

iServe Africa's News & Views

Rolling up our sleeves...



Doug Johnson from AICMAR gave the main talks on Biblical Theology during the second session of Nairobi Ministry Training Course (NMTC 2) in December 2008.

Four months have passed since the launch of iServe Africa. Its amazing to see how the Lord has faithfully carried us in our foundational months this far. We are grateful to God for the warmth in which iServe Africa has been received by churches and para-church organizations. We have seen the Lord provide in amazing ways both for the office and for the apprentices. We are getting more and more enquiries both from prospective apprentices and placements. .

As we take on the new year we pray that we shall roll up our sleeves get even deeper in service to the King as we uphold kingdom values. There have been many joys of seeing what was once just a dream now materialize into visible reality. It has been great to see others come on board to commend our work either in word or deed. We praise God for emerging partnerships, for friends like Doug Johnson, David Jackman all the Apprentices' mission partners, organizations like GPT, Cross Connections and All Saints Crowborough for partnerships that have supported the work so far. The Apprentices on the other hand have been involved in a wide range of ministry activities, friendraising, reading recommended materials and doing a research paper as part of their train-

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Micro Preaching Takes Root at NMTC 2

Following the study of Text to Sermon in Nairobi Ministry Training Course I, each of the Apprentices had a chance to prepare and present a sermon in NMTC 2. The Micro sermons would take between 12 and fifteen minutes. The passages had been pre selected from the book of Colossians. And the apprentices were required to come up with the sermon outline, and present the sermon for peer review from the other apprentices and the staff present.

Largely following the Expository preaching model, each of the micro sermons were delivered and helpful feedback given afterwards. Although there were a few struggles here and there, the apprentices kept to the principles of expository preaching. The main areas that the apprentices looked out for were Observation of the passage, Interpretations of the message and application of the message to contemporary hearers.

Mercy Ileri, from Langham Preaching was at hand to guide the apprentices through the sessions and to direct the feedback sessions. She made a clear distinction from the word go that sermon feedback and review was not criticism and It was therefore helpful to note that feedback was always positively given and positively received.

We hope to encourage more of micro preaching in the upcoming training sessions in order to promote faithful Bible preaching and to inculcate a culture of expository preaching.



Heated Micro Preaching Sessions at NMTC 2



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We thank God for our pioneer placements that were the very first to adopt this apprenticeship programme - Carlile College, Karen Community Church, Deliverance Church Kahawa Sukari, The Sheepfold Ministries, Karura Community Chapel and MTA

NMTC 2 ran well from 7th to 12th of December. We praise God that all our speakers came. The theme was prayer and gospel ministry and Duncan Olumbe gave the morning expositions on the subject "Teach us to pray" This would be followed daily with Biblical Theology by Doug Johnson. Other topics were taken by Mrs. Lynnette Kariuki, Communications, Harrison- Friend raising Prof. Emil Chadran - Research Methodology, The Priority of Preaching - Doug Johnson, Evangelistic Bible Study- Alpha Kenya Trust and Inner Life by Pst. Marcy Muhia of Karura.

Finally may I take this opportunity to invite all you dear friends and mission partners of iServe Africa to join us for a special breakfast meeting on Sat 7th March 2009 at All saints Cathedral, MPH from 7.00 to 10.00 AM. There will be presentations about the work and the way forward.

Many thanks for your continued partnership.

Langham Supports iServe Africa

From our interaction with Langham International, through the Preaching Conferences in Limuru, Langham Literature has given us a consignment of books to start off the iServe Africa Library and to build up the personal libraries of each apprentice. The first set of books arrived in November (Africa Bible Commentaries). Each of the apprentices received a copy during NMTC 2. We are grateful to God and to Langham for this budding partnership and pray that the books will go towards promoting faithful Bible teaching in Africa.



Doug & Mercy present a copy of the African Bible Commentary to Lydia Gathoni, an apprentice at Karura Community Church.

My Story...

Julius



My name is Julius Bitok arap Sawe. I come from a small town called Matunda near Kitale in the Rift Valley Province. I finished my degree in Food Science & Nutrition from JKUAT in May 2008. and graduated later in July.

I heard of iServe Africa from a friend in the CU at University and was immediately interested. After prayer and reflection I applied and was accepted to serve with Mission Together Africa, the organization that runs iServe Africa.

Many questions ran through my mind as to whether I had made the right decision, but after only few weeks into the programme I discovered that this is the purpose of God for my life.

My apprenticeship began with a lot of uncertainty as to what lay ahead of me and despite the very helpful orientation and teaching we had at NMTC 1, I still felt confused and somehow 'lost' in the first two weeks.

I help with the administration of iServe Africa - bookkeeping among other administrative duties. As part of my training and service, I was asked to run a pastoral programme in a nearby primary school. I am also attached to a local church—City Harvest Church on Langata Road where I help with youth and children's ministries.

My typical week entails four days in the office, half a day in the TSM Guest-house, and half a day for personal reflection and study. Saturday is my day off. As part of my training, I am writing a paper on Church History where I will be investigating the foundations of the Christian Church and the impact of the early church fathers on modern day Christianity.

These involvements made me to have deeper desire for longer term involvement in gospel ministry after my time in iServe Africa expires in August.

Some of the challenges that I am facing include raising support. I am really grateful for support from my current mission partners who have enabled me to raise 25 % of my fundraising target. I am still looking for more support.

Please pray with me;

1. That I may be effective in my placement and that God may instill in me a servant attitude and give me a heart ready and willing to learn and serve.
2. That God may provide mission partners who will stand with me in prayer & finances.
3. My family to continually draw their joy from the Lord and breakthrough in meeting their daily needs, particularly school fees for Grace, Simon, Edina, and Wesley.

I praise God for the far he has brought me in iServe Africa. I never knew it would turn out to be this exciting!



Jacob

When it became clear to me that I had to give my one year for God, I tried finding the brochure again to no avail. I later found it in my room and after prayerful consideration made my application. It was successful but it was only after our induction and training course (NMTC 1) that I realized how much I needed the program. I knew that I had to go and work for the Lord but I was also afraid of how the year would be. I am now convinced that joining this program was the best decision.

It is now almost 5 months since I joined **iServe Africa**. My placement is The Sheepfold Ministries (TSM) which seeks to reach the unreached people groups in Kenya and beyond. I work in TSM's office helping in report writing and in the Awareness Department. I also go to the Mission fields from time to time to gather the field reports. Recently I was in Garissa and I learnt a lot concerning missions and the challenges that missionaries working among Muslims go through.

My thinking about the word of God and gospel ministry has been transformed. I have learnt a lot and I look forward to learning more. I thank God for iServe Africa for the opportunity to be involved in this ministry. The sacrifice has been made for us by Christ himself. We only need to yield ourselves to Him so that he can use us.

Please pray with me:

- That I will be able to know exactly what the Lord wants me to do after the program and that I may constructively use this opportunity.
- That God will provide support for my two sisters who are in school.
- That I may hear God's voice and follow his instructions in my life.
- Help me to pray for my partners who have been very supportive and that I may get more to help me in meeting the fund raising target.

I am Jacob Kennedy Owuor and I come from Kasipul Kabondo, Rachuonyo District, Nyanza Province. I graduated from JKUAT in July 2008 with a Bachelors Degree in Physics.

I came across an iServe Africa brochure in a fellowship at college. Harrison had come for awareness and had left copies. I did not want to read the brochure, as it would challenge me about voluntary service and this idea was not quite appealing as I considered my family because I needed to get a job and be able to support them.

- That the apprentices will get the best out of their year with iServe Africa. Pray for those that are seriously considering longer term involvement in gospel ministry.

Pray with us.....

- For the upcoming training course (Nairobi Ministry Training Course 3) which will run in the first week of March. Please pray for the speakers and the apprentices.
- For our finances, We are currently running on a budget deficit of about KES 840 000 or £ 6000 Pray that existing partnerships with mission partners will grow, ask the Lord to lead us to new ones.
- Pray for the next lot of apprentices and new placements for September 2009, that the Lord will lead us in this process.
- That the partners breakfast will be successful.



Marafiki Breakfast—Sat 7th March, 2008. All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi. 7 . 00—10 .00 AM

Date for your Diary...

Sat 7th March 2009 is a significant date in the calendar of MTA. We gather to thank God for his faithfulness this far and also to look to him in prayer for the coming months and years. Come and see all the programmes on display, meet the apprentices, staff, our board and mission partners. Please join us.



Commission 2008...Upholding Kingdom Values as we Serve...

Billed perhaps as the biggest missions convention in the region, The FOCUS Kenya organised—Commission 2008 took place at Kabarak University from 29th December 2008 to 4th January 2009. Over 2300 delegates attended drawn from 18 countries from Africa and beyond. About 2000 made commitments to be involved in mission work within their contexts, either through career/profession, prayers, financial giving or practical involvement.

We participated in this triennial event as delegates and also exhibited the various opportunities of involvement in gospel ministry available in iServe Africa. Many visitors came to our stand and about 250 left their contacts with us either seeking to get more information, become an apprentice or seek some partnership with us.

The clarion call of Commission 2008 came through to us clearly at iServe Africa to uphold Kingdom Values as we serve! We were able to send at least 8 of us who helped man our stand. We thank God for our growing partnership with FOCUS Kenya.

How to support iServe Africa ...

Bank Deposits: Deposit money from any Barclays Bank to Mission Together Africa (MTA) Account No. 094 825 1523. Place a Standing Order for regular support. For International gifts, Please e mail us for details.

M- Pesa: send your gift to – 0710 293090. An SMS telling us who the support is for will be very helpful.

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

Notices

Apprentices Retreat—Ngong Hills
31st Jan 2009, (Ngong 9.00 AM)

NMTC 3— 1st to 7th March 2009

Partners Breakfast - Sat 7th March
2009, All Saints Cathedral Nairobi,
MPH Ground floor, 7.00 AM to 10.00
AM. Bring a friend!

**Marigat Short Term Mission
(MAG)** 9th—23rd February 2009.

MTA Mission Think Tank—11th—
14th February 2009.



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