

What drives you?

Can I tell you about my truck? (Warning – this is a poor excuse for a newsletter.) It's a fairly rugged '95 Land Rover 110 – with its full differential lock, pretty impossible to get stuck (I've tried of course). The truck has become a bit of a hobby/passion - Kelly's a bit jealous (pray for us).

When I bought it a year ago it looked pristine and only had 98,000kms – “That's because it was mostly used by the owner's mother to drive her grandchildren to school,” said the salesman (a Kenyan “friend”). I sooo wanted to believe him.

When I ran into the former owner, a high-end safari operator, a few months ago, he said, “Yep, great truck! Taken me over 200,000kms to every game park in East Africa.” Not a word about his mother.

Down but not out, I asked him why the registration book was dated 2002 and not 1995. “That's because I bought it from the British Army, but the Lieutenant who used it in Northern Kenya was a good man.” Now I was down and out. Neither the truck's glorious past nor the officer's goodness could console me.

But by God's goodness the truck's been problem free, fun for the family and fantastic for ministry. After carrying soldiers and tourists, it now carries food, medicine, playground equipment, short-termers, long-termers and stranded nomads (oh, and bouncy kids and a beautiful wife).

I wanted a new, near perfect, nanny-driven truck, but maybe a rebuilt, redeemed truck is better yet. Thankfully, none of us is ever too old for life change, for re-fitting, re-focusing and new ownership. The truck just carried Kelly and me on our 20th anniversary outing. As happily married 40-somethings we're feeling very thankful but somewhat old. We want to be like our truck, living more and more meaningful lives in the years and days ahead.

Staying with automobiles, there's a motor oil billboard in Nairobi with the slogan “What Drives You?” Tour guide, soldier, missionary/community development worker - the driver makes all the difference.

Except for my truck (and soccer) I'm usually tongue tied when asked about my passions (I'm a laid back Canadian for goodness sake) - but God is passionate. ***“For God so loved the cosmos that he gave his one and only Son.”*** And He too enjoys the driver's seat. ***“All the Preliminaries have been taken care of and the rule of God has come to everyone. Review your plans for living and base your life on this remarkable opportunity”*** (Mark 1:15). Today, right now, may we all be driven by God's present, practical and passionate Lordship as we interact with his world – with its flora and fauna, soil and societies, buildings and businesses, wild places and wonderful people – their minds, souls and bodies.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO DO THIS IN THE SOMALI WORLD. AND THANKS FOR MY TRUCK (it's actually a CBM vehicle, not mine).

HOUSEKEEPING

Were you able to open our last newsletter "Legend and Legacy" a few weeks ago? If not, shoot us a reply and we'll resend it as an email message.

KINGDOM LIVING

- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday this week (Oct 5-7) four community leaders from Dadaab and Garissa will be in the Nairobi area with us visiting other projects, encouraging one another and exploring world view issues that affect how we do development. We will be travelling together, eating together and living together. We've known these people for years but this will be our biggest opportunity to speak into their lives. They've all been in secular community development workshops before – we want ours to be different, appealing to their awareness of God, challenging them with a much more holistic, transformational view of development, calling them to more selfless, honourable standards. Please pray for Hussein, Hajiow, Dahir and Ruqiya (a lady). Ruqiya's 19 year-old son, Abdinasir, will also be with us.

In Christ, Paul

For Kelly, Katie, Kara, Kelvin and Kenan Carline

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