

A new year is here



Makarios Blessing year in review 2018 A year in review. A new year to come.

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Stephen Johnson. Below you can read a brief overview of 2018 in missions along with what's in store for 2019.

Mission to Mombasa - The big event of the year

In the spring I travelled out to Mombasa in Kenya to work with Jubilation ministries. It was as amazing as it was diverse. We started off with a leadership conference that gathered together pastors, leaders {and potential leaders} from all over Kenya and as far afield as Burundi. We spent a number of days together and I shared practical things regarding discipleship and training the next generation of leaders.

It was there I first met a pastor from one of the poorest slum areas. He has been faithfully ministering for ten years and was particularly grateful for the conference in that it gave him the tools to help people in his church. Like many pastors he had been faithfully doing so much and, like so many pastors, had found there was only so much he could do. Now, by learning how to equip the next generation to lead, he has opened for the church a real possibility to reach and develop many times more people than before.

From there I went to the heart of Mombasa to speak at some wonderful Spirit filled lunchtime meetings. There was such a sweet sense of the presence of God which was facilitated by heartfelt worship. I had the opportunity to enthuse people over the gospel, go into detail about what it is and why it changes lives. People there really got a vision and a fresh confidence for sharing their faith. I had been here before when I came to Mombasa in 2011 and it was such a blessing to be back. The godly lady who had set up this ministry was still there faithfully serving and expressed her considerable gratitude for the word of God.

I also had the chance to visit numerous churches and preach there, encouraging them in the gospel and the power of God. We saw a number of miraculous healings during this time but the best was saved for last.

The final three days were given to a series of open air crusade meetings in Freretown, Mombasa where many were saved and healed. God moved in power as we saw a total of 23 people commit their lives to Jesus with 16 of them being on the final day of the crusade!

Youth Camp 2018 - The peace of God reigns

This was an amazing week in August with Every Nation church on their annual youth camp. There was such a peace of God resting on proceedings and such favour also. I had the chance to do a lot of things including preach and teach. Two people had separately approached me for prayer because they had felt stirred by the Holy Spirit to begin to share their faith. There were others who made a first time commitment to faith in Christ and many of the young people came forward to one of the leaders for prayer. It was clear that God was doing something special. God was moving on people's hearts and beginning to prepare and raise up a new generation. Such was the impact of the youth camp that a group of young people decided to go on an outreach and try to seek divine leading. They received a prophetic word about a person they were to speak to and found that exact person. Many of the young people are coming on in leaps and bounds since the camp.

Every Nation school of ministry - Making progress

I have now largely caught up with the coursework which is going well. 2019 is going to be a big finish and it is going to be intense. There is a mission trip to sort out along with a local church ministry project. I also need to come up with a comprehensive plan for a church plant which I will have to present at the residential week in February. This is going to be a big year.

On a personal note

It has been a very challenging year. Two home moves. Two job changes. Very tight financial restraints and long commutes to work have taken their toll but finally I am in a good place. I am now in a job I am comfortable with, a home that is just a bike ride from work and financially things are better and the pressure is off. After a tough time I am actually looking forward to this next year.

Onward and upward for 2019

My main aims for the coming year are...

To complete and finish well in the school of ministry

To complete a mission to Belfast in April

To complete a local church ministry project {details coming soon}

To be part of at least one mission trip to Romania

To prepare to be part of a church plant team {hopefully happening in 2020}

God is good. He has seen me this far and I trust that this next year will exceed the previous one in terms of fruit and in the blessing of God.

Please continue praying for me and the mission as I enter this next preparation phase. God bless you all abundantly.

Steve Johnson

Upcoming dates

Saturday 12th January - Open air outreach in Northampton

Sunday 10th to Friday 15th February - School of ministry residential week
{In Ukraine}