



Jim Harries News and Prayer Letter from Kenya

Sent by: Andover Baptist Church, Charlton Road, Andover, Hants SP10 3JH
<http://www.andoverbaptist.org.uk/content/view/14/14/>

To: Western Kenya, working in the region of Yala/Maseno with some extended ministry to other parts of East Africa.

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Dear Friends,

Receive greetings from a hot and dry Kenya! Such is not surprising, as we are in the middle of the hottest and driest time of year.

Recent months seem to have seen me exceptionally tied up by writing! This is in anticipation of the conferences due to be held in UK and Germany in April and May of this year.

Other significant occurrences include:

There are proper flush toilets at the Coptic Orthodox compound where I have a 'bedsit'/office

1. Home

I was privileged to add three new children to my household at the start of January. All three are complete orphans, aged about 7, 8 and 10. As usual, it is an enormous privilege to be able to give a renewed chance of life to orphans, by offering them the stability of a loving home. It is always sad when one looks into the children's eyes, and remembers the parents who had hoped to see their children mature but instead their lives were cut short.

- I continue to follow up with and encourage many children once they have left home, even many years later.
- Some people may wonder how I manage to afford to keep the children. The answer is simple: my missionary 'allowance' includes provision for a vehicle and for rent to a Western-style house. The money that I save by living in a mud hut in a village, and by riding a bicycle, is the money that keeps the children.



2. Language Teaching

My ministry in Swahili and Luo language teaching is expanding. For the first time, I am to teach 3 days full time. This is to be to a group of missionaries about 100 miles from here (I should be there 9th to 13th February). I don't know how it will work out, except that I could end up exhausted! I don't yet know the missionaries concerned. I just met two of them one evening in Kisumu. (You may wonder how people can learn a language in three days? Well, they can't; my aim is more to inspire them and encourage than to pretend that we'll do it all in such a short time.) Before that on 7th February I have a Luo and then a Swahili class in Kisumu. Teaching Luo can be especially invigorating. It enables us to explore deep cultural issues.



The Moser family, from my UK home church, now living and ministering in Nairobi

3. 'Success' in Mission

An irony of mission work, is that there is a sense in which the less one does the more successful one has been. That might sound like a cop out. Yet, it is also true. If I sweat and run around what I can personally achieve is limited. When local people pick up the tab and are leading ministries, then we get a wonderful multiplication. My role comes to be teaching, encouraging, ... and being a disciple of Christ as a witness to them.

- give thanks that the pastors in my home town are these days cooperating together. They have arranged a crusade for the whole week starting 2nd February.
- 18th February one of the churches I frequently visit and encourage is to have their mid-week gathering at my home.
- our weekly bible class, these days with myself and 4 local pastors (I am not the teacher) continues well, and frequently is very encouraging and inspiring.
- I am privileged to be helping some local people with their advanced theological studies.
- some of the groups I attend are embroiled in seeking insights and power from ancestral spirits. They love to use the bible to validate what they are doing. I am in the privileged position of opening their eyes to more content-oriented ways of studying the bible.
- give thanks for simple ways in which my standing alongside them can be a great encouragement to local church leaders.



Prayer time in a church near my home

4. Furlough Plans

- 7th to 13th February in Egypt, visiting some orthodox Monasteries.
- 13th to 18th March at Andover Baptist Church.
- 20th to 25th March at New Farm Chapel.
- 26th to 31st March Wantage Baptist Church.
- 5th to 12th April Acomb Baptist Church, York.
- 11th April, conference, York.
- 14th to 16th April, conference, Gloucester.
- 18th April, conference, Coventry.
- 22nd and 23rd April – consultations, Oxford.
- 24th to 26th April Andover Baptist Church.
- 27th to 29th April Szczecin, Poland (visiting a missionary).
- 29th to 5th May, Freie Bibel Gemeinde, Worpswede, Germany.
- 6th May, teaching at Marburg seminary, Germany.
- 8th to 9th May conference, Marburg, Germany.
- 11th May, consultation, Stuttgart, Germany.
- 12th to 15th May, OJC Christian community, Germany.
- 15th to 26th May Norwich Central Baptist Church.
- 26th to 3rd June family time (Sunday in Andover).
- 4th June to 17th June at Andover Baptist Church.
- **13th June farewell Jim celebration and birthday party, Andover.**
All welcome.
- 17th June depart for Kenya.



My mother (left) with her friend Kathie, who came to visit me in October 2014

5 .Financial Summary

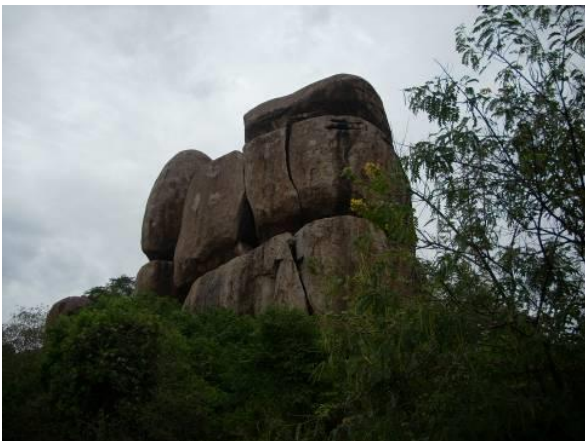
Peter Stagg, who is a professional auditor and is a member of my council of reference, has been good enough to audit my financial situation. As a result, my council of reference has advocated that my budget income levels be raised by 36% this year. If you would like to join my financial support group or raise the amount that you contribute, please contact Peter here: peterdavidstagg@yahoo.co.uk



The way my home looked after the bulldozer came through in December. The road had long been marked by government many years before. In December 2014 it was 'actualised'!

6. Conferences

Our UK conferences are to be held in April. We are to look at **vital issues concerning global mission, poverty alleviation, intercultural communication, justice, and so on.** The title of the conferences is: **Avoiding DEPENDENCY in global Christian mission: VULNERABLE MISSION a potential answer.** Events to be held in York, Coventry, Gloucester and Oxford. Guest speaker Jean Johnson will be with us from the USA. Go to this link to download your copy of the conferences' brochure: http://www.vulnerablemission.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/brochure_UK_confs_20152.pdf



This incredible rock formation is taken as being a 'holy place' by certain indigenous churches

7. Congo and Tanzania

Please be in prayer for a proposed visit to encourage indigenous church leaders in Congo and Tanzania in July and August of this year.