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A look at KENYA

Kenya is full of kids! We saw so many kids. This is a sharp contrast to the distinct absence of kids we are so keenly aware of when traveling in China where a one child per family policy is enforced. The churches we preached at were full of kids and there was that typical childish innocence on their faces that hid the painful reality that approximately 1.5 million of Kenya's children are HIV/AIDS infected and orphaned by the disease that has already taken one or both of their parents.

The mission of our team of six to Kenya was one that seemed very far from my 'comfort zone'. We were to address 150-200 pastors from several African countries about HIV/AIDS, point out the failures of secular 'Safe sex' programs and encourage them to shoulder the responsibility of addressing this crisis in their own communities. The need for immediate action is critical if the nation is to even survive.



Coming from the sanctuary of my own country where the subject of HIV/AIDS is not often in the public media, I found these statistics shocking and too farfetched to believe. I made a point to investigate this on my own by asking several educated Kenyan's. Sad to say, they readily confirmed these figures!

Our message was straight forward. Any sexual relationship outside of marriage is sin! Forget for a moment about the great risks of getting infectious diseases resulting from immoral sexual behavior. Fornication, adultery, homosexuality is sexual immorality. Sexual immorality is sin! The consequence of sin is death! So if not physical death, then spiritual!

"Flee sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with you body." 1 Corinthians 6:18-20

Kenya has 60% unemployment!

1999: An average of 400 Kenyans per day were contracting HIV/AIDS.

2004: After millions of US dollars were invested in 'Safe sex' programs, now an estimated 800 Kenyan's are daily contracting HIV/AIDS! These programs are a proven failure, a band-aid on a growing cancer!

Currently 60% of Kenya's military is infected with AIDS/HIV! If no one else were to contract HIV/AIDS from today onward, in ten years - 50% of Kenya's population will be gone!

Kenya has been recognized as an evangelized country. Publications around the world report this nation to be 80% Christian. Many leaders have quoted the words, "if you stand in the center of Nairobi (the Capital) and throw a stone in any direction, you are likely to hit a church". But the truth is that on any given Sunday you will find only 7% of Kenyans attending a church. Nominalism is weakening the Spiritual Body across Kenya with as much devastation and speed as HIV/AIDS has inflicted and weakened its people physically.

Nominalism (nom'i-nal-izm), *n.* The philosophical doctrine that all universal or abstract terms are mere necessities of thought or conveniences of language and therefore exist as names only and have no general realities



Kenya Report; by Dan King

Culture shock set in as we drove from the airport to the hotel and it was immediately apparent that this was indeed a third world country with a very poor infrastructure. Roads had been patched over and over again until they resembled a minefield with constant hidden surprises as our van driver maneuvered and swerved into the oncoming traffic just to miss the huge potholes; unlike anything I have ever experienced. Speed bumps or "Sleeping Policemen" as they are affectionately called by the locals were at every congested pedestrian area. Machine-gun armed men at police check points were the only law enforcement that were visibly present. The absence of street lights combined with the fact that there were no Caucasians anywhere to be seen made that first van trip a memorable one. The plane had been full of white westerners and Europeans who must have gone to the wealthier ends of town and were not to be seen.

The sidewalks were crowded with people hustling for enough schillings for today's food supply, not tomorrow's. Young men pulling wooden-handled carts made from recycled car axles with bald tires were pulling their wares into the market areas. The items they carried were bags of coal, firewood, sugar cane or potatoes which they would resell at a very small markup, enough to purchase today's food and probably nothing more. I realized somewhere on the trip that this is what the "rest" of the world is doing every day and once this day was over they would start the whole thing over tomorrow. Transportation was a luxury. There were no restaurants. The diet was similar in every home and consisted of rice, beef stew, potatoes, peas, a corn maze mixture called "ougalali" and fried bread. When the meals changed it was changed to chicken stew. Fruit was plentiful and was a blessing to break the monotony.

We went to Kenya for the purpose of presenting HIV/AIDS as a church issue and a symptomatic issue that was basically spiritual in nature. We prayerfully considered each public speaking opportunity that we had as an opportunity to open up Christian mind set to this problem and encourage the church pastors as they bury their dead on a monthly and often weekly basis. We asked for forgiveness from our African Brothers for our American solution of condoms and for exporting our immorality. The trip was funded in-part by Living Water Church and we are very grateful to the church and those who gave private donations for supporting this effort. We carried with us the intense responsibility to represent the heart of the Lord to Kenyan people about HIV/Aids. We showed a 35 minute video by Dr. Mark warning the Brothers and Sisters of Kenya of the need to change the current treatment of HIV/Aids to Abstinence, Fidelity or Death (AFD). The current ABC* program exported from our country makes allowance for the use of condoms in the event that abstinence and fidelity are not options that they choose. HIV/Aids has doubled in a few short years since this was put into place and adopted by the country of Kenya.

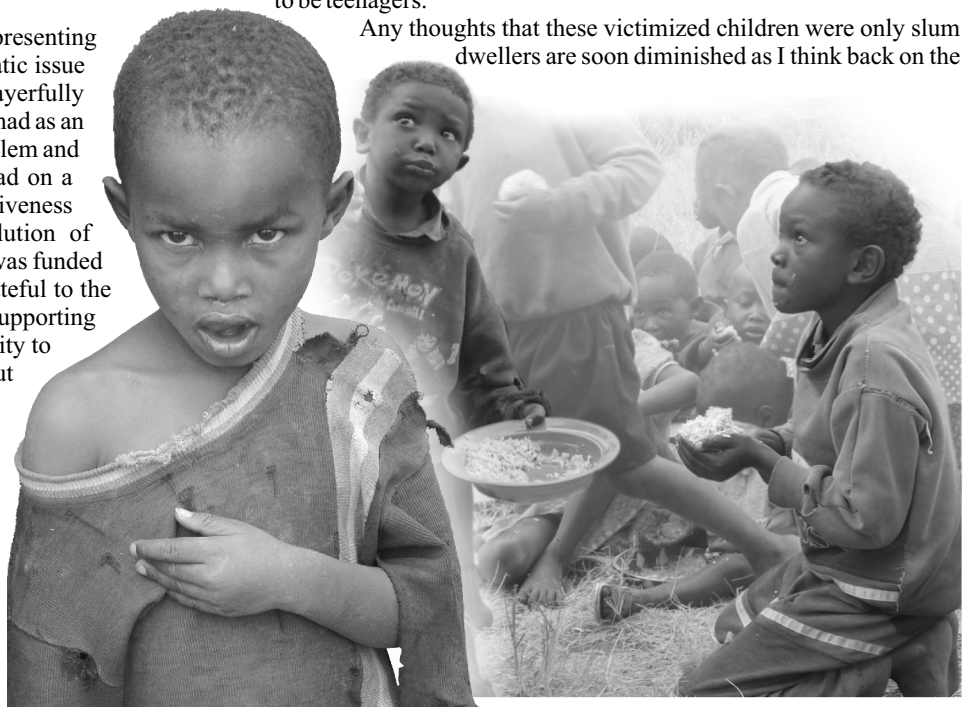
Wendell Martin gave a powerful message on

(Acts 2:37-41) Peter's message on the day of Pentecost about "saving yourselves from this corrupt generation". He brought the theme of the glory of the Lord filling Solomon's temple and then over a long period of time leaving the temple because of immorality. He tied in 1 Corinthians 6:15 which teaches about our bodies being the temple of the Holy Spirit, members of Christ body, and the special attention to sexual immorality as the sin of the body that offends God deeply. Wendell was led by the Holy Spirit and spoke for 2 hours straight but it was like time stood still and we wanted it not to end. Many came forward for prayer and for healing, pastors, men and women alike coming for prayer. Many with silent requests, some with HIV issues of their own.

During the video presentation you could hear a pin drop as Dr. Mark Finneran explained his perspective of what was happening to their country and the future of Kenya unless something changes. Many men and women took the film very seriously and its affect on the people will spread from that conference to the regions that they pastor and oversee. It's now become very important to translate the film into the local languages and get it circulated to the leaders in the very near future.

I felt a strong need to get close and personal with an AIDS patient and to allow myself to feel the loneliness and despair that they feel as they can no longer handle their own bedside affairs as they prepare for death. I prayed that we would not leave Africa without feeling this disease with them. I could not arrange such a meeting and left it in the Lord's capable hands. The last day of our stay we went to a slum village just 2 kilometers or so from where we were staying. The 8 foot by 8 foot mud brick homes were the homes of "families" that we came to feed. Some of their homes were made of vertical sticks plastered with cow dung to keep the elements and mosquitos off during the rainy season. We got to meet our AIDS patients that I asked for just a few days before but they were not as I had expected, they were children! Runny-nosed orphaned children with rags for clothes all wanting to touch me, the "Mzoongu", and to touch the hair on my arms which is foreign to them. Most of them were HIV positive and were considered fortunate to have at least one living parent, but most had none. They clung to their younger siblings and protected them with survival-like instincts. Most of them will be dead soon. I was overwhelmed by it. I was not expecting the Lord to answer in this way. Mothers were nursing their young as we fed them rice and beef stew. The breast milk of life itself was passing HIV to their own children. The closest that I have ever been to an AIDS victim was watching Magic Johnson on television, but now here I was holding their hands as they compared my white skin to theirs. I had no rubber gloves to protect myself from this disease that was now so close, but I could not bear not to touch them. Their broken immune systems would not allow them to live to be teenagers.

Any thoughts that these victimized children were only slum dwellers are soon diminished as I think back on the



*ABC program is an acronym for Abstinence, Be faithful to one partner, and if all else fails use a Condom. My paraphrase but you get the idea because usually all else does fail in the heat of the moment.

past two weeks on a couple of daytime walks where I encountered a group of 4 children under the age 12 all sleeping on a rug in the tall grass. Orphaned children, victimized by HIV that robbed them of a normal Kenyan family life. They would get money from the locals as they dug their gardens or did work and be paid so they could eat. There was a tall man standing next to them as we approached and I felt in my spirit that he was not there for the sake of the children but to meet his own needs.

We visited another nearby home during our first week in Kenya. It was a home of older children. The teenage boy was the only one home at the time. A humble and meek kid who pulled the family photo from his wall to show us his parents when they had been all together. Educated parents whose father was an mechanical engineer and whose mother was a teacher at the University but were now gone, leaving the leadership and responsibility to the oldest of the orphaned kids. We sent money by means of the 12 year-old son in our host home to another group of orphans who also lived close by. When the boy arrived back on his bike he told us the kids had been eating sand when he had shown up with the money for food.

Abstinence, Fidelity or Death. A catchy phrase, right? Could it bring life into a country? Just four words; could they change an entire culture?

Two months prior to our trip I asked Mark Finneran, M.D. to give me Reader's Digest education on HIV and Aids. I was part of a team that would speak at a pastor's conference on the subject so I thought it was appropriate to begin collecting information on the subject. After all, I needed to be accountable to the many good folks that had funded the trip to Kenya. I asked him to teach me about this disease. Mark quickly snapped back with a phrase that stuck with me long after that Saturday morning in Apple Creek. The phrase was, "Abstinence, Fidelity or Death". This was my education truncated into 4 words that summed it all up. That was what I needed to know. That was what the country of Kenya needed to know and all of Africa as well. It was just that simple: don't have sex before marriage or outside of marriage or there was a good likelihood that you will die.

We walked under a well-lit billboard just a few hundred yards from the Volunteer Counseling and Training clinic in Thika, Kenya. It contained the well-marketed and well-funded message that had a 'Christianized' flavor to it but was completely compromised. The billboard read something like this, "Abstain, stay with one partner and at least if you have sex, have safe sex." In 1999 when the safe sex message was exported to Kenya 400 people a day were being infected with HIV and in 2004 that number had doubled to 800 people a day. I could just drop the subject and just go on with my life here in smalltown Ohio if this was just a statistical issue but these are living, breathing people. That is like the death of my home town of Dalton, Ohio in one weekend. 1600 people every two days that will all die because there is no cure. Most will leave vulnerable, helpless orphans because they die in sexually active groups of 2, moms and dads.

So what can be done? What can I do? I am not Ashley Judd or Bill Clinton who both made visits to Kenya this year. As I attempt to settle back into my non-Aids life I know that I can at least offer one thing that I do know and that is graphic design. I can package things to sell. For 6 years I designed chocolate packaging for a North Canton chocolate company. Can an idea be packaged that would begin to change the minds of young people in Kenya? Can an idea be presented in such a way that it would overcome the current lifestyle of a nation.

Next Bible Courier Trip to
**Beijing, China
 & Hong Kong**

November 3-16, 2005
June 6-20, 2006

\$300.00 reserves your place with the team! Space available for June only!
Total cost: Only \$1880.00
 (not including an additional \$300.00 for food and sightseeing)

Contact Go Forth Ministry before the deadline for details!

Could the American supported marketing plan from hell be turned around by selling the African people a new idea? The idea that is has been around since Mt. Sinai, "Keep sex inside marriage or you may die." As old-fashioned as it sounds it just may work! Wow, think of the possibilities of taking the commandments of God which we cannot even display in our city halls and re-packaging it and marketing it to the people of Kenya. The new idea from my friend Dr. Mark Finneran is one that just may save the nation, not because it is witty or catchy but because it is TRUE and that just may facilitate the power of God.

Media, Pop Culture, Music, Theater and Sports are the tools being used to teach the "Safe Sex" message.

We need to seek the face of God and ask for His wisdom and then do something with the tools he has given us. The alternative is to do nothing.

Live. Negative.



Respectfully yours,
 Dan King

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What can we say after a trip like this? I've seen the pictures all my life and have felt bad for those 'poor people over there'. But until now there has always been a distance between us that we could hide behind. By 'going' we have bridged that gap and have seen up close, face to face. Our hearts are saddened and we feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of all that we saw that is 'not right'. We feel responsible because God has brought things out from behind the distance barrier and shoved it right into our face. We have seen a bit of what God has always seen and we can't just walk away from it. Through God it's become personal and now we are compelled to respond ... somehow.

Perhaps we can identify with and take heart with Jesus disciples on that memorable day when they stood on the edge of a very large and hungry crowd of people. How foolish they must have looked - each of those 12 disciples with only a partial loaf of bread and a fragment of fish in their hands - each with perhaps just enough to satisfy the hunger of only one or two. Yet each of those disciples stepped forward, by faith, and they simply gave what they had. They must have felt so silly and embarrassed! Yet little did they know what God would do with their faith and obedience!

And that is how it usually is... You don't know what God is going to do until you invest what you already have in your hand - by faith and for His glory.

How would you respond if you had been there? But more important, how would Jesus have us respond?

A look at CHINA



There continues to be a great need of Bibles for the underground Church Christians in China. Millions are praying, hoping, and waiting for their own copy of Gods Word. Though believers in some of China's larger cities report that they now have enough Bibles, vast areas throughout rural China, which represent 80% of China's estimated 100 million underground Christians, are still millions of Bibles short of meeting their most basic need.

Go Forth Ministry continues to focus on this great need in China by leading several Bible Courier teams to China each year and by printing and distributing Chinese Bibles in China as the Lord provides.

Chinese Bible Printing

So far this year, through your financial gifts, over 18,000 Chinese Bibles have been printed and distributed to help meet the ongoing hunger of China's huge Christian population for Bibles. Thanks so much for your generosity to help them get God's Word!

It costs just \$1.50 to print one Chinese Bible!

According to current estimates*, every Bible we provide the house-church in China with, an average of 5 people are coming to faith in Jesus Christ!

Hard to believe? It's estimated that 20,000 to 30,000 Chinese are turning to Jesus Christ every day! EVERY DAY!

What a wonderful privilege it is to have a small part in this powerful end-time spiritual awakening that is sweeping the world's most populous nation.

The June 2005 Bible Courier Trip

In June this past summer, a team of 14 traveled to Beijing, China each loaded with about 90 lbs. of Bibles for the Chinese Christians. After sharing our gifts, doing some local outreach, and taking in some of China's amazing tourist sights, the team traveled by train down to Hong Kong. From there we continued with our mission by make several trips a day across the border into China, loaded with precious gifts. By the end of two weeks, over 3 tons of Bibles had been safely delivered. Praise the Lord!



The November Bible Courier trip is already full. The next trip you can join is scheduled for June, 2006. Please sign up early if the Lord is nudging you to go!

Here is what a few of the June, 2005 Bible Couriers had to say about their ministry experience in China...



People say that to be stretched by God, 'you must take up your cross and follow Him'. You wouldn't think that a trip with the Martin family would take you far enough out of your comfort zone to effectively reveal God to you. The truth is, the hardships, the headaches, and the distressed and upset feelings are what builds you in your walk with Christ.

I feel like this trip has truly brought me home to Christ. Every angry feeling or stressful situation, I prayed myself out of and I feel that much closer to Christ and altogether more worthy to praise His name. It's easy to sit in church every Sunday and say that it is building you. But when you truly apply it to your life by stepping out and going to where God calls, amazing things will happen. ~ Tim Doerfler



I would say that the most valuable part of the trip was my absolute dependance on God. When you realize how little control you have over the whole situation, you learn to love your attachment to your faith and trust in God. 'The race is already won, we are here to be tools to get the job done.' That was the continual reassurance that I received. 'No matter what happens, it's already planned. Just go with it.' ~ Ellie Martin



I guess I realize first of all that I am part of something much bigger than I ever imagined. God has organized a group of powerful people to accomplish his work.

This trip has made me appreciate my own Bible that I have. How I take it for granted! Wherever I am in the world, God is there! At home in my bed or in the crowded streets of China. I asked God to meet me at the scanners and to show himself by causing chaos with the others around me. That caused me to go through border with ease!

Thank you God for the love you show me! ~ Tim Schartiger



We really got a feel for China. In Beijing we met with students and invited them for supper. The student had such openness, eagerness and kindness. They touched my heart and became our friends. People were so friendly. The 'chance meetings' with people were such a blessing.

Our time in Hong Kong was also a blessing. We carried Bibles across the border. The trips were amazing. We traveled in groups and always had someone with experience with us.

The friendships we made with others of our team and those in China was a wonderful part of the trip. ~Denny Hofstetter

A look at VIETNAM

While we are excited to see Vietnam taking steps this summer to normalize relations with the USA, we're seeing them play the same game that China played in their efforts to get 'Most Favored Nation' trading status. A requirement that the US placed on both these nations is that they must improve human and religious rights for their people before we'll do business with them. Both nations have signed agreements to that end and offered a show of compliance. But the truth is that while some high-profile Christians have been released from prisons in recent months, some have also been rearrested and imprisoned on new trumped up, redefined 'criminal' charges.

Our friends in Vietnam reminded me recently that these are very difficult and dangerous times for them, especially for the many house-churches throughout the countryside.

Please pray for all the Vietnamese Christians and their leaders and pastors who follow and serve Jesus Christ at a great risk and personal cost. **Pray** especially for the 75 Vietnamese pastors and their families being supported by your donations, that they will be strong and preach the Word with boldness, with healings, and miraculous signs and wonders.

A breakthrough is at hand to get official permission to print "The Life and Teachings of Jesus" in China. This is a long awaited miracle! **Please pray** with me that the last few details will flow together smoothly and printing can soon begin.

Thanks so much! Thanks for your many prayers and generous support. Thanks for sharing in serving Jesus and for sharing in His passion for souls. May you know the fullness of joy that comes from being in His presence.

In His service,

Wendell & Daisy Martin

* Recently reported by "The Bible League"