

# The Apprentice

A Publication of iServe Africa Apprenticeship Programme

## Ebenezer: This far the Lord has brought us...

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2009 is gone and we are counting our blessings, we cant help but see what the Lord has done. The second group is now four months into the programme and looking back we can only say thank you Lord, for the far we have come.

The group attended their second training (NMTC 2) from 5th to 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009. The training was really helpful in equipping them for ministry. one of them notes

*"I always feared sermon writing but enjoyed listening to well written sermons . After this training, I have the confidence to not only*



iServe Africa Apprentices during NMTC 2

*write one but also present it faithfully- am glad i joined iServe" Nyambura Mwaniki.*

The group went through several topics such as; Communication and Culture, Love & Relationships, Personal Finances etc.

The year 2009 has also seen us engage a higher number of apprentices and we praise God that we also received a non Kenyan—Hebron Makalula from Tanzania.

For the first time, We managed to send a group of apprentices outside Kenya. We are happy

that Samuel, Silas, Jackson and Lydia are serving in the UK and sending very encouraging reports.

It is equally amazing that we have withstood a very lean year economically. We are grateful that our partners stood with us and the Lord was gracious to keep us going even when support was running very low.

We now look forward to an eventful 2010 as we venture into new partnerships and work towards sustaining the existing ones.

We do hope and pray that this work will honour the Lord and promote his Kingdom to His own glory.

We ask for your hand, that we may walk together through the joys and the challenges that lie ahead!

### KIDZ LOVE

### Not Called?...Think Again!

By Nyambura Mwaniki

When I was in campus, I had a friend who was doing early childhood education. She would spend time drawing funny things and as if to mock her I used to buy children's magazines for her. Whenever she talked about children I simply switched off . I thought kids were a nuisance and just hard work to be with, I used to wish her all the best as she left for her Sunday school classes and turned down any offers to join her. This was the last thing I wanted to do in ministry. I believed it was not my area of calling; neither did I have the grace to even try it or so I thought.

When I joined iServe Africa, I knew I was going to work in an office and this had always been my prayer. I loved my work very much. One month down, our coordinator paid a visit and suggested something; a local church second-

ment for us to serve on Sunday mornings. At first I was excited, until he mentioned children's ministry and my excitement suddenly fell. I was tempted to say no, but opted to be silent.

I reluctantly joined the All Saints Cathedral Sunday School ministry the following Sunday, On my first day I felt out of place and really struggled to fit. During that week I prayed to God to help me adjust or speak to Harrison to change his mind about this whole secondment thing.

The week went by and Harrison was silent. The following Sunday I woke up and went back to the same unexciting ministry, this time the main leader placed me in the age nine class. The first day was a bit better the teacher was welcoming. She involved me in the class and I began to slowly warm up to

it. Little did I know that this was just the beginning. The following Sundays I thoroughly enjoyed the class and became a friend to the kids.

3 months down the line I am one happy gospel worker, I have found such fulfillment and my heart is sold out to kids. I look forward to every Sunday school class or at least a children's meeting. I minister to kids wherever I find them and it's such a joy to my heart.

During Christmas I spent time with kids and visited several orphans in our home area. I am in love with kids and this is the most amazing miracle that has happened in my ministry, I thank God for iServe Africa for giving me an opportunity to discover the potential for children's work in me. Next time you think you are not called to a certain area in ministry please think again!

# NMTC 2: Reflections on the Kingdom of God

*“This is an upside down kingdom”. The ‘in’ are ‘out’ and the ‘out’ are ‘in’.*”

In very reflective Bible expositions throughout the training, Reverend Colin Smith took the apprentices through the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> chapters’ of Luke.

In 14, the context is in a prominent Pharisees home where Jesus has been invited for dinner. Jesus seems to be more on the social margins than at the religious centre. It is here that he tells the parable of the great banquet that really defines, **who is who in the kingdom?**

From verse 7 -11; religion is often bound in hierarchy and status, in this it mirrors the world. In the kingdom, it is the humble who are exalted.

“This is an upside kingdom”. The ‘in’ are ‘out’ and the ‘out’ are ‘in’. This brings us

to another question, **who really matters in the kingdom?**

The kingdom of God is built on grace-Gods unmerited favor.

In chapter 15:11-32, the parable of the prodigal son is a parable of sin, **what’s the sin in this parable?** The prodigal son turns away from the family fellowship and asks for his inheritance even while the father is still alive. When he squanders all the property, he plans to go back home; “I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you” (vs 18 ).But what motivates this return leads us to yet another question; **what is true repentance?**

**Points to ponder**

- True Repentance is a response to love not a response to guilt.
- Sin is about broken relationships
- Ministry is a gift that can be experienced as a demand.
- You can be free and feel like a slave, you can have every thing and feel like you have nothing.
- It is possible to be offended by grace.

Finally he closed by asking some questions ;who are you in this parable? the father? the younger son? the older son? *Whom do you identify with?*

*It was very sobering!*

## My Story: I Just love Garissa!

My name is Mary Mwangi. I graduated from Nairobi University with a bachelor’s degree in operations research

My placement is The Sheepfold ministries at Garissa Academy. When I joined Garissa academy I didn’t know how to approach teaching bearing in mind the Garissa academy’s high profile. The other challenge was how to handle pupils as 96% of them are Muslims.

However I have had some high moments where God has given me favor with Muslim pupils. It

was so satisfying to see one of the class eight pupils I helped improve her grades from less than 20% to over 50% in mathematics.

Apart from teaching I have been involved in the pastoral team in St Augustine Prisons Chapel. It has been wonderful interacting with the ladies, giving them books to read, sharing the word of God and at times just chatting freely about life issues. Through this, I have been able to minister to Muslim ladies, both wardens and prisoners. The church has also been a good ground to empower youths and challenge them to study the

word of God faithfully through having Bible expositions with them every Sunday afternoon.

In all this, I have learnt that God is the center of my Ministry. Sharing a life with the Muslims here in the North has taught me a lot about Gods love. I have a passion for Muslims and I would like you to pray with me as I minister to them. I thank God for iServe Africa which has given me an opportunity to reach out in such a great way.



“I have had some high moments where God has given me favor with Muslim pupils.”

## Tracking Our Alumni—Joel Muriungi Mutea

Four months after completing the iServe Africa Apprentice program, I can still count God’s blessings and guidance. Psalms 119:105...Your word is a light to my feet and a lamp to my path.... Had never been so true to me! The training and grounding I got in the apprenticeship has been such an investment in my life. To be absolved at Carleil College where I did my apprenticeship was the lord’s doing and blessing. It has given me an opportunity to

continue in active ministry both within and without the college.

*“The training and grounding I got in iServe Africa has been such an investment in my life”*

Besides teaching and tutoring, I have preached in schools, colleges, Churches and convocations in application of the skills I got from iServe.

I look forward to much more as I seek an opportunity for further studies in theology.

Once an apprentice, always an apprentice!



# Meet the Apprentices... Volume I

We currently have 24 apprentices serving with us both locally and overseas. We shall sample a few at a time!



**Esther Kihoro**

P: Kileleshwa Community Church.

Sound Technician

Fav Food: Chapati and chicken.



**Justus Nzioki**

P: Agape worship centre

Music and youth ministry

Favorite food: Ugali and fish



**Virginia Njoki**

P: iServe Africa

Role : Admin

Fav Food: Roast Potatoes with Sauce! OOH yummy



**Sheila Osiya**

P: Carlile College

Administration in chaplaincy and school of Business.

Fav food: Ugali and sukumawiki (with beef!)



**Hebron Makalula**

P: Carlile College

Role: Finance and administration

Fav food: Matoke and beef stew

## First priority: Its time to pray!

Prayer is a gift of God. it is a very powerful tool in the kingdom and at iServe we put prayer first.

First priority is a prayer meeting held every first Sunday of the month. During the meeting the apprentices and the partners come together and some time in prayer. The meeting takes place at All Saints Cathedral Kindergarten. If you are in Nairobi consider joining us every first Sunday of the month, as we call upon the Lord.

### PRAYER POINTS.

- Thank the Lord with us for bringing us this far.
- Pray that the Lord will strengthen the apprentices in their various placements
- Pray that the Lord will provide for us financially and otherwise for the smooth running of the programme.
- Pray for the process of registration of iServe Africa both in Kenya and the UK that is set to start this year.
- Pray for the recruitments for the next group of apprentices set to start soon.
- Pray for 'Raising the Bar' the preaching and leadership conference set for 8th to 12th February.

## iServe Overseas: Lydia Gathoni—Careforce UK



My calling into ministry did not happen in one event. I long desired to reach out to young people and I enrolled for a counselling degree at Pan African Christian University. After graduating I joined iServe Africa and was placed at Karura Community Chapel where I served in the social justice and compassion ministry.

While there I continued seeking what it was that the Lord would have me do. I knew from that my life would be spent serving Him.

Towards the end of my apprenticeship with iServe Africa I was asked to consider giving another year of service through Careforce in the UK. This was not going to be an easy decision and after a time of prayer, it became clear that this is what the Lord wanted me to do. I am currently serving at St. Luke's church in Canning Town, where I am involved in youth work,

Sunday school and community projects. One such project is 'Your Space E16' which is a counselling project that runs workshops and individual counselling within the community. I also run a Bible club in St. Luke's Primary school as well as work with Community Child-care Service among other things.

My experience in the UK has been wonderful to say the least, I have experienced the Lord walking with me closely. The last four months have not been without challenges; it took me a while to acclimatise and within the first month I had caught a number of colds and sore throats. I also faced a bit of culture shock. However with help from friends and fellow workers in the church I was able to adjust, I have learnt that God remains faithful at all times and in everything He desires us to be faithful and consistent. I am trusting God for direction on the next step in His service!

# Come over to us and help us: Our Macedonian Call

iServe Africa is an apprenticeship programme with the goal of helping Christian graduates to develop a deeper mission, vision and commitment to gospel ministry through participation in 1-2 year placements in a local church, christian organization or mission agency. The programme seeks to link churches with apprentices with a view of raising future gospel workers while supplementing the work of the local church especially in her efforts to reach young people. As a faith movement, we trust to God to bring our way individuals to support us financially and in kind. Could you be one of those the Lord might be challenging to stand with us this year? Please contact us.

We take time to appreciate all our partners for their ongoing support so far. You have been of great value to this work and we pray Philippians 4 prayer for you!



## We value your gifts...

Bank Deposits: Deposits from any Barclays Bank to.

Account No. 094 825 1523. .

M-Pesa: 0710 29 30 90.

ZAP: 0732 29 30 90.

Please inform us of your gift so that we acknowledge it appropriately. Thank you.

### Thanks for your partnership!

## Placement Corner:



Carlile College is an Anglican college of higher education sponsored by the board of Church Army Africa- a society committed to mission and evangelism. Over the last three years the college has trained people from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan, Somali, Rwanda, Zambia, Malawi, Burundi, Gambia and the DRC.

The college admits students who have KCSE mean grade C. Departments include The Carlile institute of Leadership and Management, School of Business and School of Theology. We currently have four apprentices based at Carlile College and this is our second year of partnership. We are grateful that Carlile provides a good ground for the development of apprentices.

### Contact us....

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We are on!

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## Successful Partners Breakfast by Benard Kariuki

*"We came together to reflect on Mission issues and the opportunities available to us"*

In line with the African way of community and sharing, Our friends and partners came together on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009 for the Bi Annual Partners Breakfast at All Saints Cathedral MPH hall. This was an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on God's goodness to us over the years.

We had breakfast, heard stories of what God is doing through the various MTA programmes, reflected over upcoming plans and then spent time in prayer. More than 80 partners attended and that was really encouraging.



Among the issues raised were how we can partner through prayer and in kind with organizations like iServe Africa and the apprentices, Mission opportunities to students during the long holidays among others. A partner commended MTA and iServe Africa by saying that the Organization had the opportunity to give strategic thinking and direction in mission issues

both to the local church and Para-church organizations in our country.

As someone wisely said Together Everybody achieved More and certainly We all can do Something! We take time to appreciate the many friends and partners who encouraged us so much that morning.

We host the next partners breakfast in early June. You cant afford to miss it!

