

# KENYA MISSION...

Looking back on the last two months, I can only express my gratitude to God for all His protection and guidance in the work He allowed us to do in Kenya. It was our first time in the continent of Africa, and we did not really know what to expect, or what trials would meet us down there. Yet we have experienced the mighty hand of God move in our behalf. What a joy it is to serve Him! Through evangelism we are placing ourselves in the center of God's activity, which is soul saving. May you be encouraged and strengthened through the following experience of encounters whereby God's power was manifested in Kenya.

With eager anticipation and good courage we boarded our plane on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2005. **Approximately 8 hours later we arrived safely in Kenya. As we stepped out of the plane the heat met us immediately. Our Kenyan friend Emmanuel was there to pick us up. We drove over the much damaged roads, making our way to Emmanuel's house in Mtwapa, a suburb of Mombassa. While traveling, we already began to see the enormous difference of life in Kenya compared to what we were familiar with in Europe. People begging on almost every street corner, children and animals running through the much garbage accumulated on the streets, noise everywhere, and reckless driving in order to get through the much traffic.**

With the fresh impressions of Kenya we arrived at our destination. The heat met us again as we stepped out of the car. But along with the heat of the sun, we were warmly met by several brothers and sisters in Christ. Many had been anticipating our arrival, and we were happy to meet eager souls ready to labor for the Lord.

We had come to Kenya as a team from Europe. Joachim (Denmark), Ruth (Switzerland), Zita, Irma and Elke (Germany), the Kellman family (Germany), Elma (Holland), Stine, Silvia and myself (Norway) made up the team of missionaries. Our varied talents contributed to the work in Kenya. Our Kenyan friend Emmanuel had traveled from Germany to Kenya one month prior than our team to start preparing the campaign in his local area.

Soon plans started to be realized, and the day arrived for our health\Bible campaign to begin. Banners were put up and a car was rented with loud-speakers to spread the message of the meetings that would be held in the city. People responded to the call, and many found their way to the meeting-ground the opening night. We knew more people were listening from their homes located in the area of our crusade ground. There is a greater hunger for spiritual food in Kenya, as the people feel a deeper need for something they do not have. Materialism has ruined a lot in the western world when it comes to the gospel. Many do not feel their need as they cling to their carnal security in this life. Some Kenyans would come to me saying they were poor. I would reply: You are rich! When you accept the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ, you are the son or daughter of the King of the universe. This life may find them poor, but for many their treasures are in heaven.

After each evening meeting we would gather for prayer. People would come with various requests which we would present before the Lord. The Lord breathed His Spirit on us and humble requests were granted. Oh how we experienced the power of intercessory prayer! A man came to our meetings with a hearing disability. He would sit right next to the loudspeakers, to be able to follow along with the message (and those loudspeakers were loud!). He shared that from his birth he had been almost deaf. My mind went to the instances in the life of Jesus as He had great compassion on the sick and disabled. Oh how many times have we read the stories! We know what happened in those days, but what about today? Jesus is still alive and willing to heal. As disciples we have the assurance. In Mark 16:17-18 we read: *"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they take up any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."*

Claiming this promise, we prayed. And praise the name of Jesus, the man received full ability to hear right there as we prayed! His confidence in God's love grew, and he attended our classes in the morning. What a joy I could see in the face of this man. I can imagine the joy that would fill our Saviors heart as he would bestow his healing power upon the sick and helpless souls in the days he walked on this planet.

Along with the evening presentations we had a school program running in the morning. We covered subjects as Daniel and Revelation, Gospel working methods, Healthful living, Natural remedies, etc.



The students enjoyed the classes, even though many of them came late each day. Kenyans have quite a different concept of time than we Europeans. We had to learn to deal with many adjustments, but the Lord strengthened us when needed.

We stayed in Mtwapa for about 4 weeks before we moved to another area to work. Some of our team stayed behind to continue the work in Mtwapa. Four of us would move to a new area in west Kenya. The last night before we were going to leave something unforgettable happened that shook our whole experience in Kenya.

It was during the early morning hours when we were all still asleep in the house that three men with swords entered the compound. Without any of us noticing, they quietly broke into the house, and made their way to our sleeping rooms. One of us woke up, but quickly a sword was placed on the throat with the command to remain silent. All items in the rooms were quickly gathered by the robbers. They made their way to the last room where Zita (health worker from Germany) was sleeping. She woke up and started speaking with the three intruders. They said she had to be quiet. She replied that she would pray, which she started to do. The thieves seemed to be uncomfortable and probably afraid that others would wake up. They quickly left.

Right after they left, there was commotion in the house, to which my wife and I woke up. I could hardly believe what I heard, but as I felt my way through my room I realized my belongings were gone. My first thought was why this had happened. I needed all my equipment for the meetings that were still ahead of us. And my precious Bible was taken along with laptops, projectors and various other equipment.

But despite of the many questions that were haunting our minds we knelt down together as a team and prayed. God gave us peace and a clear mind to think. The police was contacted and investigated the case, but till today we have not received anything back from the robbery.

The first days after the robbery were especially hard for us all, but we found comfort in the Word of God. Romans 8:28 says: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose."* Our faith in God was being tested and tried, and we knew that despite of the robbery the Lord had great blessings waiting just around the corner. We were drawn to a deeper dependence upon God then before. I believe the Devil knew that blessings were awaiting us and he wanted to see us on the very next plane back home. But we were only in the middle of our trip and were all determined to move forward.

And so, as planned, four of us traveled from Mtwapa to the capital city Nairobi. Here we were appointed to speak in Maxwell SDA Church. This is one of the largest Churches in East Africa with about 3500 members. The Lord had miraculously opened the door for us to speak in this Church. We stressed the importance of our true mission and identity as Seventh day Adventists in this day and age. Many came forward as an alter call was made. In the

## Snap-shots:

*Unfortunately our camera was stolen, so we do not have many pictures from Mtwapa. The team that stayed behind did a good follow-up work after the meeting-series ended. Several are preparing for baptism. Emmanuel is left, and continues the Bibleclasses, health-consultation and visitation-work. He needs our prayers!*



*Next stop: Nairobi. We were invited to speak in Maxwell SDA church (3500 members). We were grateful for this opportunity to meet so many brothers and sisters in the Lord.*

*... We were warmly received, and the message brought revival. Hundreds were responding to the call after Daniels meeting: 'Our Mission and Identity'. Zitas presentation of the health-message God has given us, touched many.*



*The last sabbath we spent in Kaloleni, Emmanuels birthplace. Emmanuel has a burden for his family that has not yet taken a stand for the truth...*

*... The church-members had decorated the church with colourful cloths, flowers and balloons. Daniel preached the sabbath sermon, and in the afternoon we addressed topics like family and health.*







*Ranenn:*

*Though it was a remote area, many found their way to the health-presentations, childrens-meetings, and Bible-prophecy crusade.*

*In the morning we had health-classes and a Bibleworker-training course. The local Bibleworkers are now doing follow-up work with baptismal classes.*

*Friendships were created. Read Beryl's amazing story in the article beside!*

*Visitation-work was a blessing! On the picture below you see a catholic family we made good friends with. Little Charity bound us together in love. We were told that when her older brother threw the pamphlet about the 3 angles message on the ground, she started to cry and picked it up.*

*A faithful visitor of the crusade gave birth to twins in the end of the series. They were named Daniel and Silvia.*

*Last, but not least, we want to share the joy and eagerness the people expressed when they received reading materials. The pamphlet „The Struggle Behind the Scenes“ by Abel Struksnæs and „Sundaylaw“ by Jan Marcussen were shared out to the visitors together with Bibles. We had to keep strict organisation - people were so eager and thankful to receive these materials!*

afternoon Zita had a health meeting which was well received by the pastor and the Church.

From Nairobi we traveled on to Ranenn in the west of Kenya. Ranenn is located close to Lake Victoria. This lake binds Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda together. The new area to which we had arrived was quite different from the noisy Mtwapa and the busy Nairobi. We found ourselves in the calm surroundings of sugarcane-fields with here and there banana and mango trees. In between the many fields and trees the people would live in small clay huts with roofs made of reeds. We really felt we were African missionaries out in the jungle far from civilization. It didn't take long before we were acquainted with the people of the area and their friendliness was overwhelming to me. I enjoyed the country living and mentality in contrast to the busy life of the cities. We thought that since most people were farmers spread over the area without cars or modern transportation, we could not expect so many people at our meetings. But we were surprised when several hundred came out to the evening meetings. The number was even better than in Mtwapa, where it had gone down during the series. Here the number grew and on one of our Sabbath gatherings we had almost 500 people attending. The Church with which we were working was a small Church and many of the members needed training which was provided. Several were eager to learn how they could be involved in spreading the gospel.

During the evening meetings there was a young girl named Beryl of about 15 years old that was attending. She was following the studies attentively and with great interest. Many of the teachings were new to her, but impressed by the Spirit she followed that which she heard. Her story is quite remarkable. In 1998 Beryl lost both her parents when a bomb blew up the American corporate building in Nairobi. Both her parents worked there when this took place. Left alone, Beryl was sent to live with her grandparents in Ranenn. From her early years she had prayed and sought the Lord for guidance. When hearing about the evangelistic campaign she decided to attend. This however was very displeasing to her grandparents. They wanted her to have nothing to do with these Seventh day Adventists. They threatened her, but Beryl was determined to attend the meetings. One evening, as she returned from the meetings, she found the door shut. She had to sleep outside that night, but even this would not hold back this determined youth. One Sabbath service Beryl attended, and as she was listening to the divine sermon, her grandmother came to take her home. But suddenly she was captivated by the message, and for a moment seemed to forget that which she came to do. She sat down and listened, and soon tears were running down her cheeks. One of our team members saw that she was struggling what to do. Then she suddenly stood up and left the scene.

The Lord is good and will fight for His children that keep hold to His hand. What a joy filled my heart when I saw Beryl, along with 27 other dear young people, enter the waters of baptism after our crusade. She truly came up out of the water as a new person. The truth she had heard was worth the trials of this life. As long as she knew that Jesus looked upon her with a smile. We indeed serve a powerful God that is continually drawing His precious children closer to Him.

It was hard for us to leave Ranenn as we had made





many friends with the workers and the new converts. But the time came that we had to depart. We are thankful for the hope we have in Christ, that by faith we know that when we are faithful we will meet at the tree of life, never to part again.

After a long trip back to Mombassa, we realized our days in Kenya were numbered. There was so much to do and so little time. I can imagine the burden that was on Paul's heart when he had to leave new converts and move on. But with confidence we could place the work in the hands of our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Our prayer is that the Lord will finish the great work He started. This country is truly ready for a great harvest of souls. By God's grace, and the help of brothers and sisters in Europe, we hope to return to Kenya and continue the revival that has begun.

As I'm writing this article, I am back in Norway where it is winter at this time. Snow covers the trees and fields and the temperature is slightly below the freezing point. Not only do I miss the warmth of the African sun, but I miss the warmth of the people. We will never forget the joy of seeing hearts being molded and formed by the Word of God.

In the Lords service, Silvia and Daniel Pel

## Upcoming events:

Jan 30 - Feb 26, 2006:  
Evangelistic Campaign, Bern (Switzerland)

Feb 9 - 12, 2006:  
SDA Camp-meeting, Switzerland

Feb 26 - March 12, 2006:  
Evangelistic Campaign, Möckern (Germany)

March 12 - April 2, 2006:  
Evangelistic Campaign, Kopenhagen  
(Denmark)

**July 5 - 9, 2006:**  
**Living Waters Summer camp-meeting, Norway**

## Information for support of Living Water Ministry:

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*Public meeting-series at the  
football-field in Mtwapa...*



*Sabbath service in Nairobi  
Central Church...*



*Into the bush -  
meeting-series in Rannen...*



*Praise the Lord! 28 souls  
went into the waters of  
baptism after the meetings...*