

MINISTRY MATTERS

What have I done to displease you that you put the burden of all these people on me?

Context: The Israelites were tired of being vegetarian and Moses was tired of them ... and a bit stressed. Surely stress leads to exaggeration:

Moses heard the people of every family wailing, each at the entrance to his tent.

In a town of 2 million Moses would have needed the energy of 100 take-it-to-the-streets-campaign-trail Obamas to eavesdrop outside every tent.

But I'm with Moses. An old Mennonite saint told me once never to talk negatively about Somalis when they weren't present. Good advice... that I'm about to break. "Excuse me, my Somali friends and enemies, but you really are a bit much at times." I could marshal out supporting evidence, but my complaint, like Moses', is more indicative of where I'm at than where Somalis are.

Interestingly, the real solution to the manna/quail episode wasn't the flocks of low-flying meat. Before that gracious event, God more graciously had Moses bring 70 elders to the Tent of Meeting, put on them Moses' spirit and calling and said:

They will help you carry the burden of the people so that you will not have to carry it alone.

My "Tent of Meeting" was a bar in Eastleigh. I was having lunch there as part of a new church launch ("yah, right!" I can hear you saying) and in walked Yattani (for the same event, not a beer). We got introduced; we talked about ministry with Muslims; I liked the guy; my spirit felt stirred – maybe some of it was being given to him.

Yattani and his new wife, Salome, are now our on-the-ground colleagues in North Eastern Province. I so enjoy watching him skillfully interact with the

varied peoples. I so enjoy having someone to rave with over the successes and rant with over the failures. What a difference!

2 years ago, Erica and Aaron joined the CBM Somali Ministry Team and God has given them a big heart for Eastleigh and for the struggling women, children and households packed in there. Our burden is lighter.

And get this: 2 of the 70 elders didn't show up at the Tent of Meeting, but they too got some of Moses' spirit and started prophesying (this is all in Numbers 11, by the way). Joshua thought they should be silenced, but Moses said:

Don't be jealous for me. I wish all the Lord's people were prophets...

30 years ago, CBM entered North East Province (NEP) as one of the few players working and weeping in Jesus' name. Today God has put his Spirit on many internationals and even more Kenyans to live and love for him there. We're excited – maybe our team will be up to 70 soon. And I no longer feel like Moses:

Put me to death right now (i.e. "take me back to Canada") ...and do not let me face my own ruin."

CBM's 3-year objectives for NEP as we **share the way of Jesus through practical and provocative presence** are to...

- Facilitate even more presence, service and witness (that includes short-term workers from Canada, interested?)
- Build the capacity of the workers (including ourselves)
- Build the capacity of local Somali groups as they get more involved in helping their own people
- Impact the community with effective integral mission (discipleship and development).

PRAYER MATTERS

Yattani and Salome - as they adjust to married life and a new home in Garissa, as they meet new people and build friendships, as they interact with and guide the community groups, and as they learn many things – how to listen, speak, share Jesus, shop, drive, file reports, and how to handle Canadians...yup, pray for them.

Aaron and Erica Kenny – as the program in Eastleigh expands, as they spend time in many needy Somali homes, as they teach classes, as they move to a new house, as they patiently await Ava's adoption proceedings (that don't seem to proceed), as they miss and pray for family in Canada.

Kenya – as rains are needed, as food prices climb, as people go hungry, as politicians give themselves raises (making them nearly the highest paid MPs in the world), as they try to give themselves tax exempt status, as the hard lessons of last year's violence are forgotten, as Christians try to be different, as God calls people to pioneer outreach in North Eastern Province.

Somalis – as local development groups in Garissa and Dadaab learn and apply kingdom principles to their individual and community activities, as many people struggle with fear, fatherlessness and factions, drought, disease and demons, as the Holy Spirit works in the lives of our key contacts and as we try to work with Him

Carlines – as we emerge from a year of a lost vehicle, lost harddrives, lost work, lost money, lost health (we're okay now), a lost daughter (to college), a lost Dad (to heaven), as we seek to learn our lessons and walk more humbly with our God.

MONEY MATTERS

Thank you for your commitment to the sacrifice, service and sharing that is pioneer outreach. Support can be earmarked:

Somali Ministry – Aaron and Erica Kenny
Somali Ministry – Paul and Kelly Carline
Somali Ministry – The Sharing Way (TSW fund our strategic community development projects in education, food security and micro-finance)

Thank you for supporting Somali Ministry so well!!

TEAM SUPPORT

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*May the Lord answer you when you are in distress;
May the name of the God of Jacob protect you.
May he send you help from the sanctuary
And grant you support from Zion...
May he give you the desire of your hearts
And may all your plans succeed.*

Psalm 20:1-4

Paul

For Kelly, Katie, Kara, Kelvin and Kenan Carline
carlines@africaonline.co.ke



Yattani and Salome Gollo