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## TO LAMU **With Love** (from Clive)



*Clive & Mary - all smiles*

**M**ary and I recently flew to Lamu Island to visit the Boys and Girls Centres and to spend a few days on the Lamu mainland visiting the villages where pre-schools and churches had been planted since our last trip 4 years ago.

The day after our arrival was Graduation Day at the New Life pre-school. Lots of little children in big

caps! Muslim mothers rejoiced with us at their children's achievement. Next day a speedboat took us to the mainland, where we met the Dalanos in their newly purchased RAV 4 – a donation from a UK well-wisher. We sped away into the bush.

Our first stop was Kausara, a village that was just 4 years old. On our last visit, there were a couple of grass huts and a chief who had recently brought a few of his people out of the forest to settle into a new way of living. Now there was a small church planted, a pre-school, a New Life feeding programme and a 70ft borehole well, drilled through the generosity of a church in Scotland.

Mokowe was our next stop, where Emmanuel and Margaret Chome had settled, convinced God had called them to establish another outpost for His kingdom here. Just to think, 20 years ago there were 19 unreached tribes in this region, but today there are just 5, thanks to couples like the Chomes. But finances are needed to send even more pioneers!

We drove on to Koreni Refugee Camp, where we have worked for 6 years. Richard Dumimba and Isaiah Mannaseh teach pre-school children. After many struggles to convince





*Clive meets the community*

the camp elders, 50 children now gather daily in 2 classrooms. The elders thanked us for all we had done for

the children through the learning centre, the feeding programme and the borehole well.

Next day a 2 day leaders' retreat began. It was thrilling to hear trans-tribal missionaries share their stories. On the Sunday, over 500 people gathered for the graduation of 20 students who had completed the 3 year course at Barnabas Bible & Missionary Training Institute and 11 students who had completed the Barnabas School of Ministries course – a day of rejoicing and commissioning, as men and women left to make an impact across Kenya!

Returning to Lamu Island, we reflected on what been accomplished over 20 years. A lot of hard work by the Dalanos and others has left an eternal legacy in the lives of individuals and communities who would not otherwise have known the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Clive Beckenham*

## TO LAMU with Love (from Mary)

There were 2 pastors we especially wanted to visit, graduates from our **Barnabas Bible & Missions Institute** (BBMI). Both felt called to pioneer amongst unreached tribes.

We drove until we met our guide, Pastor Reuben Soso and his wife Sera – on a motorbike! We followed them into the bush and definitely would not have found our way otherwise.

Arriving in the village, we were welcomed by women, singing. We sat in the shade of a tree and met the community, who showed us the half-built church they had begun constructing. They were so happy, despite having so little. Their ground was so hard, nothing would grow. We left feeling very humbled.

Back on the road, we were off to Harare B, where Pastor James and his wife Jane are working. When they first moved there, it was nothing but bush. They built their own house with mud and sticks. Jane was expecting their first baby, but started a nursery school anyway for the nomadic children in the area, leading to contact with the parents. Soon she and James began a church under a tree.

But after Jane's baby was born, they had no money left and had decided to leave. With heavy hearts, they came to a retreat where we met and ministered to them. After offering to sponsor them, they went back to their home.

Once again, we were met with singing and dancing and sat under a tree to share with the church. There were 50-60 people from different tribes, who had not heard the gospel before James and Jane went to them. They were so excited to



*Heaven's Angels - Reuben & Sera*

see us, singing for us in their tribal tongues. But it was heartbreaking to see the desperate needs. It is a very hard life for a young family.

We still have about 20 pioneering Kenyan missionaries needing financial support. Please help us to help them make a transformational difference in their communities.

*Mary Beckenham*

## BRIDGE BUILDING In The Bush



*Barnabas boots up!*

**Barnabas Ministries Africa (BMA)** – Sports Ministry began 6 years ago to reach out to the young people in this remote region. We bring them together for recreation and then share the love of Jesus with them. Church-centred sports ministry builds a bridge into these Muslim communities, prior to planting new churches among them.

So far, about 10 teams have been formed and 150 young people are in the programme. A few churches have already been planted in places where sports were the platform for evangelism.

Looking ahead, we plan: to involve even more church leaders; to equip coaches to disciple new converts; to invite all the teams to a camp where we touch their lives for Christ; and to train the Christian players to form small outreach teams to visit the homes of their non-Christian team-mates.

In this early stage, while the churches are being equipped for the self-sustainability of the programme, prayers and financial support are urgently needed. Would you like to partner with us?

**Lemmy Dalano**

## EVERY VILLAGE FOR CHRIST

We recently held a retreat for about 30 leaders, most of whom came from areas of hardship. These retreats are crucial for us to get time together, sharing our challenges, then encouraging and praying for one another.

Our mission this year is to plant new churches within the unreached people groups in this region. The Islamic communities are targeting the planting of a mosque in every village. So we have many challenges ahead and are fervently trusting God for a breakthrough.

We are now using the appeal of sports as a platform for evangelism: church-centred sports ministry. This ministry has allowed us to plant many churches in communities traditionally dominated by Islam.



*Another church under another tree!*

We continue to provide quality education to every child in our 23 learning centres and our feeding programme has been improved by strengthening the local committees responsible.

Our area is still afflicted with extreme famine because of prolonged drought, and many lives have perished. The River Tana has dried up, provoking tribal clashes. It is in these communities that Barnabas Ministries Africa is feeding 1,300 children every day.

*Meleckson & Hulda Dalano*



*Peter & Anne - the dynamic duo!*

## CHRIST In Kitui

In early March, 20 pastors and one pastor's wife arrived in Kitui for Barnabas School of Ministries.

The delegates were of all ages, some in their late 20's, others over 60.

Everyone worked through 2 modules, delivered in Kiswahili: THE PERSON & WORK OF CHRIST and UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.

Both subjects were of great interest because many people in Kitui are bound by witchcraft, a local tradition that is passed on from generation to generation.

But the better you know Christ and understand people, the more effectively you can minister to them.

Feedback from the delegates was extremely positive, with some requesting English notes to complement the Kiswahili.

We thank God!

**Peter Chege**

## TEACHING The Teachers

Mary Wanjiku and I recently ran a School Of Teachers in Idsowe for 3 pastors plus 30 early childhood development teachers, Christians and Muslims. They came from remote areas of Coast Province. Some of them serve among pastoralists and therefore struggle to keep children in school and convince their parents of the need for education. We had discussions on how to make learning fun, so that children want to come back.

Mary taught Classroom Management and I tackled the Effective Domain of Children (Ages 3–7). Only 10 of the teachers were trained, yet they have to teach large numbers of children of all ages in one class – and without any resources! There is an urgent need to bring these teachers together regularly to equip them to serve the children in these remote areas.

The delegates were very thankful to **Barnabas Ministries Africa** for the opportunity to come together in this way and would love to do so more often if funds were available. Any teaching resource materials you have to help these teachers would be highly appreciated.

**Anne Chege**

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