

Encouraging times in Nairobi



As we have become aware of the drought in the horn of Africa, including the northern part of Kenya, it seems strange to think that one of the last messages received before we left home was 'Bring wellies – the rains are terrible!'

This was Nairobi and there had been plenty of rain. Although the rains are eagerly anticipated and very welcome, they do rather have the effect of turning the access roads to Injili Bible Church into a mud bath. In Kawangware, like everywhere else in Nairobi, the mud soon dries. This is a place that is thronging with people and the church is wonderfully situated at the heart of it.

It was a huge encouragement to witness the rapid progress in the rebuilding, following the recent fire. The church now has a solid structure to meet in and it was a privilege to worship with our



Injili Bible Church – New building in Kawangware

fellow believers there. Sukesh and Jenny Pabari have been in Kenya now for many years with their three children Kiran, Asha and Roshen. They have been greatly encouraged in the development of what is a relatively new work in Kawangware. Sukesh has an effective ministry and has made huge strides in the literature work – translating many books and commentaries into Swahili. As well as a solid building there is a strong Kenyan leadership in place and men who are able to teach and train others.

The work of evangelism is a priority and it was a joy to accompany Sukesh and others from the church in their Sunday afternoon visitation. People were contacted in their homes and stall holders were spoken to at the roadside. Invariably people will speak and Sukesh is a gifted evangelist who is able to engage folk in conversation about the things of eternity.

Andrew and Danielle Gullett have been in Kenya nearly two years and are happily settled with their two boys James and Ben. Andrew is working with "Africa Christian Textbooks" (ACTS) and has great opportunities to distribute excellent books to Bible colleges, book shops and even universities. Andrew likes nothing better than to get out to the colleges and put good books into the hands of the students. In March 2010 five main objectives were agreed for this work. The primary goal is 'To flood Kenya and beyond with good Biblical literature.' Last year something like 12,000 books were sold or given away.

Visitors to Africa quickly become aware of the differences – language, culture, and the standard of living. Some things are universal though: mobile phones, Coca-Cola and football! Many Kenyans love the English Premiership and all the popular teams have fans here. It can be tempting to major on the outward differences and to feel guilty about the poverty and hardship that many have to endure. The key thing is to remember that the universal need of people everywhere is the same – pardon for sin and peace with a holy God. The gospel of saving grace in Christ is what makes the difference and the opportunity to share this message in Kenya, through different means, is being taken by our missionaries there. Pray for them – and pray for Kenya.

Andrew Sadler

Every time it rains



We arrived in Kenya during the time of the long rains... but it hadn't rained hard enough or long enough and this was causing a lot of concern. Kenya is a very rural country (some 75% of the population is rurally based) and so rain is a vital commodity. In the two weeks we were there we actually saw little rain but when it rained in Kisumu it was like a power shower!

We were visiting the elders of Grace Baptist Church in their new building and had enjoyed 2 hours of stimulating fellowship when suddenly the rain came! We were not concerned as Graham and Sally Jones were picking us up – However, the rain had caused another car to get stuck and they could not get nearer than 100 metres. Nothing for it but to run – we didn't avoid much rain and by the time we were in the car we were rain soaked and mud spattered. It was incredible to see the torrents just pouring down the main street of the town and flooding people's shops and shacks.

You do need a four wheel drive vehicle in Kenya as our morning trip to Othoo had shown. We visited the elders of the church at their homes and in each case had to travel on unmade roads which must be virtually impassable when it has been raining for any length of time.

First we went to meet Moses and Pamela and their children – and the cows he was looking after. They had prepared tea and the Jones had brought the bread so we sat and chatted happily about the work of the gospel in this village. There were problems of course but encouragements too, and confident that the Lord had

to do in the church. He had just module of the training course m was overseeing and a raph of Graham passing over certificate was required!

en we moved on to see illiam who was a co-elder the church and one of the nior men in the village. We are a delightful time of owship and hospitality in their re and talked about the needs



Grace Baptist Church Kisumu

of village churches. They were very clear about the need for the training that Graham and Sally were giving them and others and hoped that they would stay for some time to come. They were very grateful to those who made it possible for the Jones' to undertake this work.

We had previously visited David and Liz Anderson in Eldoret and had been encouraged by their vision for a work on an estate called 'Pioneer' in the town. The homes here were of the one room, single storey format that we saw often in Kenya and the estate was full of children. 43% of Kenyans are under the age of fifteen and 50% under 18 and so there is enormous potential for children's work. Two children's clubs are held weekly with well over fifty attending. David and his co-worker Abraham are seeking to reach out with the truth into a community that has seen so much of the false gospel. As in so many poor areas, the 'health and wealth' gospel is very prevalent and David and Abraham are making a clear stand against it.

Work is sparse and the coming elections make people fearful so we need to pray much for the grace of God to work powerfully in this beautiful but difficult country.

John McDonald



Kawangware rooftops



The Gullett family