



Dear all,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is our joy to write to you at this time; a time with much uncertainty and upheaval in the world with the war in Ukraine going on.

One comfort we have is that our God is sovereign, and nothing can ever be done without it being ordained by Him or, in terms of sinful behaviour, being allowed by him to occur. He has a plan which is unfolding to bring about His will and ultimately the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou? Our prayer is for peace to come; but especially that Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit might use these unfolding events to bring people to saving faith in Himself.

Now, to the Lords work here in Kenya and the inroads being made into the kingdom of darkness. We are constantly aware of the need of the Holy Spirit. How hard the hearts of the lost are! How they enjoy their sin and the lies of Satan offering false comforts and cheap pleasures. How we prayerfully long for the Lord to save the lost and remove the false veneer of Christianity that is so common in these parts. *Psa 80:14 Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine;*

We had a period of about a month in which the government hospitals were shut due to a nurse's strike. This led to an inevitable increase in people seeking medical help here, and we were required to deal with or help with situations which we do not normally. Those who had family who had been admitted to hospital were literally told to take their sick family member and get out! Thankfully the nurses have now returned, and the situation is slowly returning to normal. Sadly, the strike led to those unable to get treatment in time – especially in the more rural areas, but the people are used to this kind of disruption and have



typically low expectations. We had a heart-warming case with a young girl of about 9 years old who was deaf, and struggled speaking. She was sent by the mission for a hearing test in Mombasa and it was found hearing aids could help her and might help her in learning to speak. The mission was able to support her in purchasing the hearing aids, we wait to see the full benefit of her using them. The photo above is of her and her mother a few days after having the aids fitted.

Michael is ploughing difficult soil in the area of Mbita. False teaching and false prophets are everywhere, usually blending elements of witchcraft and prosperity with misapplied statements from the Bible. The other week we heard of preaching in which the man 'showed' from the Bible that the purpose of Jesus in coming to earth was to deal with the problem of hunger! This he proceeded to prove from the miracle of the loaves and fishes! To a people who know all too well the reality of natural hunger, this preaching touches a chord; but tragically not the right one. Michael has a small group of people gathering to hear him preach on Sunday, and also in the week he does a Bible study. He has had severe discouragements of late which we have seen as an attack of Satan on the work here. On the weekend of 27th Feb he felt too tired to make the long Journey to the Sunday meeting but, encouraged by his wife, they went together. Before preaching he was surprised to be asked to wait a moment,

while a man stood and said what he wanted to say! This man said that for the last few months he has heard the preaching, but it meant nothing to him. In the last week he has suddenly understood what a bad person he is according to the Bible, and it is troubling him greatly! This man has an openly sinful past and would indeed be a living testimony for others to behold, were he to profess Christ. We pray this may be a work of grace starting in this man's life.

We are increasingly aware of the dearth of true spiritual food in the language of these people. There are a handful of good Swahili books available, and these are in limited supply (mostly in the cities). We are hoping to begin more translation work in earnest in the following months, of a number of books which touch on different aspects of the Christian faith, especially those relevant to the classes being taught on theology, a survey of the Bible, and the history of the church. We are hoping to engage some able people in this work, with the hope of a steady stream of materials in the future, God willing. We are very blessed to have many thousands of good books in English, which may shape our thought from an early age, or enable us to very quickly understand a particular matter. In Tanzania on the other hand, the pastors currently being taught have not a single good book to help in their study of the Bible. The finances required for this kind of work are not necessarily that significant, and the main challenge is likely to be faithful and able people for the work.



Yohana and Angela moved out of the mission into a small bedsit in December in the town of Shimoni. This is the town where you cross to Wasini Island. We have been unable to secure a place for them to stay on the island due to the locals becoming increasingly suspicious about him being there. Even in their new home they are being watched and have had people listening to their conversations with visitors. He has increased his Bible classes and evangelism in the area and is finding some pastors and other Christians who want to be taught the Bible. On one occasion he told us that a pastor came to him in great need saying, "My bishop wants money. We are not pastors but slaves to our bishops." The bishops who run the denominations only want money. Each Church under their umbrella is forced to give a certain amount per month. If they fail, the pastor is

removed from the church and another put in his place, so many feel forced to squeeze their congregations, who are poor already, to give way above their means. Even children have a set amount allocated for them per week! *2 Peter 2:1-3 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. 3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.* Surely, we are seeing the fulfilment of these very words!

Ryan and Samantha have had a real blessing of answered prayer in the midst of a difficult time. They had been living off their savings in Jijiga. Their funds were beginning to run dry. Ryan was starting to be concerned about what they were to do, coming up with various ideas that might help. He was encouraged by the likes of George Muller and Hudson Taylor; not relying on man for our needs but asking our Father in heaven, and seeing clearly the direction He wants His people to go as He provides for that end. He has seen wonderful answers to prayer! Firstly: Mombasa mission trustees agreed to support them with something monthly. Then, a church from South Africa agreed to support them. And, not long after that 'Voice of the Martyrs' agreed to support them with something monthly. Seeing the Lord work is such a way, bringing these funds from all different places at the right time is very confirming to them and to us. This is an extract from their recent news update about their need to move and more prayer answered:

When we finally got back into Ethiopia (after spending New year in Zambia with Ryan's family)— delayed after one positive covid test (Samantha) and a viral/stomach infection, we hopped on the bus and arrived in Jijiga last week. Sadly, we came back to a house that we (along with some advisors) concluded was structurally unsafe for us to be in. We have both been heartbroken, as we felt that this was such a treasure of a house—quiet neighbourhood, mulberry trees, rose bushes, simple, within our budget, as well as safe and discreet to meet with Somali believers. Although we felt sure we'd been placed in the right house for such a ministry, whatever our God ordains is right.

We are using this move to pray about which house, neighbourhood, and even possibly new city would be best for Ryan's next steps in the Somali language—the deep Biblical language. We are humbly asking for your prayers in this as well, that God would provide a home for us which is:

- Safe for Somali believers to come to
- A smaller, simpler house so as not to cause any local believers to stumble
- Safe neighbourhood for our family, especially when Ryan begins teaching the Bible on a larger scale and traveling to the surrounding Somali villages.
- One within our budget

If you've chatted with us in the last several months, you know we've been fervently praying, and asked many of you to pray, that we would be joined in this work by others who also desire to see a Somali church in these regions. We rejoice to tell you all, beloved, that God has seen fit to bring us one of Ryan's acquaintances of the last year, along with his family, to join us in Ethiopia.

Joseph and Dorris and their four children are from Kenya, and were previously in a Somali city there, learning the language with the intent to evangelize and see churches planted. We are of one accord with this family, and we should not be surprised at how our God answers such prayers.

Since they sent this update, they have found a suitable home in Dire Dawa, Ethiopia. We praise the Lord, for He is good.

In other news, the work on the new Chapel building went faster than I had first estimated. I had hoped to get the building up to floor level then start the extra underground water tank, however, due to the available funds we were able to keep the chapel going, reaching to the window lintel height whilst the tank was being dug out. The tank was started on 25th Jan



and we are now ready to concrete the remaining half of the roof slab.

There is still plenty of work to be done, but we are very thankful for how the year has begun and all that has been

achieved thus far.

As you can see in the photos the area is very dry again, the rain we did have that was in the last newsletter was not as much as we needed. Our underground tank did not fill completely and is now down to about 15,000 litres. Amazingly our local dam has only just run dry. After all the work that was done, the locals formed a dam committee and have been selling water for about 2p per 20 litres or you can have it free but carry two buckets of soil out of the dam up onto the bank. In some good news for the area, a businessman has decided to buy some land to grow trees. He has begun to dig the community a dam before he digs one for himself, as he did not want the locals taking his water stored for irrigation. This will be about two miles from the mission and we hope he can finish the work before the rains come end of March, God willing. This will greatly benefit the community and encourage more people to come into the area.

We thank you all for your continued prayerful support. May the Lord Jesus bless and keep you all,
Christian love from us all at the mission