

Jon and Loice Byler Update

Nov. 5, 2007

Wow, your prayers this month were powerful! I wish I could sit down and spend an hour with you to give you the details but for this newsletter the highlights will have to do. I just returned last week from 18 days of travel to Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Sudan. During that time Loice and Elizabeth also had a trip to Mexico.

General

- Praise God for safety over many miles of travel, one missed flight, late luggage, and 6 border crossings.
- A personal highlight for me was preaching at the church in Thika which sent us out to the nations three years ago. This time I returned with leaders from the nations, the fruit of their prayers and yours. It's amazing to see what God has done in three years.

Tanzania

- Leaderwell and I were able to visit 2 persons that had been in our training in Malawi.
- Thank God for safety as we traveled by road to TZ. The shuttle broke down on the way to Tanzania and resulted in our being several hours later than expected.

Business leaders' meeting in Nairobi

- We had two days of training with business leaders in Nairobi which far exceeded our expectations.
- Over 50 participants came including key business leaders and a few church leaders.
- We were very encouraged by their eager participation in this training. We challenged them to continue growing as leaders who can be used by God in fulfilling the great commission.
- The local leadership of the event was very positive and a great encouragement to us.
- The giving from the business leaders was extraordinary, a significant step towards breaking the dependency typical in Kenya. God is doing amazing things in the hearts of business leaders everywhere we go and we are humbled to play a role in what He is doing.
- One leader who attended sent an email to me and said, "Following the seminar, I made a commitment to get started on Leadership Training; I plan to engage good part of my time in the coming year training and equipping leaders; this I'm convinced is part of what God has called me to do."

Members' annual meeting (Kenya, this meeting was the primary purpose of our trip.)

- We enjoyed four days together with our 7 program leaders and 5 candidate program leaders following the business leader's training.
- Launching Ben Sprunger's book, *Learning Games for Trainers, Facilitators & Teachers*.
- Running the first test of a 360 degree leadership assessment tool we have developed. It was an eye opener for the participants.
- A day of praying and fasting together.
- Deeping friendships and cross cultural unity
- Providing input that will strengthen the programs as they continue training Christ-like leaders.



- The programs giving 2% of their budget to see other programs launched. (see photo of prayer for the offering)

Training in Sudan

(Leaderwell, Joshua Matheka, a program leader from Kenya, and I went to Sudan for three days of training in a church compound far from any electricity and miles from any paved road.)

- The mix of leaders was amazing, church leaders, community leaders, educational leaders, and government leaders. 2 members of parliament were sent by the government in Juba to attend the meeting.
- Over 150 leaders showed up for the event, some coming two days early and many walking as far as 25 miles to attend. We ran out of food by the end and finished early to allow people to return home.
- Their hunger for teaching was an inspiration to us and they wanted more. A meaningful moment was washing the feet of one of the oldest men in attendance. Someone commented later, “We have never seen a white person wash the feet of an African.”
- The stories of faith amidst extreme hardship and their sacrificial giving and joy I wish you could have experienced for yourself.
- Getting there and back was a story of unbelievable roads and miracles! (see photo of our vehicle moments before the radiator blew up!)



Mexico City

- Loice and Elizabeth had a wonderful 5 day trip to Mexico City, to the church that we have visited several times. (see her full account online, details below)
- Loice had plenty of opportunities to teach and pray for the 5000+ in attendance.
- They enjoyed the warmth of the Latin culture in spite of the frigid temperatures for the outdoor Sunday service.
- Elizabeth loved being with her mom, flying, and seeing another culture...a great gift to all of us!

Praise/Prayer items

- Thank God for his grace in my life for this trip with loads of logistical issues and a very full schedule. I could tell that I was covered with prayer. I had no sickness the entire trip.
- Pray for the first couple of weeks in November as I prepare for the next two major events coming up.
- Pray for good family connections during these weeks.
- Pray for the TOT (training of trainers) which will be in Delhi, India from Nov. 21st-24th. We expect a small group of leaders to come from different parts of India resulting in new programs established there.

- Pray for the consultation in Nepal, Nov. 25th-27th. This is an exploratory event for us in Nepal. Ask for God's anointing on the meeting as well as clarity for future involvement there.
- Pray for financial provision for us as a family and also for Global Disciples which is facing significant financial challenges to meet the rapid growth.

This month's Schedule:

- Nov. 9-10th, Celebration of our 20th wedding anniversary!
- Nov. 6, Leadership training at West End
- Nov. 11, Leadership training at Elizabethtown
- Nov. 19-30th, Travel to India and Nepal

Want more pictures? There are a bunch of them on our website: www.LeadersServe.com. Follow the links for photos and you'll find some from the business training, others from the member's meeting and more from Sudan.

If you want more of the event details, look at my journal and Loice's on our website. Follow the links to newsletters and prayer items.

Keep praying those prayers!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon & Loice". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

Jon and Loice