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Subject: BUSH TEL-E-GRAM - PART 4 - KENYA 4
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To: L_Grgic@cox.net;
Date: Fri, 15 Jul 2011 21:00:19

Hello Everyone!

A new message from Charlotte Sinclair Barkley and the Team, Bush Telegraph mission from Kitale, Kenya. Please keep Charlotte and the Team in your prayers as they continue the work the Lord has for them in Kenya, as well as all of the people and children whose lives they have touched in Jesus' name. Pray also for those they come in contact with throughout this year's Africa journey.

If you would like to send Charlotte a brief message, you may send it to me and I will be happy to forward your greetings and prayers to her. Computers are scarce in Africa and often her visits are far out into bush country with no, or very limited, electricity or modern conveniences. She may not be able to Reply until her return to USA but welcomes your notes of encouragement.

If you do not wish to receive these updates, please REPLY and note REMOVE in the Subject line.

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" ^[a] (Isaiah 52:7) – Romans 10:14-15

In His Amazing Love,

Laura G.
(L_Grgic@cox.net) (L_Grgic)

Dear Family & Friends,

WELCOME TO KITALE

Let us continue our journey:

Our 'matato', (small bus) "*The Royal Rift Express*", left Nairobi about 9 am and arrived in Kitale about 4 pm. **Pastor Timothy's** eldest son, **Bernard**, and **Regent**, another friend of the mission, met us in town. The men loaded our luggage into the back of the mission pickup.

After taking a photo I quickly put the camera into the deep pocket of my bush jacket. A minute later I reached in for the camera and it was gone! I had not felt a thing. I shouted alerting everyone. We looked around and saw nothing but 'street children' surrounding us. Later **Pastor Timothy** loaned me his camera to use during our stay.

GLORY OF CHRIST MISSION IN A NUTSHELL.

Glory of Christ Mission is composed of 47 churches which include:

30 Churches;
6 House Churches;
8 Churches in Uganda;
2 in Tanzania; and
1 in Nuba, Sudan.

Most of these churches are in the 'bush' (rural areas).

The orphanage, called **Helping Hands Children's Home**, holds 40 of the 150 orphans here in Kitale. The rest of the orphans stay with 'Guardians' in the community (usually a relative). They are busy building more accommodation at the Home.

50 orphans live in Kakamaga with 'Guardians' and attend the **Glory of Christ Academy** along with 100 'normal' children from the community, making a total of 150. Of those 50 orphans, 30 are HIV positive. No one knows 'who' except the teachers.

THURSDAY JUNE 30

On the road to Helping Hands Children's Home, beautiful flamboyant trees lined the road on one side; their bright orange blossoms in full bloom. The last mile or so, the truck 'rocked and rolled' as it danced along the dirt road.

As we arrived at the gate I became very excited over the new 'surprises'. For example, last year there was no steel gate or secure wall. This year, it has been built. PTL!

This year the guest house was finished! Cheryl and I had a bedroom with double beds and mosquito nets. Daniel was in heaven with his own room with a single bed and mosquito net overhead.

The biggest surprise was a flush toilet, considered a luxury in most of Africa. The tiny bathroom (about 3 X 6) also had a simple 'shower' above. A small water tank with an electric switch heated the water! Another surprise was the electric ceiling lights, though there was no ceiling and the walls only went up so far. This aided our communication skills, as we could easily talk to Daniel in the next room.

I teased the Team that they were being spoiled, as I personally do not experience such 'comforts' in my travels. Really, I was happy for the Team as out in the bush during our three road trips, they experienced the 'real' Africa.



Photo: Pastor Timothy, Daniel, ... Cheryl (far right)

The guest house also had a 'sitting room' furnished with two couches; two stuffed chairs; coffee table; and hutch where dishes and cutlery were stored. Meals were served by **Elizabeth**, Pastor's daughter.

Another surprise was that the building we planned to help construct,

was already built! It is now a giant storage bin for dry cobs which the mission recycles and uses for cooking in place of charcoal or wood! There is also a parking space for the mission's large Lorry (more on this later).

The final surprise was that the primitive outdoor 'kitchen' (where food is prepared) had four large steel built-in 'fire pits' that held giant cooking pots. This made things considerably easier for the Cooks.

FRIDAY JULY 1

The Team taught at **Glory of Christ Primary School** (750 students). **Nicky** and **Tim** weren't due until tomorrow, so it was **Daniel**, **Cheryl** and I. We each had our own class, then after about 45 minutes we 'switched'. That day, the upper classes were busy with 'Revision' (studying for exams) so we spoke only to the lower classes.



Photo: Students, *Glory of Christ School*

The school is a 'mud school' (made with mud and poles) but also has a few new classrooms built last year of permanent materials.

The Class 3 teacher, Kathryn, was extremely thankful that we were there and asked for special prayer.

The Vice Principal showed us the new Administration Block under construction. "We will store our text books in there. Right now they are stored in a 'mud' room and we fear they will be stolen. Many text books have

been stolen from schools in the area and resold in South Sudan...."

SATURDAY JULY 2

Pastor Timothy treated Cheryl, Daniel and I to lunch in town: chicken and 'chips' (French fries). He then drove us to the **Glory of Christ Preschool** (mud school) an hour's drive. We were greeted by staff and a few students. I handed out my leftover 'chips' to local children, one by one.

It began to rain as we drove to the Widow's Hut that Glory of Christ mission provides. It is here that old widows who cannot care for themselves can stay and be sheltered. There were lovely fruit trees (avocado, mango, papaya) and a small maize (corn) garden on the property.

The rain came down! It was a torrential downpour as we began the drive home to Kitale. It turned into hail and a sea of mud and pot holes. We could not see the road ahead and the pickup slipped and slid along. It was all **Pastor Timothy** could do to stay on the road.

After lunch I gave **Florence** and **Pastor Timothy** two duffel bags of clothes and other essential supplies, including 45 little girl's dresses from the Sewing Guild in Nevada. They were very grateful as they have a very small budget for clothes for so many.

Tim and Nicky arrived in the late afternoon. We were so happy to see them! They have been married about a year and settled into the spare bedroom in **Pastor Timothy's** house next door.

"**Tonight our nearest Glory of Christ church** where I preach, has an all night prayer meeting. Pastors pray all night every Saturday...." **Pastor Timothy** explained. "Mama ... you will speak ..."

At the close of the service, the first to come forward was the local drunk who had never set foot inside the church before! Joining him were about 15 who came for prayer or salvation. The Team walked around and

prayed for each one. About midnight **Pastor Timothy** insisted we go back to the house to sleep. He drove us and then returned to the church.

At home we could hear the service in the distance as they continued preaching and singing until morning.

SUNDAY JULY 3

"Today you will split up ..." **Pastor Timothy** instructed, "The men (**Dan and Tim**) will stay here in our local church ... **Tim**, you will preach and **Dan**, you will read the scripture ... the ladies will come with me to **Nabukhesa Church** at the base of the mountains ... it's about a two hours drive."

Now I must add that **Tim** had never preached before up to this point. Back in England he was a computer tech and **Nicky** is a 1st and 2nd grade teacher. This would be his first sermon! He spoke on 'Marriage' and it went very well.

The ladies and Pastor Timothy headed down the road towards **Nabukhesa Church**. It got narrower and narrower until we could not drive any further. Large smooth boulders appeared on either side, mountains nearby. We parked and walked a short way to the church. It was a 'mud church'; one wall narrower than the other; and it leaned in a bit. This could be dangerous during rainy season.

At the close of the service about 20 came forward for prayer or salvation. We did not count. **Cheryl, Nicky** and I walked around praying for these precious souls.

After services we were shown to the new church under construction. The walls were up; made of solid bricks burned by the members themselves.

We ate lunch at the pastor's humble home. Old, worn posters lined the soiled, unpainted wall. Two bare rickety tables were laid with food: bowls of

chicken and rice and 'ugali' (corn meal, their staple diet). The poor chicken looked like it had just stepped out of a concentration camp but we ate gratefully.

Later that evening we compared notes with the guys about their service. They had a glowing report.

MONDAY JULY 4

The Team wished each other, "Happy 4th of July!" without any fireworks or watermelon to celebrate.

We returned to Glory of Christ Primary School. Before teaching, we assembled the 750 children outside and passed out the deworming medicine. The children were very grateful as no one had ever done that for them before. Parasites are something they all suffer from. Lastly, we handed out the deworming meds to the 17 teachers. **Nicky** and **Tim** taught their class together which the kids loved.



Photo: Giving out the medication

Tim on left; Charlotte center, Daniel right, Nicky was photographer

In between class, Linda the **Children's Home** seamstress, appeared to take the Team's measurements. **Pastor Timothy** had 'hinted' about a special surprise, asking us what our favorite color was. We were curious!

That afternoon we drove to **Tembelela School** on the edge of Kitale in

a slum district. It does not belong to **Glory of Christ Mission**, however, the Principal heard we were there and invited us to come share with the children. **Pastor Timothy** is their good friend and has helped with projects from time to time as they have no one to sponsor them.

This was by far the poorest school the Team visited: a 'mud school' with large, gaping holes in all buildings. Some a small car could drive through!



Photo: Tembelela School

We sat down with the principal, **Victoria**, who is also a lady pastor. "This area has frequent flooding, swamps, malaria, typhoid and other diseases ... many children die ..." she said.

The Team spoke to the older classes only since the younger classes had gone home for the day.

Later that night, after supper, I walked Linda the seamstress, her arms laden with dresses and shirts. Pastor Timothy announced, "Here are your new clothes...!" These were Kenyan fashions. We all put the new clothes on right then and there and had a small style show for our friends. They squealed with delight! Everything fit perfectly.

TUESDAY JULY 5

We returned to Tembelela School the next morning to teach the younger kids. They enjoyed the lessons so much and as usual I used lots of

visual aids and shared my teaching supplies with the rest of the Team.

That afternoon Pastor Timothy informed us, "We are going to Kakamaga today to teach and minister at *Glory of Christ Academy* ... we'll stay overnight and go in the large lorry (twice as big as the pickup) ... we leave in an hour!"

The Team got busy preparing crafts for the children and placed them in a large black duffel bag.

A very old lady, Anna, accompanied us as she was going to visit her newly married daughter in Kakamaga. We were on the road to Kakamaga when at one crossroads, **Pastor Timothy** met an old friend, **Charles**. "Pastor ... I came here for my father's funeral and while I was in the 'matato' my money was stolen out of my pocket ... I have nothing to get home with...." Immediately Pastor handed his friend money for transport.

Later Pastor told us a story: "When **Florence**, my wife, gave birth to **Elizabeth**, her milk dried up ... I was teaching then and in those days they don't pay you for the first 6 months ... we had no money to buy formula milk for our baby ... my friend Charles owned a small shop and every week he **GAVE** us a tin of formula and refused payment ..."

What's that Bible verse about 'cast your bread upon the water and it will return after many days'?

We were a few yards from the *Glory of Christ Academy* outside of Kakamaga when the lorry got stuck. We got out and walked a short distance to the school. By now it was 5 pm and the children had been waiting for several hours. We passed out the deworming meds first. The students and teachers couldn't thank us enough.

The Team then was shown to a small room to organize supplies and make final plans. We would return the next day to teach.

We walked back to the lorry, still stuck in the mud. Try as he might, Pastor Tim couldn't free it. I worried, "How will we get it out ... no towing company ... no garage nearby ... no 4-wheel drive. Just sweat, inspiration and God."

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21

Until next time,

Charlotte