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She's back!

Those of you who also get our New Life News newsletter (and if not, why not?) have already met Mary Doerksen, aka "Cucu Mary". In January, she featured in a story about our "Gap Year Grannies".

Well, not only does 82 year old Mary devote 3 months of her year to being a grandma to our youngest babies, she also pops out occasionally to preach the gospel to Maasai women and provide them with desperately needed Bibles. Hence Cucu Mary's other alias, "Mama Biblia". That's just one of the remarkable stories inside this month. So don't let me hold you up any longer. Jump in!

Woman On A MISSION



Maasai women

As I came out of the Immigration Office in Namanga on the Kenya-Tanzania border, a large group of Maasai women were right in

my face, marketing their beadwork. It felt like a swarm of bees was on me and I got into my bus as fast as I could.

One lady on the bus said, "You just got to ignore them!"

As I lay awake that night, God was speaking to me: "Ignoring them is not the answer. Give them food."

On the way back, after I had spent the weekend in Tanzania, the same thing happened. This time I turned around and said, "Stop! I have something to give you that's much more valuable than money."

"What?" came the reply.

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Woman On A MISSION

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"The love of Jesus!"

I shared Jesus with them for about 10 minutes, as people from every direction came running to see what this white lady had to say. When about 30 people had gathered, I asked, "How many of you have a Bible?" Just 2 people raised their hands.

"I will come back and bring you a Bible at Christmas", I promised.

This was now the end of July. I had no idea what day I would return. All I knew was that I was planning to spend Christmas with my kids in Tanzania.

On 22nd December 2005, I was on my way with 32 Bibles. I had no idea if anyone would have remembered or not. I sat way back in a big bus, praying the whole way.

Approaching the border at Namanga, I was suddenly

concerned that there would not be enough time to hand out my Bibles. So I approached the driver and explained what I was about to do and my concern about time. He said, "Bring your Bibles to the front and sit down on this seat beside me. As soon as I stop, you run and do your passport work and you'll be OK."

What a surprise greeted me! As the door opened, there was a huge crowd waiting for me. A young man called Thomas who spoke English directed me to a chair. I stood on the chair and shared the Gospel for about 15 minutes. After the Bibles were handed out, I left with 30 more names than I had Bibles for!

That was the beginning of my Bible distribution ministry. To date I have distributed well over 1,000 Bibles and many people have been born again.

To God be the glory!

Mary Doerksen

MAN ON A MISSION

Recently I visited all 32 churches overseen by Barnabas Ministries Africa in Tana River Central zone. This is what I found.

Most of the churches were planted in remote parts of Tana River and Lamu Districts. Some are very far from hospitals and roads. Most are under trees or temporary shades. But I was very impressed by their zeal for the word of God.

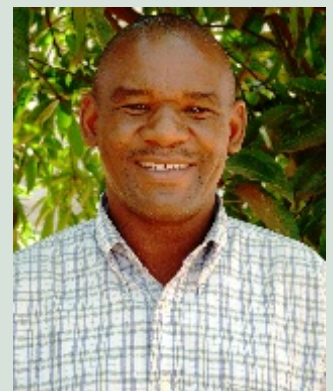
However, people face an acute lack of water because rainfall is their main source. I met people scrambling for rainwater collected in potholes. Can you imagine drinking that water?!

We equip the churches to reach out into their surrounding communities. Congregations are taught how to share the

gospel with their Muslim neighbours. Churches are beginning to do this and I thank God that they are seeing success.

I plan to carry out similar surveys in the other zones. When I do, I will let you know what I find. Until then, please keep us all in your prayers.

Eliud Yaendi



Eliud

Tanzania Takes Off



Meleckson training leaders in Tanzania

In May, 41 key church leaders (including 15 women) from 18 different denominations converged on Dar-es-Salaam for the second Barnabas School of Ministries (BSOM) in Tanzania. Leaders who attended the first one last year testified to how grateful they were for the equipping, encouraging and empowering they received.

Please bear in mind that most of these leaders have never gone to any Bible School, some of the denominations they

serve are newly started, and many of the leaders have barely any Bible study or ministry resources at all. Remember also that they are serving in coastal Tanzania, an overwhelmingly Muslim region.

Because of this, churches are mostly small and struggle to support their pastors. Therefore, there is an opportunity to help Tanzanian church leaders through the introduction of BMA programmes into the country: BSOM, Women In Ministry, Pastors/Leaders Fellowships, Pastors' Financial Support, etc. The leaders most needing (and probably most deserving) of support are those who are church planting, fearlessly starting new churches, often among the poorest and most densely Islamic communities.

Before leaving, we agreed with the Tanzanian leaders to have our third BSOM in Tanzania in May next year. We will also conduct a missionary journey to Tanga, Pemba, and Zanzibar to explore the possibilities for planting the seed of God's Word in these communities.

Please pray for sponsors who will commit to pay for the continuation of BSOM in Tanzania. Each school requires at least KSh 30,000 (about \$350 or £250). Also ask God to raise up a missionary based in Dar-es-Salaam to develop and work closely with the Tanzanian leadership. Thank you!

Meleckson Dalano

The Word In Waata – A First!

I belong to the Waata people, found in Kenya's Coast Province around Lamu, Malindi, Hola and Garsen. Historically, we were hunters and gatherers, hunting even elephants and hippos, but those activities are now restricted by the government.

So in the recent past, faced with fewer options, some of us have adopted the economic activities of our neighbours, such as banana and pineapple farming, and cattle keeping. Because of our nomadic lifestyle, very few Waata people are literate; our literacy levels are estimated to be less than 5%.

A recent socio-linguistic survey by BTL (a Bible translation and literacy organisation) revealed that the majority of Waata people are not Christians and, consequently, are in dire need of God's Word in their own language. The same survey also recommended that a literacy programme be started in the area to go hand-in-hand with the translation work.

For the past year, BTL has been involved in relationship-building and community mobilization efforts among the Waata people, through meetings and seminars with church and community leaders. It is important for such community members to come on board so that they help to provide direction for language work, scripture translation and literacy activities.

One such meeting was a strategy formulation seminar for eight Waata pastors, including myself, who are currently in ministry among the Waata community. The seminar was held in the coastal town of Malindi and the members present resolved that "the Waata people will have a strong thriving church that is transformed spiritually, culturally, socially and economically through using the Word of God in the Waata language".

Let us pray for this project which is in its teething stages that the God of beginnings will see it through to a glorious conclusion.



Reuben

Reuben Soso

Games For God



Mitch with Lemmy (far right) and other team members

This spring, my son Mitch and I were back in Kenya once again, as representatives of Missionary Athletes International. After a few days in Nairobi with Clive & Mary and their team, we headed out to the coastal region to meet with church and community leaders from 8 different districts.

These meetings took place in a "bush" church, located under a tree. Here, we sat and reviewed the many ways God is already using sports to reach people who have never heard of Jesus. We also discussed new ideas for increasing the impact of church-based sports ministry. We were delighted to hear how games are helping to attract people to God and His gospel.

We are also excited to be partnering with Lemmy Dalano, Meleckson & Hulda's son, who has recently begun serving as the full-time Regional Coordinator. This can only enhance the ministry.

Leaving Kenya, we flew to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to train 24 coaches from Ethiopia, Nigeria and Kenya (including Lemmy) on being "life influencers".

One coach had an amazing testimony. At first sight, he looked pretty intimidating! But I soon discovered he was a very sweet man. His love for Jesus was

unmistakable.

As I worked with him over the week, I discovered that he had been trained as a young man to kill Christian Americans. His father had set him aside for a life of death. Then, some years ago, he received a dramatic vision from God, and Jesus transformed his life from one consumed with hate to one consumed with love.

He now coaches 2 youth teams, is a leader in his community, and is giving his life to see young people transformed, disciplined and built into leaders to serve others.

David Sanford

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