

Mombasa mission 2011

Three weeks in tropically hot Mombasa! Over this time I was working with Bishop Samuel Kazungu. We ministered in several churches, in morning and lunchtime meetings and at an open air street crusade. We had a great time and saw God at work time and again. It was an awesome experience!

God bless you as you read.

Mariakani

The town of Mariakani is just outside Mombasa and is the location of the mother church of Jubilation ministries. Headed by Samuel Kazungu they are a lively and vibrant growing church. Our first Sunday together gave me the chance to preach and the congregation soaked up the word. There were other meetings in the church too including an easter message that twice saw visitors suddenly react violently as the word was preached. The church is not the only thing that thrives here. The town is predominantly Muslim and many people lives are marked by fear and intimidation. There are undoubtedly many demonic strongholds but we praise God because at the preaching of the resurrection of Jesus they cry out and have to leave. The church are stirred and encouraged by the word of God and we have seen God's power here to heal as well.

The final night in the church I opened up the meeting for prayer needs and several people came forward for healing and God healed every one of them! I want to mention one elderly lady in particular who came forward for prayer. She had suffered from head and chest pains for years.

That night she walked from that church for the first time in years totally set free!

Open Air Crusades

What a fantastic time! We had four nights of open air crusades and the atmosphere was amazing. There was such a presence of God here as people worshipped and such a sense of God's peace and favour as well. We held the crusades in the open area in the centre of the town and every night there must have been around 1,000 people stopping to listen and look or working nearby. Every night the gospel was preached. On the first night alone there were 20 or 30 who raised their hands in answer to the call of salvation although no-one came to the front at the altar call. Perhaps because this is a difficult and intimidating place if you are a muslim coming to Christ. I have heard that there is a lot of harassment and bullying here but the churches are many and growing. On the final night of the crusade, however, more people came forward and 12 of those came to give their lives to Christ. We thank God for his favour, for the harvest and for all those who have heard the gospel. This is the start of a much bigger harvest to come in Mariakani!

Lunchtime meetings and revival

During my last time in Kenya I was introduced to Rev. Barnet Kapten who invited me to minister at his 'morning glory' prayer meetings and during the lunchtime meetings he holds in Kongowea.

During my time there in the lunchtime meetings I ministered on God's calling for us to be 'peacemakers' and what it really means and the power to bring it to pass. Rev. Kapten emailed me after my return to England to tell me that the church had run with the message and as a result seen 13 people come to faith in Christ! There were less than 13 who attended the lunchtime meetings! Just out of a lunchtime meeting God has doubled his church!

Maweni

Maweni is a slum area of the city of Mombasa and it was here that a church started in very humble circumstances. The church began under a tree and now their numbers have grown and they hire a bar to have their services in and God has given them favour. The church responded very positively to the word of God and were very appreciative. The last night was an opportunity for ministry and prayer at the end and around 20 people came forward with various needs. 3 people testified of an immediate release from pain as they were healed and another man came forward to give his life to Christ! They were so open to the word of God and it was a real pleasure to minister here.

Jomvu

Jomvu is a Muslim area and a hotbed for radicalism where, against the odds, a church has started and grown. They have done so in the face of opposition and resistance. We had some meetings with the church and then took our meetings to the outdoors. There is one place in this area where we are relatively safe from harassment. This is the area where a community of non Muslims live. We sang and preached and small groups of people came to listen and watch and even when the rains came down they found somewhere to shelter and continued to hang around.

Salvation in Ukunda

Ukunda is south of Mombasa and here in another predominantly Muslim community is a thriving church. There is strong opposition from a local witch doctor whose plans to hinder the church keep failing. He is very angry because since the church took up residence and started praying he has been rendered powerless and therefore all his customers are fading away. Praise God!

The Ukunda church is thriving and growing. There was a man who did not even attend the services but heard what was going on as he was outside. He decided to come to the church to give his life to Christ!

The church is in a makeshift structure as there is opposition to building a church here but the building is nearly full and the saints are passionate for the gospel. The final night of the revival meetings saw so many people come forward for prayer that it was impossible to pray for everyone. One miracle of note, however, was a woman who was suffering from leg and chest pains. Jesus healed her and she left the meeting pain free.

Summary

An exciting time with around 20 conversions in the open air crusades in Mariakani. Honestly I don't know how many were converted and how many healings there were. Things were

particularly fluid at the front at the altar calls but we have seen many come to Christ and Jesus has healed and touched many lives. We have been among the poorest of the poor who receive the word of God gladly. We have been in areas where Islam is dominant and fear is a part of daily life but there is peace in the presence of God and a joy and liberty among God's people.

Since this trip there has been a marked increase in terror attacks in Kenya and particularly in the coastal region and the U.K government were, at one point, advising against all but essential travel. The gospel is as necessary as ever and, in God's timing and by his grace, the message was preached with signs and wonders following and supernatural favour. Much seed was sown and the church goes forward from glory to glory. Amen!