

Vinesong 2015 Kenya Tour

Right at the beginning of this year, we didn't even have Kenya on our tour schedule, but as we reviewed the previous year we noted how many contacts we had in Kenya that had invited us to come. As soon as we prayed about it and made the decision to plan our tour in Kenya, we kept meeting Kenyans in our meetings in the UK, a real confirmation of our decision. We met Peter and Norah Musembi at one of our meetings in the UK in February and Peter was instrumental in getting us to minister in the Kenyan prisons.

Our first tour of Kenya centred around Nairobi with one weekend in Meru 270km away.



KARIBU! (Swahili for Welcome)



Our arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi for our first tour of Kenya

As you can see from the photo above both the team and all of our luggage/equipment landed safely on Kenyan soil. We were met by a very happy and friendly delegation from the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and Lighthouse Chapel International who heartily welcomed us to Kenya.

TRANSPORT

We cannot thank the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Kenya enough for all the support and encouragement that they gave us in planning our inaugural tour of Kenya. We give special thanks to Pastors Prince and Esther Obasi-Ike of RCCG Solution Centre, Nairobi and Pastor Professor Banji RCCG Potter's House, Nairobi.

Professor Banji gave us his church minibus and his personal driver Joseph Karanja for the entire tour. Joseph was the perfect driver, he was never late and he knew all the back routes that avoided all the major traffic areas. His help, not only with driving but also with helping us to set up and break down after each event was invaluable. He was a real servant and we thank God for all that he did, seen and unseen as he worked closely alongside us.



Joseph our driver and the van that was loaned to us by RCCG for the tour

THE MESSAGE

John's message in Kenya centred on Colossians 1:25-29 (J.B. Philips Translation):

*“For I am a minister of the Church by divine commission, a commission granted to me for your benefit and for a special purpose: that I might fully declare God's word—that sacred mystery which up to now has been hidden in every age and every generation, but which is now as clear as daylight to those who love God. They are those to whom God has planned to give a vision of the full wonder and splendour of his secret plan for the sons of men. **And the secret is simply this: Christ in you! Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come.***

So, naturally, we proclaim Christ! We warn everyone we meet, and we teach everyone we can, all that we know about him, so that, if possible, we may bring every man up to his full maturity in Christ. This is what I am working at all the time, with all the strength that God gives me.”

Christ in you, the hope of Glory! This revelation changes our perspective. If Christ is in us, then wherever we are, He is. Whenever we step into a room, or into any situation, then the atmosphere should change for the better.

Many people commented on how the message had an immediate impact on their lives and how they were more inspired to really live their lives 100% for God.

CDs

We had some of our CDs manufactured in Kenya for the Kenyan market by a missionary organisation called Good News Productions International (GNPI Africa). The CDs were excellently produced and we were able to sell them at a great price for the Kenyan market, rather than having to sell expensive imports.

PRISONS

When we went to the first prison of the tour, Nairobi West prison, the Regional Chaplain, Rev. Joyce Mutuku gave a testimony. She said that we had contacted them months before to minister in the prisons and no response was coming from her superior or the prison authorities. She said that because of the Al-Shabaab terror attacks, the prison authorities were not willing to allow any groups into the prisons. She said that the fact that we were in the prison that day was an absolute miracle.

We only heard from the prisons two-weeks before the beginning of our tour and we had almost given up on being able to go in after sending numerous emails and letters. This testimony from Rev. Joyce made sense of the struggle that it had been even to receive an acknowledgement from the prison authorities on the subject of our coming.

We ministered at Nairobi West Prison, Nairobi Remand Prison, Langata Women's Prison and Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. Altogether during our ministry in the prisons, around 118 men and women gave their lives to the Lord. The Chaplains in the prisons took their details and we pray that they will be able to follow up with each one of them.



Ministering in Nairobi West Prison



Pictures on the Outside: Left, Nairobi West; Top right, Nairobi Remand; Bottom right, Kamiti Maximum Security Prison



Charlene and Rachael with Catherine Ndereba

The Deputy-In-Charge at Nairobi West prison was Catherine Ndereba. We found out that she had been a very successful Marathon runner, known as one of the best female marathon runners of all time and had won Gold at the world championships twice; she was the first woman to win the Boston Marathon four times and won silver medals at two Olympics. She was very humble and only when she mentioned that she had travelled because she used to run marathons did we ask further questions to find out who she was. It was an honour to meet her in such humble surroundings. She is a Christian and she was able to join the meeting at the prison just before it ended.

UN

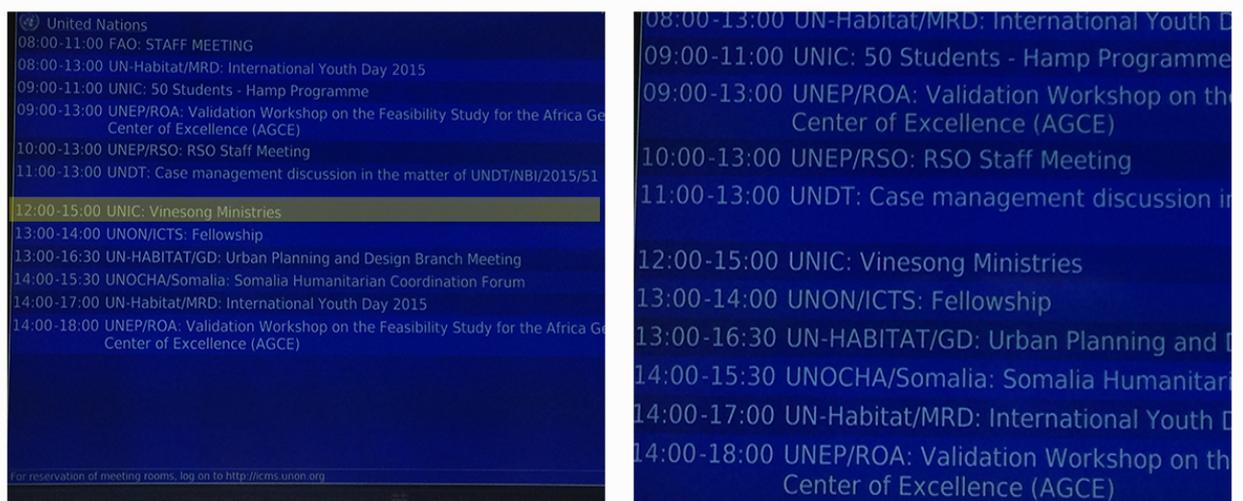
One of the Pastors of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) in Kenya is one of the Directors at the UN in Nairobi. With his help we were able to organise a meeting at the UN offices in Nairobi (UNON).

Our ministry at UNON was nothing short of a miracle! The event was approved in June, however the person in charge of approving the event, a Muslim man, only looked at the request properly the day before our visit. He said to the organisers, that had he read the email properly in June and realised that it was a Christian event, he would never have approved it.

The organisers were not permitted to use any of the usual methods for advertising the event once the 'mistake' had been uncovered. Despite this, over 120 people turned up to the lunchtime concert and 5 people gave their lives to Jesus!

The room that we were scheduled to be in was not very big, but due to an unforeseen technical issue, we had to move next door to the big International meeting room. The new room had doors on either side, with one door opening out onto a courtyard. Due to that, some people stumbled across the meeting and came in.

God is awesome!! We are so grateful for the opportunity to minister in the UN and also to make history. Vinesong is now the first Christian Music Ministry to have ministered in the UN in New York and also the first Christian Music Ministry to have ministered in the UN in Nairobi. We don't claim this accolade for ourselves but use it to give God all the glory that when He opens a door, no man can shut it and that He will make a way for the Gospel to be shared in every high and low place.



Our meeting on the UN electronic notice boards



Ministry at UNON



Vinesong at UNON

MINISTRY IN KENYA

During our time in Kenya we saw many people give their lives to the Lord. We ministered in diverse situations, from indoor to outdoor in Nairobi and in Meru.



So many people shared their testimonies of how the songs had blessed them over the years and had been a real sense of encouragement to them. We are thankful that the songs go ahead of us and that they are doing what God had intended, to bring healing to hearts and lives. We sang two songs, 'Lift Up The Name' and 'Holy Spirit Move Me Now' in Swahili to the utter delight of all the Kenyans at all the meetings we ministered at.

We sensed that Kenya is on the brink of a revival and that people are really open to the Lord in all spheres of life.



Passing through Nanyuki on the Equator on our way from Meru back to Nairobi

Kenya is a beautiful country and we were impressed with many things. We were thoroughly impressed with the mobile phone system and the internet. It is the best system that we have experienced in Africa in terms of quality and price, far better even than South Africa. For us this is a major benefit because it allowed us to be able to continue our office work in Kenya and to be in contact with many nations without fear of not being able to get through to them reliably.

FUN ON THE ROAD

We want to share with you some of the things that amused us whilst we were on the road in Kenya.



This motorcyclist is giving God another chance!

This shop has taken honesty about the service experience here to another level. Let's hope it's just a case of 'under-promise, over-deliver'.



Don't expect express service here



In case this bus cuts in front of you on the road (which happens a lot in Kenya), the appropriate scripture has been supplied in advance

TESTIMONIES

In the prison and the UN write-ups, you will have seen the testimonies surrounding those visits.

CD Production

Good News Productions International (GNPI) produced excellent quality CDs. They told us that when the CDs and covers were being printed by one of their contracted printers, all of the printing machines stopped working. Then both of her designers got sick. The owner of the business is a Christian and she recognised this as a spiritual attack. She said that there is something in these CDs that carries an anointing that made the enemy afraid.

We give God thanks for constant confirmation, that these are His songs and the enemy will do anything to stop them being heard. We also thank God that despite the attempts of the enemy, the CDs were produced in time for our arrival in Kenya.

Healed from neck pain

We ministered at RCCG Solution Centre on a Saturday night, to enable all of the RCCG churches in Nairobi to attend and also during their Sunday morning service. A lady who had been at the Saturday night meeting approached the CD table on the Sunday and told Charlene, that she had been suffering from chronic neck pain the night before. She said that during the meeting in the worship, that the pain just left and she wanted to let us know that she had been healed.

Hope and healing

One lady sent us a message on facebook to tell us that the song 'Let Your Living Water Flow' was a real comfort to her in her time of need. Her mother passed away when she was 11 years old and the song really ministered hope and healing to her more than she could have ever imagined.

AND FINALLY.....

We want to thank everyone who supported and helped us in putting this tour of Kenya together. Peter Musembi and Frederick Kiogora , both Kenyans in the UK helped us tremendously with connecting us with the prison and some churches in Nairobi and the church in Meru. Nancy Kiogora, Frederick's wife helped us to translate our songs into Swahili for which, we and the people of Kenya are extremely grateful.

Without the help of the RCCG church, we would not have had transport here nor such a great driver. Pastor Banji from RCCG Potter's House and Pastors Prince and Esther Obasi-Ike pastors at RCCG Solution Centre have been invaluable in encouraging and supporting us spiritually and practically, with transport. Pastor Banji was invaluable in helping us with our visit to UNON.

Bishop O.B. Commey and his wife Pastor Lilian opened their home to us and we are thankful for their generosity and faultless hospitality during the first 2 weeks of our stay. We would also like to thank Daniel's brother and sister-in-law, S.J. and Linda Kok who completed our Kenyan hospitality during the final two weeks of our tour.

There are many others that we have not mentioned but all those who helped us so graciously know who they are and we know that we could never reward them as they deserve but we know the One who can.

PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING

We want to give thanks for:

- The door that God opened for us to minister in the prisons
- The door that God opened for us to minister at UNON
- All the people that gave their lives to Jesus during this tour
- Our minibus and excellent driver Joseph Karanja
- Everyone who helped and supported us making our inaugural tour of Kenya a success
- Our accommodation which was provided by Bishop O.B. Commey and his wife Lilian and S.J. and Linda Kok

Please pray for:

- The prisoners that gave their lives to Jesus and the prison officers responsible for their welfare whilst in prison
- The Chaplains who go into the prisons and support the prisoners spiritually
- Everyone that gave their life to Jesus, that they would have the support that they need and that this momentous decision would sustain them in life
- The Christians at UNON, that they would shine for Jesus in a difficult arena
- Health and strength for the team for upcoming meetings and tours.