

Bryan Baptiste, New York

Strengthening Believers in Him

On January 30, **brothers Edric Martin and Paul Palmer, Jr.** accompanied me to Kenya to visit the saints there for two weeks. We arrived in Nairobi on Wednesday, January 31. In Nairobi, we were joined by brothers Richard Owieno and Richard Otieno from Mombasa.

On the morning of February 1, we drove to Tala for Bible studies with the saints in the afternoon, and continued with studies on the morning of February 2, at the Eagles Hotel. The readings were from 2 Timothy 1-4. Translation from English to Swahili was capably provided by brother Richard Owino. < About 28 saints were in attendance for the Bible study and we had a blessed time together around the word of God and sweet fellowship with one another.



Prior to leaving Tala we visited the home of sister Rose, where the local saints meet once per week for Bible study. The small group usually walk a half hour to and from her home. Please pray that their desire to re-commence the breaking of bread, which has not been practiced for over three years, will be realized, and that the Lord will also provide them with a meeting hall. Also, please pray for the saints in the nearby assembly in Nairobi, who indicated that the rented space in the school where they meet to break bread on Lord's Day has become very noisy, and they are in need of financial assistance to purchase a building of their own.

On the afternoon of February 2, we returned to Nairobi. From there brothers Richard Owino and Richard Otieno traveled back to their homes, and we were met by brothers, Norman and Mutavi from Mombasa. On February 3, we traveled together to Busia where, on the Lord's Day, we had the privilege of remembering Him with the saints, who had just broken bread for the first time on the previous Lord's Day. The breaking of bread was followed by ministry of the Word, as well as Bible studies in the afternoon and again on Monday morning. We considered the Grace of God; Cleaving to the Lord; and the Lordship of Christ from Acts 11:22-26.

The meetings were held in the conference room of the Scorpion hotel on the top floor, which proved to be just adequate to accommodate us. There were about 120 people from the area in attendance on the first day, and around 80 on the second day. (Unfortunately, some late-comers on the second day were turned away at the door by the hotel staff without our knowledge.) The Lord helped us tremendously and the saints were blessed. In Busia, we were also joined by brothers Moses and Evans from Uganda, along with brother Muigai from Mombasa who primarily provided translation in all of the meetings. At the conclusion of the Bible studies on Monday, a group of sisters from the Busia meeting requested that we continue there for another three days, if possible.

Please pray for this young assembly, who are currently gathering together at the YMCA building for the breaking of bread. The brothers indicated that the place is too small and very noisy, which is a distraction during the meeting. Also, they expressed a need for Bibles in Swahili, since many of the saints do not read English.

On February 5, we departed from Busia and arrived in Mombasa the next day, after overnighing in Kisumu. From February 7-9 we held workshops on Assembly Principles, Assembly Administration, and Camp Work with the brothers at the ACK conference room in Likoni. There were about 36 brothers from all across Kenya, (Mwambo, Kilifi, Tala, Sayah, and Busia) in



attendance. Overall, the brothers expressed their gratitude for both the spiritual and practical lessons that were taught during the workshops, and indicated a willingness to make changes, where necessary, in their local assemblies.

On Saturday, February 10, we traveled along with brothers Richard Owieno, Richard Otieno, Mutavi, and Muigai from Mombasa to Mwambo, (about two hours' drive) for a one-day conference with a group of saints that currently meet under a tree. The bridge on the main road to Mwambo had been swept away about six months ago, making access very difficult. This is the same group we visited during our previous trip to Kenya. Brothers Richard Otieno and Richard Owieno consistently travel to Mwambo to meet with these saints on a weekly basis for Bible studies. Approximately 40 people, including children, from Godo, Mwangulu, and Tanzania came to hear the gospel messages on the Great Supper (Luke 14), the Lost Son (Luke 15), and the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16). The saints in Mwambo had rented a tent and chairs for the comfort of the people and prepared a delicious meal for all to eat and enjoy. The brethren there have a desire to begin the breaking of bread in the near future and are in need of a place to meet for this purpose.

On Lord's Day, February 11, we broke bread with the saints in Mombasa, the largest assembly in Kenya. The saints rent the building and meet every Lord's Day for Sunday School followed by the breaking of bread and ministry. They also meet for prayer every Wednesday afternoon. Some of the brothers from Mombasa namely, Mutavi, Richard Owieno, Richard Otieno and Norman, often travel to the assemblies in Busia and Tala to encourage the saints and to minister the Word of God. Almost all of them are currently unemployed but continue to faithfully serve the Lord. Please keep them in your prayers. The saints across Kenya were welcoming and clearly demonstrated a hunger for the Word.

We departed from Kenya on Tuesday, February 13, arriving home the next day. We greatly appreciated your prayers, which we felt during our stay in Kenya.