



EKKLESIA

SPRING UPDATE 2019

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Photo Credit: JessieParks.com



Teaching and Healing in Tanzania

Life in North America usually includes things like air conditioning, refrigerators, microwaves, and garbage disposals. Education is standard fare. Imagine what a different world it is for a godly Bishop to have a cadre of clergy without any of the amenities of life. Even worse, my friend Bishop Mathayo Kasagara of the Diocese of Lake Rukwa, Tanzania leads a diocese where not even a single one of his clergy has even a diploma. They all have been

trained locally. They are wonderful and faithful evangelists who are doing the work of discipleship in conditions of extreme poverty. When Bishop Mathayo asked me for help, Ekklesia partnered with the Rev. Dr. Rob Cornelison for the celebration of the new cathedral church in Lake Rukwa and two training events for GAFCON.

First, Rev. Dr. Cornelison did "Timothy Training" with pastors teaching the leaders how to train others. The syllabus covers theological and practical aspects of ministry in three years worth of modules.

Second, he was able to do some ministry about trauma recovery. The area is overrun with examples of women who are victims of physical and sexual abuse. Without the Gospel, darkness reigns, but with the pursuit of healing ministry, recovery in Christ is offered where "all things are made new." People can experience what Jesus promised when Rev. Dr. Cornelison said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." He was there because of YOU! Thank you for your faithfulness. Your support is changing lives.

+Bill



The New Cathedral



Rev. Dr. Cornelison "Timothy Training"

GAFCON DUBAI

Including training young leaders for covert mission in closed nations

When the June 2018 Jerusalem GAFCON meeting was held, many faithful Christians were neither able to obtain exit visas to leave their countries nor were they able to get entrance visas to attend the meeting.

For those unable to travel to Jerusalem, a “GAFCON makeup” was held in February 2019 in Dubai, where visas aren’t an issue. About 165 leaders gathered from nations where Christians experience persecution. The leaders enjoyed amazing music in a whole range of languages, and presentations in Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, and even English. Attendees also had an incredible opportunity to experience local culture with a delicious dinner out in an open air restaurant in the desert. At the dinner there was local color, music, and even a hunting falcon!

Ekklesia General Secretary Bishop Bill Atwood is also the GAFCON Ambassador. During the makeup meeting, he met with and taught young leaders from Islamic nations about “Training 4 Trainers,” the foundational principles of the Disciple Making Movement.

In this kind of outreach, one looks for the “person of peace” with whom to share. Based on Jesus’ command to “pray for laborers for the harvest,” the person of peace is someone who is open to talking about spiritual things, and who has a vision for, and capacity to influence the people group surrounding him or her.

The basic model is a Discovery Bible Study (or “Spiritual Conversation”). A short Bible passage is shared, and students look for what Jesus is asking them to *obey for that week*. After everyone has practiced retelling the story, discussion ensues as follows:



Dinner in the Desert with hunting falcon

1. If this story is from God, what does it teach us about His character? Who is God, according to this story from His word? (Or for concrete learners, “What does God do in this passage?”)

2. If this story is from God, what does it teach us about humanity? Who are we as humans? What is our character or nature? (Or for concrete learners, “What do people do, or what should they do from this passage?”)

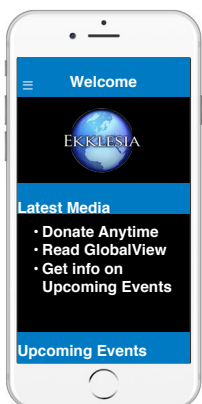
3. If this story is from God, what might He want you to do as an application? (Answers should be in the form “I will...”.) [This is very important for teaching obedience.]

4. If this story is from God, is there something we should do together to obey this message from the Lord? [This is very important so that the dynamic of a responsible congregation (house church) begins to be shaped.]

The response to this training was explosive, with young leaders going out to fulfill their “point of obedience” in Dubai, before going home. This was particularly challenging because they were in a foreign culture with a different language. Even so, they went out to obey Jesus! They returned home with a fresh vision for underground mission!

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

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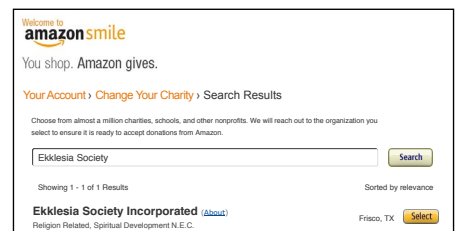
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GIVING DAY



In the past, we have multiplied your gifts by way of a matching grants fund. If you would like to contribute to the matching grants fund, please contact our office to learn how your gift can multiply other giving.



ANOTHER RADIO STATION

A new station in Malawi

For years, radio stations built through Ekklesia have been broadcasting Christian music and programming in Uganda, Tanzania, and Nigeria. Now, a license has been granted in Malawi for another station.

Christian radio stations are real game-changers. They allow for the Gospel to be shared with tens of thousands of people in an instant, and help local leaders to make announcements and coordinate activities. In addition, worship services and teaching can be broadcast.

During a period of rebel activity in Uganda, a rebel leader was asked why his group had not attacked the radio station. He said, "It's the only station to listen to!" All day long and into the night, Christian music and teaching was broadcast into the rebel camp. We pray the gospel is sinking in!

Where possible, we try to secure licenses for commercial operation instead of non-profit. While that may upset some church folks that we are not following a "pure non-profit" model, the commercial broadcast license allows for the selling of advertising. "Radio Messiah" in Kasase, Uganda sells "greetings" for a few cents. Since the whole community is listening to the only station in the



region, people are able to have their messages broadcast to friends and family. For example:

"Radio Messiah greetings from Raymond in Kassase town to Gloria in Nyakasanga. I am always thinking of you!"

Income from the greetings also helps support six local health clinics. It's a situation where everyone wins!

Radio stations like these are possible because of your prayers and support. Imagine: you are there wherever Ekklesia does one of these projects!

JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

Mango juice machine finally arrives



With the peak of the mango season approaching in South Sudan, the juice machine (which you helped provide!) has been delivered. A few more parts are still in transit, but they are expected in time to begin processing this season's mangoes into juice for sale. The income will help Anglican churches in the region and provide jobs for the local community.

Unlike aid projects that must be funded again and again, Ekklesia's sustainable development projects are set up to generate income.

In addition to income generation, other principles are included in Ekklesia development projects. First wherever possible, there is an open component of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. For example, where there are water wells

providing clean water, people have been trained to talk about Jesus as the Living Water.

Second, in every project, no matter how modest, tithing is taught, with the tithe going to support similar projects for others. It is wonderful to see people from some of the most impoverished communities in the world joyfully sharing with others in similar circumstances.

Another principle taught is sustainability. By that we mean keeping the project going. All over Africa, there are water-well windmills that stand idle and do not provide any water because they have not been maintained. Sometimes, it could be something as simple as replacing a 10-cent washer to repair the pump. All Ekklesia projects include plans for maintenance, with a 10% reserve fund recommended.

In many subsistence farming communities, both tithing and a "maintenance reserve" are unheard of. By demonstrating the value of these Biblical truths, people in the area learn how they can apply them in their own lives. What happens

is the beginning of systemic change! Missiologists call this the "redemption and lift" from the Gospel.

The "redemption and lift" principle succeeded in Uganda, as well. Encouraging a local farmer to prune his banana trees for greater production proved nearly futile. He feared a lessened harvest. To help overcome his fear, we agreed to pay *in advance* for a year's worth of production if he would prune appropriately. The farmer agreed and was blessed with doubled production. Now, all farmers in the region prune in this way, doubling their harvests, as well.



GIVING INFORMATION

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