



Carline Ministry Update

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TWEAKING A TRIP

Our June family trip to Dadaab was impressive. We helped with cleft palate surgeries (Katie found out the smell of cauterized skin can stimulate light-headedness), delivered mosquito nets to a remote village and girls' sanitary pads to local schools, and introduced two new workers to North Eastern, but we left feeling empty and beat up. So, for our August trip, we changed some things.

Spiritually: We went with more prayer and humility. Last time it was "God, here we come as a family (what a good Christian witness). Bless our efforts." This time it was "God, here we come. Be Lord. Keep us close and do what you want done." We're all natural idolaters, aren't we, unconsciously making God just another aid in our pursuits? George MacDonald said, "If we would be born again we must awaken our souls unnumbered times every day." I think, we need to be reawakened by regular encounters with the resurrected Lord - "They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him."

Physically: After 3 flat tires and a tire-related accident on the June trip, we bit the bullet and went with 4 new tires. Each one cost more than my first car! (*If you've ever wanted to donate to our Team Support, now would be a good time ☺*). But not a puncture! Great ride on and off road! ...I best stop before this becomes another Land Rover update.

Socially: Kelly was hit with stones last time causing her quiet, persevering spirit to cry out: "It's hard for us women up there!" I forget that. I also forget that "Husbands love your wives" has as much to do with witness as "Go into all the world". So I made a fresh resolve to be a more attentive husband and

father. Result: we enjoyed great fellowship as a family and with our colleagues the Gollos. Kelly and Kara had more ministry outlets with local ladies, and Kelvin and Kenan played more soccer with the local boys. It was a positive family time.

Work: A shortened and less impressive "to do" list gave us time and energy to handle (with an element of joy) some unexpected plumbing problems and to focus on a few key things. One was honouring the community centre manager (after 12 years on the job) and the two watchmen (one after 16 years) with their severance packages. Osman, Mohamed and Ali got pretty hefty cash windfalls (*Now would also be a great time to donate to the Sharing Way's NEP Program ☺*), but they were even more thankful that they still have their jobs - no longer under CBM but as the first employees of the local Dadaab Community Services Group who now manage the community centre and who are poising themselves for even more community development initiatives. "Discipling" this local group (and a few others in Garissa) is one of our major objectives and joys.

FRIGHTENING THE FAMILY

So, did more of God's work get done than in June? I believe so, but the trip highlight was very unimpressive. We were walking home in the pitch dark after supper at a Dadaab "restaurant" when suddenly our kids (and some adults I won't name) screamed and bolted. (They've been re-enacting the scene and trying to re-scare each other ever since - fear can quickly turn to laughter). "What the....?!" I soon got my answer. Up out of the blackness rushed the hunched form of Diri, the town beggar and madman. He pinpointed me and pulled me to one side (family and friends all too gladly releasing me).

PRAYING A PLEA

Diri and I have known each other for 15 years and I have a strong sense that one of these days the Kingdom of God is going to significantly touch this poor man. In the meantime, however, he steals my shirt-pocket pens and gets some measly physical help from me. In some ways our relationship represents my interactions with the whole town. We like each other; I help a bit; but I don't seem to be touching his real needs. He causes me to cry out:

Jesus, take us deeper! If not us, then Yattani and Salome and others like them. God, may our years North Eastern become much more than trips and tires, stones and suppers, friends and foes, projects and packages. We've gone into the world; now help us make disciples. When will these people claim your name and walk in your practices, presence and power? Help us, but don't be a performance-enhancing accessory to our efforts (not that you ever would). Be Lord - over me as you are over the nations. I surrender my desires for Dadaab. I only want to do your will. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

We work for Canadian Baptist Ministries. We live in Africa and love Somalis (usually). We have strategies and systems and supports. But, our success, like yours, depends not on daily meeting the rising Christian expectations but on daily meeting the risen Christ.

“My Lord and my God!” - Thomas

“Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” - Jesus

SOME QUICK UPDATES

- Friday August 27 is a Kenyan public holiday marking the peaceful referendum and the endorsing and introduction of a new constitution. Implementation will be another challenge.
- Salome and Yattani return to Garissa tomorrow after time with us in Nairobi. Salome was checking on health issues. Please pray for her.
- Yattani and I are working on the NEP 2011 program and submitting a proposal to the Sharing Way. We need God's eyes of faith, hope and compassion.

- We have a new Africa Team Leader - Colin Godwin. We thank God that the family's transition to Kenya is going well and for the energy, ideas, and friendship they bring.
- September 6-10 Yattani and I will be hosting Colin, Ruth Munyao (TSW's Africa Director), Bruno Soucy and Diane Bannister in NEP. We pray that good ideas, future strategies and (most importantly) blessing for North Eastern Province will result.
- We thank God for the great job the Tyndale Team did back in May - and for the great welcome our Somali partners and friends gave them.
- We thank God for how busy and full our home has been over the summer months. There were only two nights without houseguests. Once when we took a three-day vacation we left two guests in our house and arrived home to three different ones. 4 guests are sleeping here as I write (actually one is doing the dishes).
- Actually, please pray for the one doing the dishes - Kelly's good friend Sally and her 9 year-old daughter, Grace, have been with us for 6 weeks. The rest of their family moved back to the US for work and school, but Grace's visa (she was adopted here) hasn't come yet.
- The Carline kids are back in school (that's a praise item for their parents - a prayer item for them). Last year of high school for Kara! First year of high school for Kelvin! Last year of elementary for Kenan! And third year of university for Katie (though she's she still finishing up her summer job in Toronto).

Thanks for reading, caring, believing, supporting and loving.

Love in Christ, Paul and Kelly

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