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Subject: may news

Hello everyone, Occasionally people ask me, what is your typical day in Kenya like? Very seldomly are two days alike. But here is the skeleton of my varied missions opportunities:

Street Children: Shortly after leaving Made in the Streets in December 2015, John, a former street boy and Tyler, a missionary friend from the USA asked me if I would assist them in their beginning of an outreach to street boys in Nairobi, knowing I have had 10 years experience working with street children. I agreed and am thrilled to be able to help this new ministry originally called "Jesus to the Streets" but officially now called "Truth, Reconciliation and Unity" (TRU). Yesterday, the TRU team began the day opening up the Word of God and reading from Matthew 13, specifically we focused on the parables Jesus told about the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price and the parable of the net. After this time together we went out to the streets to see the boys and girls we know living there. Almost daily the street boys pick up a sack and go out looking for something that can be resold for a few shillings. With this in mind the parables of the hidden treasure and pearl of great price really resonates with them because they know what it is like to go out and search for something of great value. We found a few boys hanging out in front of a shopping mall. Some were high from inhaling diesel fuel that they buy for a few shillings. They put it on a small rag, inhale it, and get high. Some of the boys were not high, they were just hanging out. They welcomed us, we prayed with them, and shared the lesson from Matthew 13. We then got in a bus and travelled to another place to find other street boys and repeated the process. We usually find street boys at a place where scrap metal is sold in another part of Nairobi. The boys will go out looking for all types of metal objects, collect them and then return to sell them to the scrap metal dealer. They earn a few shillings by collecting the scrap metal. After praying, and sharing the lesson from Matthew 13, we bought a meal of beans and chapatti (similar to a tortilla) for the boys at a small nearby cafe. They were so excited that we provided lunch for them. We make these visits out on the streets a couple of times a week. Other activities the street boys enjoy include a weekly organized soccer game. A soccer coach has volunteered to come weekly and provide coaching for the boys. We always spend time praying and sharing the gospel on this day as well.

Nairobi Great Commission School: I enjoy teaching once a week at the Nairobi Great Commission School. I teach classes on leadership, church ministry, and church planting. Students attend this school in order to gain leadership and ministry skills in a two year program, Presently, we have students from Kenya, Uganda, and Southern Sudan.

Visiting former Great Commission School students in their areas of service: It has been such a privilege to go and observe and encourage former students as they are putting into practice what they have learned! This is a very rewarding piece of my work.

Helping to get a new missions point off the ground in Tanzania: Thirty years ago we lived in a village with a Kenyan family for 9 weeks in order to enhance our ability to speak the Kalenjin language of Western Kenya. We stayed with Zephaniah and Gladys Kittony in the village of Sirwa. Zephaniah retired about two years ago from his job as an elementary school principal. Zephaniah and Gladys expressed their desires to be missionaries outside of Kenya.

The Datooga people group of Tanzania are related to the Kalenjin linguistically and culturally. The Datooga are an unreached people group with only 6 % claiming to be Christians. The Datooga keep goats, sheep, and cattle. The Datooga are a proud people known as fierce warriors, resistant to culture change. Traditionally, young men had to prove themselves by killing an "enemy of the people", defined as any human being not a Datooga, or one of the dangerous wild animals, such as elephant, lion or buffalo.

We have taken Zephaniah and Gladys down to this area numerous times, as they are learn language and culture, make contacts and begin beautiful relationships. We have visited them and encouraged them as they learn to overcome and face numerous and great challenges. We have also taken Kenyan brothers down to see this new and exciting work that we pray they will one day be supporting. It is our dream that this mission be prayerfully and financially supported by the churches in Kenya. This has required many weekends going out to different Kalenjin churches and casting the vision and helping them get behind this unique mission. This will be the first or one of the first times our churches have sent out missionaries from among themselves This also requires establishing a sending mission committee that is a new concept with so very much to learn!

Miscellaneous: Some of my days are consumed with too many hours of just living in Kenya. To renew our insurance our cars have to be inspected which can take 1/2 a day. Immigration and immigration issues takes a huge chunk of time. Our cars are forever in need of repair. Some days I spend entirely too much time in traffic (Nairobi traffic has been said to be among the top 10 worst in the world).

Then there are the joys of coffee dates with fellow Christians for counseling and coaching. We have the privilege of hosting many guests and introducing them to our world. I am working on a degree that also demands hours at a time.

We hope you now have a little better idea of the opportunities for love and service that I have been blessed with. Please join me in prayer that each effort give glory to God. Larry and Hollye

(Below is a picture of a Datooga woman)

