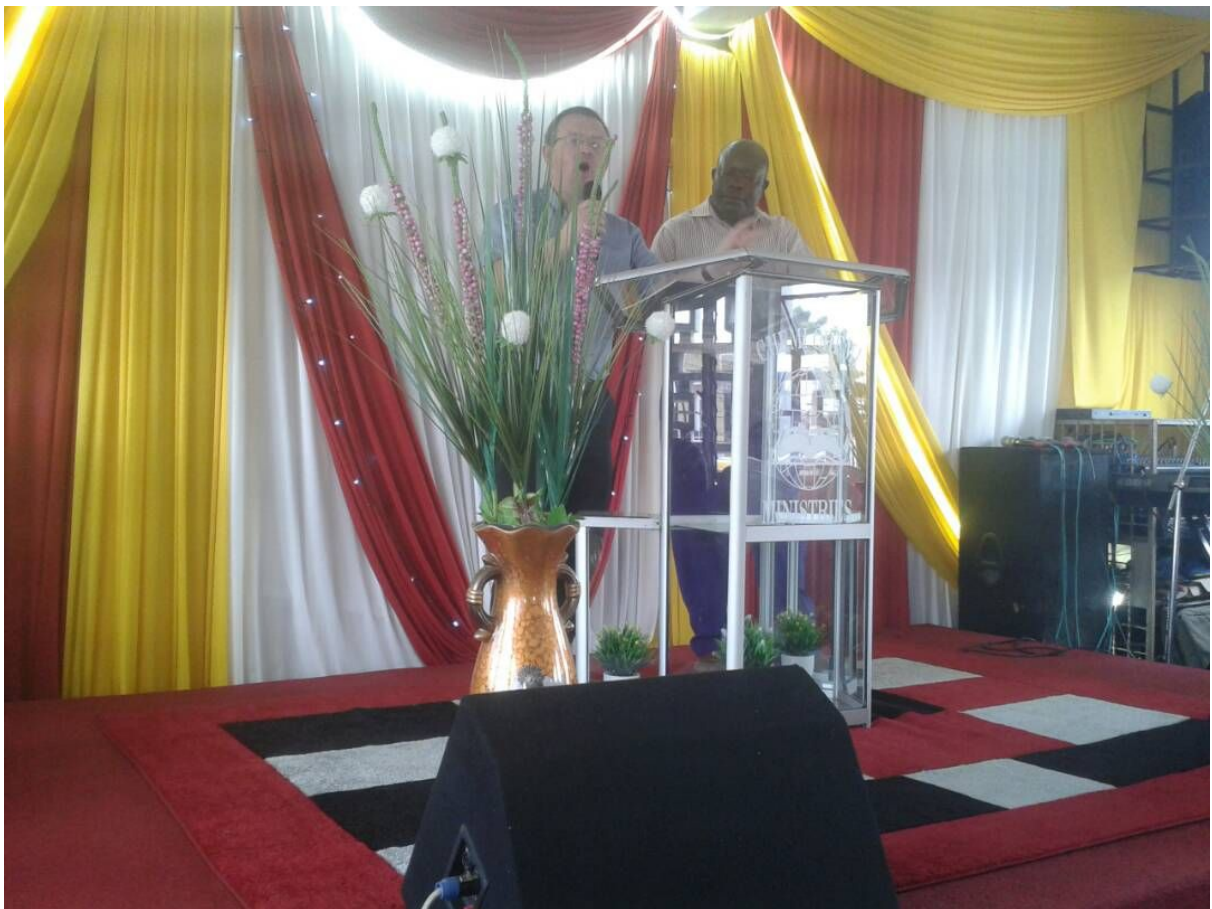


Mombasa 2018 mission report

At the end of last year God gave me a word about an acceleration into 2018. Within a couple of weeks I had totally relaunched my ministry website complete with online shop and committed to a mission trip in Africa. So, in April 2018 I flew out to Mombasa in Kenya for a diverse and exciting two week mission. This is the story of what happened on my latest 'God adventure'.



Preaching at the lunchtime meetings in the heart of Mombasa. Bishop Samuel Kazungu is interpreting on the right {my left}

The build up - Divine leading and provision

“My grace is sufficient for you for my strength is made perfect in your weakness” - 2 Corinthians 12 / 9

After all the difficulties of 2017 and knowing that I would be looking for a new job in February I was not planning on any mission trip soon. I preferred to get myself into a financially established position first. Yet there was this nagging feeling that it had been long enough since the last trip and, with this conviction, I began to plan.

I asked the questions of where and when. Mombasa seemed to stand out and the month of April also. This begged the question of whether, if I was starting a new job in March, whether I would have the time off work.

Within a day or two of having Mombasa and April in my heart I was contacted by a minister in the area who, from the prompting of the Holy Spirit, decided to contact me and invite me to preach at a leadership convention he was hosting and at a series of crusades. Seeing this as divine confirmation I accepted the invitation.

That led to another question. How was I to raise the money? Before I did anything or let anyone know of my plans I was approached by a friend in church who told me they felt God put it upon their heart to give me some money. It covered most of the cost of the flight!

So, in faith, I booked the flight tickets.

There were other significant developments too. As I was transferring information and old mission reports to my new ministry website I read part of an old report where an African minister prophesied over me that I would never have to pay for a flight ticket again. So far this has turned out to be true and before my trip the entire costs had been covered by donations.

As to my future employment, I signed on to an agency that have treated me very well and had no problem giving me the time off for the mission. All the other costs of the mission including hotel expenses were covered by one very generous donor. God has touched people's hearts to make this mission possible and I am so thankful for how easily he has made a way for it to happen.

Leaders conference

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you” - Matthew 28 / 19

The day before I was due to fly out I was hit with a mystery illness that left me feeling very weak. I've still no idea what it was but I missed my last day of work before flying out. It eased up somewhat on the day I was due to leave but I still felt quite poor for the next couple of days. I was also having problems with my throat which left me with difficulty speaking clearly {which is a big problem when you are the speaker in a mission}. Over the first few days of the conference my voice gradually got better and, by the grace of God, I was getting through it ok. The conference itself went really well. I was working with Bishop Samuel Kazungu and the Jubilation church. They have 17 church plants dotted around the region, the country and abroad in Burundi. Ministers from these churches had gathered and some had brought people from their church as well. There was a healthy mix of congregants and ministers.



Bishop Samuel leading the people in song during the leadership conference.

I had compiled a list of useful things to share in a discipleship and leadership context. Some were short 5 minute points and others were whole messages. The people received it enthusiastically and I had one extensive conversation with a pioneer pastor who had been ministering for 10 years and was particularly impacted by some of the messages. It was a missing link for him. It was really encouraging to my faith to see how God gave me the right words to share with the right people.

Probably the biggest one was on the fear of failure. I shared a message on viewing failure positively and to be embraced in the discipleship process as the path to learning and eventual success. That had a huge impact as many people did not try things because they feared to fail.

Some of the lessons I shared were so simple yet unless someone points them out you might never know. A number of things I shared were principles I myself had only learned in the last year or two and I also made the point of stopping and asking questions to make sure people were engaging with what I was saying and were taking it onboard {Asking good questions was one of the principles I taught. Another one was modeling what you are teaching so I figured the best way to teach was also to model it myself in some ways}

What touched my heart was how many of the people who came to the conference took these things to heart themselves. I also did a session on 'How not to give instructions' based partly on my experiences in my new job. I got one of the congregants up to illustrate the point and then I asked the people to count how many mistakes he made. {The answer was none. The communication was at fault. That was the point of the exercise}. One of the people who answered grasped the point straight away. I was really pleased with that.

The overall aim was to give people simple, practical things they could apply in their churches that could aid and accelerate the discipleship process and thus see their ministries grow and expand. I trust much good fruit is and will come from these days together.

Lunchtime Meetings

"But you are holy, O You that inhabits the praises of Israel" - Psalm 22 /

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I was invited back to place in the heart of Mombasa that I had been to way back in 2011. There is an awesome ministry that was set up to provide an oasis of worship and the word in the middle of the day in a

predominantly muslim area. Many Christians come here for the lunchtime meetings and there is such a tangible presence of God. The worship certainly has made a difference.



The lunchtime meetings were filled with worship that was heartfelt and sincere. The presence of God was tangible.

It was my joy and privilege to minister over 5 days there and again the response was very positive. One of the things I spoke on was being poor in spirit {From Matthew 5 in the Beatitudes.} I was later told that many pastors in Kenya thought physical poverty was a spiritual calling and deliberately embraced that lifestyle partly based on that text. Now they

saw it very differently. The word was having an effect I has not envisaged prior to or during the message.

Part of the way through the mission I was joined by my friend Kyomukama Deus who is a pastor in Uganda and who has trained others and planted churches. It was really good to meet up with him again, to talk and pray. We also had the chance to preach in other locations.



Three men of God called to bring down strongholds and exploring a fallen stronghold on the Mombasa coast. Kyomukama Deus is on the right of the picture.

I also went to a church in Ubomkosi and had some really good conversations with the pastor and others. They are a church that are passionately committed to preaching the word of God and see it as central and vital to the future success of their church. There was a strong commitment there to worship and prayer as well and it was such a blessing to be there for a couple of evenings and share the word of God with them.

I even found time to preach at the church of pastor Jonathon who ministers in Maweni, one of the slum areas of Mombasa. Everywhere where the word of God was proclaimed there was an enthusiastic and engaged response. In conversation it was clear that people had

understood and were taking in what was taught and that God had opened their eyes to something.



A commitment to both the word and the Spirit makes for a fruitful mix at the Ukombozi evangelistic church in Mombasa.

Teaching videos & resource launch

“Preach the word. Be instant in season and out of season”

- 2 Timothy 4 / 2

While in Mombasa I also began to develop a project that was on my heart for some time. I have begun to film short inspirational videos on spiritual topics such as “7 Things everyone needs to know about Jesus” and “The Beatitudes”. Taking advantage of some appropriate locations I am now building up a library of teaching materials and videos. I am also going to release the last ten years of mission sermons and teachings. This is going to give pastors, leaders, disciples and anyone else access to word based messages designed to change lives.

I am quite excited about this and will develop the library of materials over the next couple of years releasing something new every week or so.

The ‘Go live’ date is pencilled in for 20th May.

See below for details of how you can gain access to this material.



Outside the famous 'Horns of Mombasa' close to where many of the teaching videos were filmed

If you would like access to these and other teachings and inspiring resources {including the material used on this mission} then just click on the link below and fill in the form.

www.makariosblessing.org/messages-videos

Crusades in Freretown

“Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it” - Mark 16 / 20

The pinnacle of two weeks of mission came with 3 evenings of open air crusades. It was amazing. Even the continual rain during one of the days could not stop us. Bishop Samuel had arranged for a wonderful gospel singer called Salome Mwabindo to come and worship with us. She was present at our crusade in Mariakani in 2011 and it was awesome to see her again. There was such an atmosphere of celebration and a great opportunity to preach the gospel in a region of Mombasa racked with hopeless poverty, crime and drug abuse.

In terms of preaching I simply preached Jesus every night. Three different ways but the same person. What better subject for people without salvation to hear of but that 'Jesus is the Christ' and '7 things everyone needs to know about Jesus' and 'The name above all names'.

My notes got soaked in the rain on the second night and on the third I didn't even use notes. The message all but preached itself.

On all three nights people came forward and we prayed for many. There were too many to all pray for with regard to healing so we led people in mass prayers and I prayed for some individually. We had 16 testimonies of miraculous immediate healing in the name of Jesus during the whole of the mission, most of which happened at the crusades.

Among them was

The greatest joy came with the public commitment to repentance and faith in Christ of 23 people during the mission. 16 of those people came forward on the final night of the crusade marking a wonderful conclusion to the mission.



Bishop Samuel closing the crusade meeting at nightfall. Over the three nights and the rest of the mission we saw 23 people make a commitment to follow Christ.

What's next?

“Our meat is to do the will of Him who sent us” - John 4 / 34

Jesus said ‘My meat is to do the will of him who sent me’. May that be so of all of us. There is something about using the gift that God gave you for his kingdom that is invigorating, inspiring and purposeful. Nothing actually tops seeing people, who have heard the gospel for perhaps the first time, responding in repentance and faith to the call of Jesus. The afterglow of those amazing days is still with me.

Yet there are still many more who have never heard of him and what he has done. We must work while it is yet day. With that in mind there are a number of mission opportunities coming up.

- In October {to be confirmed} I hope to be joining an Every Nation church team on an outreach to Romania. Our fellowship are looking at a possible future church plant there and this could be an important prelude to that.

- A 7 to 10 day team mission: As part of my course on the Every Nation school of ministry I will be leading a team somewhere in Europe before the end of this year. I will be recruiting a team, develop a mission strategy, train the team and execute the mission in a city of my choice. I will also be responsible for the finances and fundraising for this mission.
- Early next year: A possible return to Mombasa for another mission.

My ministry website has a partnership page set up where you can contribute to the work of mission either by way of a one off gift or by a monthly amount. Visit the ministry partnership page below.

www.makariosblessing.org/partnership

I just want to say a big thank you to everyone who prayed for this mission and for those whose generosity made it happen. Eternity will bear witness of the difference you have made in people's lives.

May God bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you his peace.

Steve Johnson