

## Reflections From Erastus Kavuti's Mission Trip to America

... October, 2008 Newsletter

### The Trip:

In 20 days on U.S. soil Erastus made 21 speeches/sermons/presentation and participated in 20 meetings with individuals and/or groups of people. He spoke to Christians at 8 congregations. He spoke at two elementary schools and one high school. He spoke to student sponsors, college students, preacher interns, and area preachers. He spoke at a Habitat for Humanity meeting and on Christian radio station WGNJ. During his visit Erastus thanked, encouraged, and challenged those he spoke to.

During the U.S. visit Erastus related that the dry season crop failure had resulted in famine conditions in Kenya. He reported that a typical Kenyan family is eating one meal/day of maize (corn) and beans. People from Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois, and Michigan responded by donating \$5,067 in famine relief. The money will be used to buy food for distribution through the churches and hybrid seed to plant for the upcoming rainy season. Congregations and individual families also donated money for preacher support, student sponsorship, and community development projects.

### The Future:

Contributions are currently supporting 6 preachers and the mobile medical clinic. Four more men are being trained to preach. The Masaani church building is being completed. We are helping the Masaani congregation build primary school classrooms. We are helping the Kivaki congregation buy land for their new church building. At the Kavonge congregation we are assisting with community development projects and planning to build a secondary school. The youth of the church have developed proposals to reduce poverty. Their proposal states, "We are 40 youth whereby through God's will and his love and mercy we are focusing on bringing souls to Christ through the youth poverty eradication project. We are targeting all youth in our community irrespective of their religion and we believe that they will come to know the true Gospel of Christ through our project and through God's will." Their proposal includes raising chickens for egg production, raising mushrooms for food and medicine, planting Eucalyptus trees for lumber, planting Jatrophia trees for bio-diesel, and raising Aloe Vera plants for medicine. Many of these projects will be part of the school land development

Erastus reported that phase 2 of the Kavonge secondary school project is underway. The Kenyans expect to have 20,000 brick made by the end of June so that building the school can begin. The goal is to complete 2 classrooms, a principal's office, a kitchen, and an eating area by January of 2010. The first year will have a freshman and sophomore class. The next phase will be more classrooms, a shop for teaching job skills, and drilled well. The education that this school will provide for 350 children will provide hope for a better life. Through teaching the Gospel the students can also have eternal hope and a home with God. **Sunday October 26<sup>th</sup>** has been designated as "**Build a School Sunday**". Our goal of \$100,000 will build the school buildings, equip the school, and drill a deep well. Please pray for this effort and prayerfully consider contributing to changing lives in Kenya. May God use us to make a difference for the children of Kenya.

### **Messages to the Churches:**

**To Philo Road Church of Christ** he wrote, “You are a true family of God. Your touch to the people of Kenya is a blessing. I am convinced that somehow God will make us meet again. Use your talents wisely and God shall reward you. Take care of those who are far from home. I love you very much. God bless you.”

**To Mid-Town, Little River, and Lepanto Churches** he wrote, “I remember the day as a day of encouragement. We had a good visit. I learned a lot of good things about the church there and met great men of God. It is always good to fellowship. Your contribution to the famine situation in my area was a great show of love of Christ. You gave from the heart.”

**To Kemp Church of Christ**, He wrote, “It was good for me to be with you for that short time. Your congregation reminded me of my rural home church. You were so loving and friendly. Our fellowship together was a boost to my mission work in Kenya. You may be few in number, but your work is very much alive. You are a living church. Thank you for your generous contribution to famine relief. Your brothers and sisters in Kenya will bless you as they eat from your pockets. We shall always remember you in Kenya.”

**To Holmes Road Church of Christ**, he wrote, “Having been with you in true worship and fellowship has been a great honor for me and to the church in Kenya. You cared much and you still care. The collection you gave for famine relief was another signal that you love us. May the Lord add to your pockets many times what you gave. I hope we will remain true partners in the work of God. Remember to use your talents to grow the church. Reach to others and never stop doing good through your love. The God of Heaven will make us meet again.”

**To the Good Neighbor’s Class at Madison Church of Christ**, Erastus said “I thank you for your kindness and generosity to us. You gave a lot to help me on that Sunday we met. I remember the time you spent listening to me, your encouragement, your generous contribution and the money in the basket. It is the spirit of the Lord who is teaching you and using you to reach others. You blessed me. We have planted, God will make it grow. Let us therefore wait for his blessing, for He is the Lord. We will continue to pray for you, as you do the same for us. May God bless you. Amen.”

### **Going Home**

I remember getting on the plane at the end of my first trip to Kenya. In a sense you feel you are approaching the end of a journey. In another sense you feel like you are beginning a journey.... a new life with a new commitment to God. Before getting on the plane to return to Kenya this is what Erastus said, “This trip has made a difference in my life. My faith has increased. The way God is doing his work here is a miracle. I am impressed by people who want to be involved. I am moved to work even harder because the time is short.”

May God bless his work in Kenya. May we re-dedicate ourselves to using our talents to serve God and glorify him.

For the Cause of Christ,

Carl Burkybile