



# Inter-National Harvest

## Habari Njema: Things to Come Mission in Kenya

Things to Come Mission came to Kenya expressly to persuade people of the good news of the grace of Jesus Christ. Habari njema means "good news" in Swahili, the trade language of Kenya. Read on to see what the good news is doing for the people of Kenya.

### Kenya: The Country

Kenya is a Texas-sized country of 30 million people located on the east coast of Africa. The terrain ranges from beautiful beaches on the Indian Ocean to 17,000-foot Mount Kenya to the vast plains of Masai Mara where the wild animals live. Several million tourists come to Kenya every year to see these wonderful sights.

Eighty percent of the people of Kenya are farmers. Most of those are subsistence farmers who eat only what they can grow. Kenya's rapid population growth has caused an exodus of younger people to the cities where they seek employment in factories and offices.

Nearly everyone in Kenya belongs to a tribe, each of which maintains a unique language and cultural heritage. Although there have been attempts to unify the tribes, tension continues to exist between them.

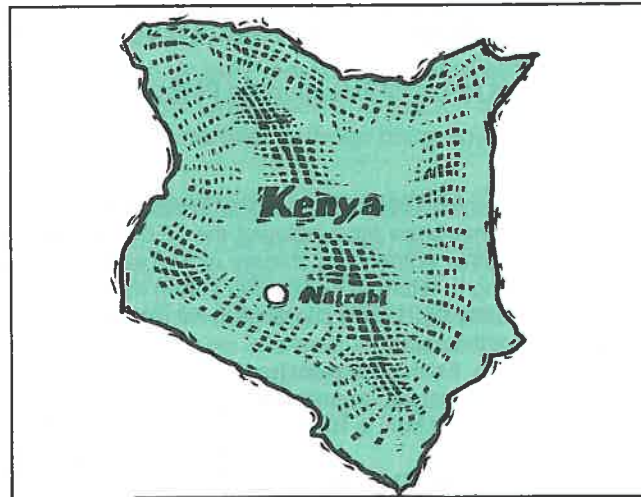
### History of TCM in Kenya

Things to Come Mission's interest in the country of Kenya began in 1984 when Vernon & Darlene Anderson with two of their daughters visited the remote central village of Kerwa. They went as a result of an invitation which Festus Njoka had sent to Prison Mission Association. During their two months in the country they conducted over 100 meetings and met several young men interested in studying God's Word.

In early 1986 Vernon and Darlene returned to Kenya followed the same year by their son, Ben, and his wife, Joyce. In 1987 the Theological Education by Extension program was inaugurated with ten students from the Kerwa area. After five years, five of those students graduated and continue to be active leaders in Grace Bible Church, the Kenyan name of TCM-Kenya.

Grace Bible School was launched in the town of Embu in January 1989. The initial class of 13 produced four graduates after four years. A new class has been enrolled each year since 1991. The total number of graduates is now 27 with another 20 currently enrolled.

Many dedicated nationals have worked beside the missionaries. Festus Njoka, who is now with the Lord, worked diligently to establish Grace churches in Kenya. Samuel Mwangi, our current director is mentioned in another article. Joshua Kithuka helped to establish three churches in his home area. He has now come to Embu to teach in the Bible school. Hudson Njue has planted several churches beyond Kerwa village. He served ably as chairman of the national church board for many years. Many more Kenyans could be mentioned, old and young, male and female, who have labored to further the faith in Kenya.



### The Current Ministry

All activities on the Kenya field revolve around church planting. In this we are following the method of the apostle Paul who tried to establish a church in every city where he preached. To date, 30 churches have been established in and around Embu town. TEE classes have been established among the churches for those that cannot attend the Bible School.

Over 2000 individuals have begun studying correspondence courses. These courses are not only valuable for teaching members; but, are also useful for developing contacts for planting new churches.

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# The Mission Force in Kenya

## Genesis & Verna Maraas

The TCM Mission Representative in Kenya is Genesis Maraas. Genesis came to Kenya as a young single man in 1992. Before that he had served TCM-Philippines as a pastor and evangelist. After a year in Kenya, Genesis went back to the Philippines, married his lovely wife, Verna, and brought her back to Kenya. Since then they have had two children, Andrea and Josiah.

Genesis's responsibilities include taking care of the missionaries' paperwork and special needs, overseeing mission equipment and finances and liaising between TCM and the Kenyan pastors. Verna is the mission's bookkeeper, which involves preparing the support gifts each month and recording the monthly operating expenses of the mission.

In July 1999, the Maraas will be taking a well-deserved furlough. They will travel in the U.S. for six months before spending four months with family and friends in the Philippines. We are looking forward to their return to Kenya in May 2000.

## Cliff & Lou Ellen Kinkead

Cliff and Lou Ellen fell in love with Kenya when they visited in 1988. Cliff and Lou Ellen are the parents of Joyce Anderson. After settling their affairs in Phoenix, they moved to Kenya as full-time missionaries. Cliff is a graduate of Biola College and pastored the Phoenix Grace Bible Church for a number of years.

Currently Cliff is the principal of Grace Bible School in Embu, Kenya. Both Cliff and Lou Ellen have full teaching schedules in the Bible school. Cliff is also writing a Theological Education by Extension workbook from a grace perspective.

## Jessie Easterly

Jessie Easterly is our matriarch. She has a long history in missions, having served in Burundi and Rwanda in the 1930s. Her late husband, Herbert Palmer, was the founder of Things to Come Mission.

Jessie lives at Grace Bible School in Embu. She aids the students in their food menu and with other personal needs. Every evening she plays her keyboard for the students' vespers time. Jessie also grades correspondence courses for several hundred correspondence students.

This summer, Jessie will be returning to the U.S. for a three-month furlough.

## Gardner & Ledith Improso

When the Kenya field needed more Bible school teachers in 1996, Gardner and Ledith Improso answered the call. Gardner had been a pastor and Bible teacher in the Philippines after graduating from one of the TCM Bible schools there.

Gardner is a full-time teacher in the Bible school. He and Ledith also help out with music and youth ministries. They have two children, Keren and Kezia.

The Improsos recently returned from a six-month furlough in the Philippines. They will be taking over some of the Maraas's responsibilities.

## Ben & Joyce Anderson

The Andersons arrived in Kenya in November 1986 as a result of an invitation from Festus Njoka the founder and first director of the Grace Bible Churches in Kenya. Ben's ministries have included the TEE and Bible School training programs and church planting. Joyce has been involved with ministries to women and children as well as teaching in the Bible school.

At present, the Andersons are preparing to return to Kenya after eleven months in the U.S. They will be branching out into a new ministry—church planting in Nairobi. Traditionally, TCM's churches in Kenya have been in rural areas. Ben will be TCM's legal representative in Kenya while Genesis is out of the country.

The Andersons have three girls, Tegwen, Frances and Jaclyn who were all born in Nairobi. They were home schooled up until this furlough. During the coming year they will attend a school in Nairobi.

## Why don't you join the Kenya force? God is calling.

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## REFLECTIONS

by Valerie Anderson

I stand at the crossroads and look  
"No way! I can't do that! It's ridiculous! Impossible!"

God grins and starts rolling up His sleeves.  
"This is gonna be great!" He says, with eyes  
gleaming in anticipation.

An image flashes through my mind:  
Elijah ridiculously pouring pots of water over an altar;  
A sacrifice that was already going to require the  
impossible to set it ablaze.

Elijah was a man just like us . . .

And then it dawns on me that every hazard and  
hindrance I point out is only adding fuel to God's fire.



### FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP

Listen to how God raised up Samuel Mwangi, the Kenyan director of Things to Come Mission's Kenya field. Not only will you get to know a godly Kenyan man, you will be challenged by his story of faith.

Samuel was a young single man who attended the meetings of Vernon and Darlene Anderson in 1984. They were impressed by his interest and dedication. In 1986, when the Andersons returned to Kenya, Samuel was working in construction, building Barclay's Bank in Embu. Samuel began to minister with the Andersons and with director Festus Njoka.

When Samuel quit his construction job and began to serve the Lord full time, Satan began his work. In early 1987 Samuel called the Andersons to ask for a ride to the hospital, saying that his daughter was very sick. By the time Vernon drove the hour to his house, the child had died from malaria.

Shortly after this, Samuel was sleeping in his bed when he was struck by a snake, a pit viper, above his right eye. Soon his face was unrecognizably swollen and he was fading in and out of consciousness. The Andersons rushed him to the provincial hospital, not realizing the poor quality of care given there. The Lord, by His own power, brought Samuel out of the coma he lapsed into that day. Without medicine he was able to leave the hospital in five days. The fang marks can be seen on his forehead to this day.

Satan was not yet finished with Samuel. Later, while walking home from a Bible study, he was attacked at night by a pack of wild dogs. Another serious blow came within a year when his second child also died of malaria.

After all that, Samuel's in-laws came to tell him that his house was infested by evil spirits. They wanted to bring a witch doctor to cleanse it. Samuel stood his ground by stating that his faith was in Jesus who had power over evil spirits. His wife, Justa, became so afraid that she left with her relatives. All the missionaries prayed fervently for her to have faith. Again the Lord was victorious when Justa returned after about six weeks. Today she is a dedicated Christian who stands by her husband in the ministry.

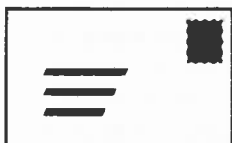
Samuel was elected director of Grace Bible Church of Kenya in 1988 even though he was younger than some of the board members. Samuel understands the gospel of grace well and preaches it several times each week. His family is active in their local church. God has blessed Samuel and Justa with four healthy children. Both of them have finished the correspondence courses. Samuel has completed the TEE program.

Today, Samuel continues to live in his home village of Kerwa. He spends several days each week traveling to visit churches and pastors. He writes several letters each week to people who are seeking the truth. He plans and attends evangelistic crusades. Recently, he received his driver's license so that he can drive to the churches himself.

Samuel was instrumental in getting the title deed for the Embu Church land. He made numerous trips to Nairobi to push the paperwork through. Now we are seeing the fruit of his labor as the structure goes up.

Continue to pray for Samuel and his family. The pressure and responsibility on him will continue to increase as the ministry grows.

***It's Easy to Get in Touch with Us.***  
**We Want to Hear from You!**



**2200 English Ave.  
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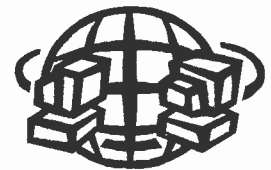
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## Help Needed!

The greatest need of Things to Come Mission is missionaries. We have fields around the world that are urgently asking that someone will come and work in a variety of ministries, yet we have no one to send. There are a variety of different opportunities with TCM. Please read of the needs and pray about the possibility of the Lord using you to fill these gaps.

### **Long Term Missionaries (More than 2 years)**



Church Planting and Evangelism - Brazil, Philippines, Kenya  
Christian Education Coordinator - Philippines

### **Short Term (3 Months to 2 Years)**



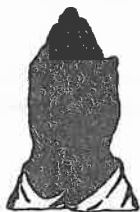
Bible Institute Instructors in Kenya, the Philippines and Cameroon. In each of these countries the instruction is in English and a short term missionary can have a ministry without extensive language training.

### **Home Office**



The TCM home office in Indianapolis needs an office manager. The person filling this position would be responsible for the day to day operation of the mission office. This is an ideal ministry for a retired couple with some administrative experience or for a younger person that would be willing to raise prayer and financial support and become part of the mission team.

### **Associate Missionary Representative.**



You can help the ministry of Things to Come Mission by being a regional representative. By being an AMR you can be a part of the work of missions without leaving home. The AMR helps TCM and its missionaries by organizing church visits in your area, being a liaison between churches and the home office and arranging housing for missionaries visiting your area. We also ask that the AMR's keep themselves informed about the ministries of TCM and actively promote prayer for the missionaries among the churches nearby.

### **Continued from page 1**

Each year a national Bible conference is held. Delegates attend from all the churches, bringing the total attendees to 200 or more.

Evangelism is an essential part of church planting. Tracts are being written by Grace pastors and printed in each tribal language of the members of TCM-Kenya. Pastors hold evangelistic crusades in their areas to win people to Christ. Several churches have been established using this method.

### **The Future**

Jesus planned for the future, Paul planned for the future and TCM-Kenya has plans for the future.

**Urban church planting.** Kenyans are moving to the city. In 1986, Nairobi had 1.3 million people. Today more than three million live in that growing city. The primary thrust of TCM in Kenya will be in the cities.

Planting churches in cities is not easy. It is expensive for both the pastors and the missionaries involved. Living expenses are inflated and finding a place to meet is also costly. Urban ministry requires pastors and evangelists who are used to working in the city. City and rural people have different cultures.

**Grace literature.** Another plan for the future is the development of grace literature. We would like to see more TEE workbooks, tracts, hymnals and textbooks written from a Grace perspective. This literature will be written in English, Swahili and the tribal languages.

**Self-sufficiency.** Starting on a new mission field is like starting an old-fashioned hand crank generator. You have to put a lot of energy into it while you're turning the crank.. In Kenya, TCM has been providing much of the leadership, finances and knowledge to keep the churches functioning. Now it is time to start turning more responsibilities over to the Kenyan leadership.

It is not our goal to cut off the Kenyan field from TCM. We believe in interdependence. TCM supplies what the Kenyan field is lacking and they supply what TCM is unable to provide.

Thank you for reading about the *habari njema ya Yesu Kristo* which is being proclaimed in Kenya. How can you get involved in this great ministry? Start by praying and asking God to guide you. Then, take up the support of an individual or ministry mentioned in this article. Finally, consider a visit to Kenya. Yes, it is costly. But, it is a trip you will remember the rest of your life.





## Memorial Gifts

Things to Come Mission would like to acknowledge the following gifts which have been given in memory of some family member, friend, or loved one that has passed away.

### *Donor*

Edwin Stromer  
Esther Boreen

### *In Memory of*

Catherine Stromer  
Margaret Post

The following individuals made contributions to a special fund established in memory of **Elmer Hermann**.

Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Beebe, Marie Borgeson, Mr. & Mrs. John Briggs, Mr. & Mrs. David Collins, Mrs. Dorothy Compton, Mr. & Mrs. Art DeMarr, Mrs. Lois DeMarr, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne DeMarr, Marialyce Dobben, Mr. & Mrs. John Dolislager, Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Elliott, Paul & Pam Flickema, Mr. & Mrs. Myrt Gentry, Mr. & Mrs. Casey Groeneveld, Mr. & Mrs. Morris Hathaway, Russell & Anette Hendrie, Mrs. May Hinton, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Jewett, Mrs. Lois Middlecamp, Mrs. Ruth Moseler, Mr. & Mrs. Don Posthumus, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Rosema, Mrs. Janet Snyder, Mr. Steve Snyder, Ida Vandermolen, Lois Visser, Dr. & Mrs. James Webb

## ***NEWS YOU CAN USE FOR PRAYER***

**Joe Watkins**, TCM Executive Director, and Board President **Roy Kelsey** will be visiting Kenya from June 10 to 24. They will take part in the Grace Bible School Graduation and teach a special seminar for the pastors. They also plan to visit several of the nearby churches and minister to those congregations.

A group of young people from the **Summit Valley Community Church in Addy, Washington** are planning to take a ministry trip to visit the work of TCM in **Recife, Brazil**. **Pastor Tim Heath** will lead a group of four others; his wife Judy, daughter Melody and two young people from the church Amanda Fullmer and Tracy Maurer from July 22- August 14. In Brazil they will be joined by TCM missionaries **Joaquim & Michelle Campos** (currently on educational leave). The group will be involved in puppet ministries, evangelism, music ministry and encouragement to and fellowship with the missionaries on the field.

This group needs prayer and financial backers to help them get there. If you would be interested in helping them out, contact the TCM office for more information.

**Genesis & Verna Maraat** have received a visa from the U.S. Consulate in Nairobi, Kenya to visit churches, friends and supporters in U.S. They will arrive July 25 and will be traveling to various parts of the country until December 6. They will then depart for the Philippines for a short visit after which they will return to their ministry in Kenya.

### **From the Philippines**

The Grace Gospel Church of Christ Inter-Provincial womens' organization held their 22nd Womens' Fellowship at the IGBI- Ozamis Campus last April 1-3 with attendance of around 250. Delegates came from three provinces in western Mindanao.

**Dr. Frans Tamarol** will spend June through August ministering in Indonesia (he is currently in the U.S. pursuing graduate studies). He will be traveling throughout that nation preaching in churches and teaching intensive seminars for pastors and Bible students. His schedule is very full with meetings planned from sunrise until late in the evening every day while he is there. Indonesia recently had a national election which turned out to be peaceful. Continue to pray for peace and order in this large and populous country.

Two Filipino pastors **Pastor Abundio Boco** and **Pastor Pedro Blanco** will be traveling to Malaysia to follow up contacts they made with Filipino overseas workers during a previous visit last October. They hope to be able to form a congregation during this trip. Pray for these men with a burden to take the Gospel to regions beyond.

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**Things to Come Mission**  
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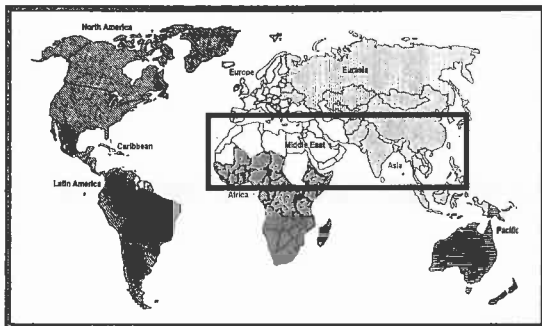
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## **Take a Moment to Learn about Missions**

### **by Don Sommer**

In the last issue of the **Inter-national Harvest** we discussed one way of viewing the unevangelized people of the world. Now let us look more closely at those nations which comprise most of what is termed World A - the least evangelized. In the late 1980s, mission researchers began to talk of the 10/40 Window. They did this to draw attention to the fact

that the vast majority of the unevangelized people on earth live in the region which stretches from the West Coast of Africa to Japan and falls between 10 degrees and 40 degrees north latitude.



**97% of people in the least evangelized countries live in the 10/40 Window**

Nearly two-thirds of the entire world population lives in the 10/40 Window and 97% of least evangelized peoples reside in this geographical area. The world's two most populous nations, China and India are located here. The combined population of those two countries alone accounts for nearly 40 per cent of humanity. This area is the stronghold of the world's three largest non-Christian religions: Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Likewise, China is the last major nation in which atheistic Communism still has great influence.

Along with spiritual darkness this area is plagued by some of the worst social problems on earth. Eight out of ten of the world's poorest people live within the 10/40 Window. Diseases which have long been controlled or eradicated in the West still ravage these countries. Many of the most oppressive political regimes can be found in the Window along with some of mankind's most horrific abuses of basic human rights. Persecution of Christians is common in most of the 10/40 nations.

Of the 10/40 Window evangelist Luis Palau says: "It is evident that the forces of Satan have great power and will resist all attempts to be overcome. If we are to storm the enemy's territory, we must put on the full armor of God and fight with the weapons of spiritual warfare described in Ephesians 6. To depend on anything less is utter foolishness."