



Discipleship Training School Graduation

The DTS team returned from Kenya on February 23rd. Their journey the last five months has taken them through joys and trials unlike anything they've ever encountered. Lecture phase encouraged spiritual growth by providing a special time to focus solely on the students' relationships with God. The outreach to Kenya then allowed them to practice what they learned. Through it all, God has proven His faithfulness over and over again. On the 28th of February, the students officially graduated. The dining hall was a display of Kenyan colors and excited faces. Several people from the DTS team spoke, staff and students alike, to encourage and share how this time has impacted their lives.

GOOD-BYE

TAYLORS



Jason and Jackie Taylor have served as staff at *Gleanings* since March 2010. They are now in Bakersfield with *Global Aim*, a ministry serving the Sikh population. We love and miss the Taylors, but are excited to see them take on this new calling from God.



In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.

Ephesians 1:7

English as a Second Language

For the year 2015, Gleanings is offering an *English as a Second Language* course instead of a *Discipleship Training School*.

ESL is a twelve-week course designed for those who desire to learn or improve their English.

The school will begin on September 21st and run until December 11th.

The cost is \$1800 plus a \$50 deposit (\$75 per couple) registration fee.



Kenyan Outreach

Africa. Kenya, Africa, a diverse country in the middle of East Africa, home to the Discipleship Training School this January and February. To draw you a bit further into their world, I invite you to read, absorb, ponder, and enjoy the tales of average people called by an incredible God. This is their story. The journey started on December 30, 2014. Nineteen people piled into vehicles driving four hours to a L.A. airport hotel. After a restful night's sleep the DTS team settled in for over 26 hours of travel. It took three airplane rides, two layovers, and an extremely bumpy ride from Nairobi, to finally arrive at the first Kenyan destination, Kijabe.

Kijabe is a quaint little town, that is so meshed with the African Inland Mission (AIC) station, that you can't tell where one ends and the other begins. It sits on a hill in the midst of a cloistered jungle. The team worked with Pastor Simon Muhato of the Kijabe AIC church, a round man of average height, with a huge grin, who quickly brings a person from acquaintance to familial friend. As Simon steered us around the surrounding region, we viewed his heart of love for people in different situations. The group dearest to his heart was his orphans. He and his wife started an orphanage years ago to bring hope to the street children. They call him Baba (Daddy) and Simon considers the children an extension of his family.

After a heartfelt good-bye, the DTS hit the road two weeks later for an 8-hour journey, to arrive across the country in Kitale. The team spent a very packed and life-changing ten days in Kitale. At this location the first healings were witnessed and medical treatment given.

Not only were physical bodies impacted in these short ten days, but spiritual ground was being broken. Elizabeth, a tall, beautiful Kenyan with a stunning smile, joined our team for almost every ministry event. She is a single mother of three, whose heart is to begin a ministry for single mothers like her. One hot summer day, ministry was to a group of single mothers; it took one momentous instant for Elizabeth to move from a spectator to boldly stepping into her God-given calling. A team member approached Elizabeth about sharing her story with the "mamas". Nervously, Elizabeth accepted the offer to speak, mentioning she had never spoken to single moms. As she was anxiously fidgeting in her seat, waiting her turn to share, God's spirit was descending. By the time she opened her mouth, the room was in rapt attention and hearts ready for change. It was a privilege for the team to witness a fellow believer step up and rise to her purpose. At that point, her life was altered. She couldn't believe her ministry had been initiated by a group of Mazungus (white people).

The team resided in the third largest city in Kenya, Kisumu, for the bulk of their time. They experienced culture shock when working with the street boys and people living at the dump. Hearts embraced a young girl, Mercy, who sought medical aid. People's faith was nurtured as more healings were experienced. As the trip came to a close, the single guys, led by Fritz, had the opportunity to rough it out in Northern Kenyan, Turkana territory. They spent hours traveling along unmarked, sandy roads to find the Turkana tribe. For some of the Turkanas, it was the first time they had seen white people. Food and Gleanings' peaches were brought to feed a people who considered themselves lucky when they ate one meal a day. Despite the extreme poverty and lack of food, they seemed incredibly healthy. It was as though God miraculously multiplied the nutritional value of their simple meals. They worshipped God with energy and enthusiasm, and gave generously.

The DTS concluded just outside Nairobi at YWAM Athi River Muchakos base, a beautiful and simplistic facility, to debrief the trip. The outreach had challenges, such as living in tight quarters, comparing our lives with the Kenyan people, and walking in love and humility. But through all the difficulties and times of joy, God revealed Himself in such unique ways. It can definitely be proclaimed that God was faithful and the lives of our team members weren't the only ones altered. He used ordinary people to do His marvelous work.

-Olivia Meléndez



Director's Corner

Coming home from a seven week mission trip requires some time to get back to "normal", and not just because of the time change. God is providing me with food for thought every day. Experiencing, first hand, a completely different culture has challenged what I have accepted as our normal life. I don't want to settle for my North American normal, but invite God to invade my thinking with His heavenly realities! Colossians 3:1, "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God."

May the Lord of heaven and earth bless you.

Fritz Meier