

## Kenya – Africa Trip Report Part 3

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. II Corinthians 9:8

**Nairobi** – April 1, we flew in from Lusaka, Zambia. We were met at the airport by our friend Joseph Kavuli, who loaned us his car for ministry in the month of April. God provided young men at Kakuswi who washed the car.



We stayed at **Mayfield, the Africa Inland Mission Guest House** for several days before and after our Eldoret trip. At Mayfield we were refreshed in body and soul as we visited with other missionaries from around the world and with friends in the Nairobi area, including Stanley and Sylvia Mutingili who gave birth to a daughter in April.



The two Sylvias

We were invited to speak in the **Eldoret** area by Stanley Mutai, who helped with the Kiswahili translation of *Widows of the Old Testament (WOT)*. Stanley and his wife Rachel are retired teachers.

We stayed for a week with Peter and Milka Maru, retired missionaries. He was the Director of Missions for Kenya A.I.C. (Africa Inland Church). We felt at home on their rustic farm near Eldoret.



Stanley and Rachel



Peter and Milka

Sylvia spoke at a large Women's Conference in a church district near Eldoret. She also met with a group of 15 widows at the conference who for the first time met together as widows to talk and pray. Widow's Bible Study and prayer groups were formed as a result.



Widows who met together for first time

David held a seminar with the district pastors and also spoke at a worship service at A.I.C. Fellowship (one of the largest churches) in Eldoret. While at the church, we met J. K. Kiplagat, the Kenya Ambassador to Sudan.

He requested that WOT be translated into Arabic as there is a great need for it in Sudan. Sylvia spoke to a large Widow Group that meets at A.I.C. Fellowship.



We were at A.I.C. Missionary College for a commissioning service to send two students and their families out for experience in missionary service before graduating. The current Director of Missions for Kenya AIC/Principal of the College, Ally Chepkwony, gave us a tour of the school and the radio/TV facilities. We found a former student of our son James', a Scott graduate, in charge of the radio station.



John - Betty Cheruiyot, Selina, Solomon

Pastor John Cheruiyot has no use of his withered legs. He shared his testimony with us at a pastor's fellowship. His wife pushes his bicycle wheelchair through fields and down rutted dirt roads. They do not have a car. His joy in the Lord warmed our hearts. **His dream is to one day have a motorized chair or vehicle**

**to move around in, so life could be easier for his wife.**



Paul Isayi and his children

Paul, our Kiswahili translator, who is working on his doctorate in Thailand, came to Kenya while we were there. He rode with us from Nairobi to his home in Eldoret where we met his wife Susan and family. His daughter Elizabeth was born Christmas day, just before the election uprising in 2007. A few days after Elizabeth was born, Susan took the children and fled from their home for fear it would be burned. God protected them and their home. Paul was one of James' students at Scott.



Site of church that was burned to ground

Many people seeking refuge in the church were burned to death during the election uprising. To the right is an open structure covered with a green tarp where the congregation now meets. The pastor and his wife were not visibly



harmful but the horrible memories live on. We met her and their newborn baby.



Miwani Widows – Prayer Warriors

We visited an established widow ministry at Miwani, in western Kenya. It is supported by several churches in the U.S. The widows have divided into three teams and they pray around the clock – 24/7. We stayed over night with the directors, Joshua and Abigail Atieno and when we awakened during the night we could hear widows praying in the prayer center. They have developed a home and school for orphans K-Form 4 (12<sup>th</sup> gd.). Most of the widows live in the surrounding community. Please join Joshua and Abigail, their family and the widows in **prayer for their 15 yr. old daughter Joyce, who disappeared the middle of August.** Pray for her protection and safe return.



Back to Nairobi for a few days

April 16 we traveled 1 hr. to Machakos where Sylvia shared God's Word with over 200 widows gathered under trees at A.I.C. Mumbuni, next to the Scott Campus. We gave bags of maize to 240

widows. The drought had been severe in the Machakos and surrounding areas. Later that day we traveled to A.I.C. Kakuswi where we would live in a small house on the church property for the remainder our ministry in Kenya. When we arrived camp was in progress.



An ox cart delivering water for the camp



We shared testimony last night of camp

Most of our meals were taken in the homes of church families. For breakfast, they brought us eggs, bread and fruit. We had a small one burner propane tank and no refrigerator. We had electricity, when it was on. Often, it went off in the whole area. There was a big propane lantern. The choo (outdoor toilet for church use as well) was about 100 feet from the house. We thought we were on the property alone at night, but later we learned that there was a very good night watchman.

David led a Leadership Seminar for Kiteta District pastors and wives.



Preparing food for Seminar

Later the same day, David preached a funeral message for a pastor's deceased wife. More than 2000 attended the funeral. Some shared with others that they received Christ that day.



David preaching at funeral

On Sunday David preached at A.I.C. Kakuswi and we ministered to children and teens in S.S. After the service, Sylvia met with the women and David with the men. Then together we shared our testimonies with the teens. An outstanding teen is Joshua, who is blind. He lives and shares the Word of God, writes songs and sings in the choir. He lives with his grandfather and is highly respected in his village. We were impressed by a number of young people in that church – great leadership of the future.

Their pastor is Benjamin Nzwili, our friend, who asked us to come to the Kiteta District to minister. He is the

Chairman of Kiteta District. His mother, Lois, was widowed, when he was small.



Benjamin Nzwili, Grace and G'ma Lois



Preparing people for God's service

Benjamin is also Principal of Nduluku Bible Institute, where many of their buildings are in disrepair. **David hopes to lead a mission work team that can repair their buildings and also help Muunyini church put up a building.**



AIC Muunyini staff views building site

AIC Muunyini pastor, Joshua Muendo, took us to visit Monica, a widow, 93. Her granddaughter, Janet Nzioka, a Scott



graduate, ministers to women and widows in the Kiteta district. We had a worship service under Monica's passion tree where she intercedes daily for family, pastors, churches, and others (including us). God provided a laptop computer for Janet in answer to prayer.



Prayer intercessor Monica and Janet N.

A highlight of the trip was a Widow Graduation when all the Kiteta District widows and their friends and families came to A.I.C. Kakuswi for the event. After I was there, three years ago, and taught them a study from my book, their trained widow leaders continued to lead studies of the *Widows of the Old Testament* in each church, along with their regular program materials. The graduates completed the studies and program requirements. Sylvia spoke for the graduation and presented a certificate to 125 graduates from eleven churches.



Widow graduation at A.I.C. Kakuswi

Following the graduation, we presented 240 bags of maize, one to each widow

present at the meeting and sent a bag to those who couldn't attend. Each pastor offered congratulations and the Kakuswi choir gave a wonderful skit and concert. It was an amazing day!



Boniface M., Benjamin N., and Sylvia - preparing maize for Taveta widows

We were part of a ministry team from the Kiteta District that traveled to Taveta to help the churches there form a new district. A.I.C. Makutano at Taveta was a church plant, a mission project of the Kiteta District. Joseph Kavuli, CEF Director for Central and East Africa, was a part of our team. Another team member was Boniface Mutisya, himself an orphan, who helped develop the AIC Kenya Widow Program in Kiteta DCC. Widows in the Taveta area came together for the first time. They will now form groups in each of their churches to have Bible studies and prayer to encourage one another. Bags of maize were given to 72 widows.



Peter & Priscilla Mulei, his mother and their children in front of their home.

Peter, the pastor at A.I.C. Makutano, was chosen to be the Chairman of the new Taveta District. Priscilla studies at Nduluku Bible Institute to sharpen her ministry skills. Our home church, at Moreland, a “sister church” to Makutano supports Priscilla in Bible school.



Joseph Kavuli meets with teens and children. Eight receive Christ.



David meets with Makutano men.



Sylvia meets with Makutano women.

Sylvia also met with the A.I.C. Manza widows near Machakos. She renewed

relationships, shared God’s Word and brought the widows potholders made by women at Moreland Church and crocheted dish cloths made by a friend, Judy S. Maize was also given to each of the widows. The Manza widows, back in 2001, asked Sylvia to write Bible study materials for them. These studies were published in 2004 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition in 2006 – *Widows of the Old Testament*.



Joseph and Grace Kavuli at home

We enjoyed special times with the Kavulis, also with Benjamin and Annah Nzwili and family. We thank God for these African friends and their desire to use us in ministry to their people. **Please pray for Grace’s health and for Annah’s need for finances to complete her degree program.** She is a teacher.

When we came to Kenya they were in severe drought. We continually prayed with the people for rain. The rains came our last week there and things greened. We purchased 10 goats for the most needy widows in Kiteta district. Now severe drought has returned and people and animals are dying. **Please pray with us for rain to sustain them.**

David & Sylvia De Jong

P.S. If you are interested in participating on a work team in January/February 2010 or helping financially please contact us for further details. See web site [www.DeJongMinistries.com](http://www.DeJongMinistries.com) for contact information.