and explain the new software, which is going to be implemented in the next few weeks, so it can be used in the new year. Although this was entirely new, the brothers picked it up quickly and after a few hours they could help each other and explain what steps had to be taken in order to book something. As the software is relatively cheap, works with all currencies, and is available both in English and French, it will, in due course, be implemented in other countries where Foundation All Nations is active. The rest of Thursday afternoon was used for a discussion with the brothers from Uganda to discuss some matters related to the work in their country.

Friday and Saturday were used for Bible studies. I could speak on five chapters or passages dealing with Christ as the Lamb of God; Genesis 22, Exodus 12, Isaiah 53, John 1:29–51, and Revelation 5. After every address there was time for questions or additional comments by the other brothers. We were joined by some befriended believers from other groups, who really appreciated the time together. We saw, as earlier discussed, that having Christ as our focal point and main subject, lead to many other (and sometimes doctrinal) questions. After the meetings on Saturday I was brought back to the airport and I returned safely home on Lord's Day afternoon, after which I now have to self-isolate for 14 days.

In conclusion

In both countries (as in other countries in Africa) there is an increasing demand for preaching and teaching, a genuine desire to learn and listen to the Word. This places the local brothers for a great challenge: who are going to take up this enormous task? Our conclusion: "The harvest indeed is great, but the workmen few.." The solution: "Supplicate therefore the Lord of the harvest that he may send out workmen into his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Please pray with us! But also give thanks to the Lord for the many open doors.

It was good to spend some days with some of the brothers in East Africa. The Lord certainly gave much help and blessing, answer to many prayers!

Yours in our soon coming Lord,

Paul Meijer

