

Go Ye Therefore Into All The World

Recent Trip To E. Africa

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Scriptures from the KJV

We're traveling over to Kenya today, were going on one of those "Safari's" we sometimes hear about. But let me warn you right now, Kenya is not just down the block, or around the corner. It's quite far away, and it's going to take us some time to get there today.

Were going to start our journey in the Gospel of Matthew, I want to try and put our calling (our High Calling) a bit more into perspective before placing our feet on the ground in Kenya.

Today's message is actually going to start out (I believe) as a bit of a continuation of last week's message, where Tom had us discussing how "awesome" our calling is, to be offered the free gift of "Eternal Life" in God's Kingdom.

That calling is awesome, and it's also awesome that we have been given the opportunity to proclaim that Good News of God's coming Kingdom "now" to others.

I want to begin in Matthew chapter 28. Matthew 28 kind of summarizes much of the detail that is given in the other Gospels concerning the resurrection of Christ, and what happened after He was raised from the grave.

How He appeared to His disciples and was worshiped by them (although some doubted) and how He "commissioned" them to preach the Gospel and proclaim the "Good News" of the coming Kingdom to the world.

Yes, commissioned them (His disciples that is) to go into all the world, and to teach all nations, to observe all things that He had commanded them, and how He would be with them in this "task" in their ("new profession" if you will) even unto the very end of the age.

I say "new profession" because when one is called by the Father to be a disciple of Christ, that calling entails changes, much change. It's a High calling, a calling that includes a change even in ones vocation, or profession.

When Peter and his brother Andrew were called, they were fishermen in Galilee. But when called to be Disciples of Christ, change took place. Christ said "follow me" and I will make you to become "fishers of men".

Peter and Andrew answered that call; they took action and made change. The scripture says that they: "*straightway left their fishing nets*".

That word "left" means "forsook" "abandon" "to quit or leave entirely... (Yes, their employment changed.)

When James & John were called to be disciples, they "left" both their "ship" (which was their employment) and their "father" as they began to follow Christ... Matthew (the tax collector) when he was called to be disciple, immediately arose and followed.

In Herbert Lockyer's book titled: "All the Men of the Bible" Lockyer states that Matthew the publican (also called Levi) was quite well to do, he sat at the receipt of customs (a well paid occupation) tax collectors were rich, they not only collected taxes for Caesar, but also padded their own pockets.

But when called by Christ to a better occupation, to better wealth than silver & gold, and to serve a better King than Caesar, without hesitation Matthew left all, arose and followed Christ.

(Luke 5:28 attests to that) Lockyer goes on to say (and I'm still quoting here from his book) "To celebrate his surrender to Christ, Matthew entertained Christ and others to a feast in his own house, and that this feast was a token of gratitude for his "e man ci pation" from a sordid occupation, and revealed a missionary spirit in Matthew." (End of quote)

Becoming a disciple actually released him from his corrupt or disreputable occupation.

Brethren, true discipleship demands action, it demands change, a lot of change. (Now let's go to Matthew 28 and see what some of this "action" some this "change" some of this "new profession" entails.)

Matthew 28 starts out by bringing us to the sepulcher where Christ had been laid to rest three days earlier after His crucifixion & death. Stating how the two Mary's (Mary Magdalene and another Mary, the mother of James I think) came to anoint the body early in the morning of the first day of the week, as it began to dawn.

It tells of a great earthquake that occurred that morning, as the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and rolled back the massive stone that had previously been rolled into place to seal the tomb.

I want to pick up the story in verse 16 of Matthew chapter 28; it's where the eleven disciples had "assembled together" after reaching a certain mountain in Galilee where they had been "appointed" by the Messiah.

Matthew 28:16 *"Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. [17] And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. [18] And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*

(Now verse 19 gives us the disciples new profession, commission, and action that now needed to be taken by them) *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.*

In Mark's account 16:15 we read that after He (Christ that is) "upbraided" the disciples with their "unbelief" and "hardness of heart" (after scolding some of them for their unbelief) He instructed them to: *"Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Stating that) Those that believeth and are baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."*

This commission of preaching the Gospel is quite an important thing for a "disciple" of Christ to be doing (It's kind of paramount on a disciples "to do" list) (it's a mission that is carried out by strong conviction.) And a commission that we read about (as we're seeing here) in many places.

In Luke 24:47 we read more about how His disciples were commissioned to evangelize. Christ told them that: *“after His suffering & resurrection from the dead, that “repentance” & “remission” of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”*

And in Acts 1:8 we read that after the disciples questioned Christ, concerning “when” the restoring of the kingdom to Israel will come, He replied that it was not for them to know the times or seasons concerning that matter.

But His last words to His disciples that day, before being taken up into the clouds and out of their sight, was that the “Father’s Holy Spirit” was going to be given to them, and that once they receive it they were to “witness” unto Him both in “Jerusalem” and in “Judea” and in “Samaria” and unto the “uttermost part of the earth.”

Now we can read elsewhere where the disciples began to carry out that commission in Jerusalem and Judea, and how Philip went into “Samaria” and began baptizing. But the “uttermost ends of the earth” were never reached by the original disciples. That part of the commission was for other’s to carry out; it was a commission for the church to continue doing, it was a commission for “us” to be doing, even still today.

I’ve started today’s message focusing on this commission that our Lord gave to His “disciples” His “church” because I feel that this commission has been “dismissed” by many in God’s church, maybe “neglected”, or maybe even “forgotten”.

I don’t think it’s posted on too many “to do” lists now a days. And it’s no wonder; remember we are living at the end of the age, and smack dab in the middle of an “apostate” church, at a time when desertion, deception, & departure from “Truth” is the order of the day.

Speaking of the “end of the age” and the churches “gathering together” unto Christ at His coming (when He will return in those clouds in like manner as He departed) Paul stated to the Thessalonians that a “falling away” (an “Apostasy” from Truth) would come first, just prior to the revealing of the “man of sin.”

Now I’m sure that we here are all well aware of those passages (God knows we’ve read them enough times) But do we realize the magnitude of the “Falling Away”?

Do we comprehend the Gravity of the “Apostasy” and the Power of its Under Toe, to pull us away from Truth, to pull us away from being true disciples of Christ, to pull us away from our commission to “witness” unto Him, and to continue preaching, publishing, and heralding the Gospel, even now, to the “uttermost part of the earth”???

That commission has not concluded, we have not reached the end of the age yet. The book of Matthew states Christ telling His disciples that *“when they persecute you (persecute you for what? For preaching the Gospel of course) when they persecute you in one city, flee into another, for “verily” I say unto you, you shall Not have gone over the cities Israel, till the son of man be come.”*

He’s not come yet, but according to the signs of the times in which we are living Brethren, He’s at the Door He’s At the Door. Do you know what door He at??? He’s at “The laodicean door” And He’s Knocking!

He’s trying to wake up and warn those who are lukewarm (those who have gotten the priorities on their “to do” list mixed, and have allowed their High calling to drift from the front burner - to the back burner. He’s trying to warn them before it’s too late.

I live near the beach, and we hear warnings all the time about the “Danger” of what is known as the “under toe”. The under toe (or rip current) is where there are Strong Currents that very Powerfully pull Everything away from shore and out to sea.

Rip currents don’t pull you under (you don’t drown instantaneously) but they do pull you further out to sea. (Further away from where you need to be.) And if one neglects to take the proper action, most likely he will drown. But it seems that no matter how much warning is given, many remain oblivious to the danger.

(The Jar of “Eyesalve” seems to remain untouched, by many in the church of God) Even now, at a time when it’s the most important application that the church as a whole, is desperately in need of.)

Now my plan today, as I discuss my recent trip to Kenya, is to try and show how this important commission that has been given to the church, to preach the Gospel to the world, has not only Not ended yet, but that “many” are still being called by the Father, and that there is still a “work” yes a “work” that needs to be carried out by the church.

A work that needs to be done by the body of Christ, the church. So much more can be accomplished when working together, when in accord with one another, and of the same mind and spirit.

There was a time in the not too distant past when a “work” was being done; the Gospel was going out very powerfully. That “work” is what got most (if not all) of us involved with God and His Truth, That work caused us to come into the church, be baptized and receive God’s Holy Spirit.

That work is what caused us to begin to become knowledgeable in the Word of God. From the combined efforts of the church, the Gospel was going out, and it was reaching many, many that the Father was calling.

But as we all came to realize that work got off course, became abused, improperly managed, and finally totally off track. It was a time when the brethren were merely being used, to “pay & pray”. But even then (before it got totally derailed) much was still being accomplished...

Brethren, I ask, how much More, Yes, How much more can be accomplished today, if we not only “pay & pray” but also work together in ‘unity’??? Not jockeying for positions, not placing men on pedestals, not saving “ministers” the best seats & parking places, no kissing anyone’s --- feet..... (After all, Christ taught us to “wash” feet, not kiss feet.)

I ask, How much more can we accomplish today in reaching the “uttermost parts of the earth” with the Good News of God’s coming Kingdom, if working together in total unity, allowing the Father (our Heavenly Father that is) to place us in positions of the Body, where it pleases Him?

Now He’s already done that, He’s already done His part; we just need to do our part. We need to recognize the position He has given each and everyone of us, and take action by doing our part.

I wanted to kind of set the stage a bit, so as we look at the current conditions in E. Africa, we might better comprehend not only the rough conditions that our impoverished brethren are enduring, but also recognize the many “doors” Yes, the many doors that God has “opened” over there for His church to venture through. He’s calling people there, like he was calling people here years ago.

Every group we are involved with over there is increasing in number. Calls for “visit requests” continue to backlog. Multiple baptisms continue to take place.

And it's been a struggle to meet the demand. Sad to say, one man after waiting to be baptized for over a year, died before we reached him. If there was ever a time to pray for the "*Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into the harvest*" it is now.

Now before we cross the Atlantic and head over to Kenya, I want to address one more thing. It concerns a "misconceptions" a "misconceptions" that many (if not most) in God's church seem to have.

And it concerns a misconception in the very subject that I started addressing here this morning, "Discipleship". What exactly is a "disciple"? Are you one, am I one? Are we "true" Disciples of Christ?

Or are we only acquainted with the choir, "employed" in church service. You know, those who get all dressed up each week to attend "Sabbath Services" where some spend their 2 hours being preached to, and others spend their 2 hours doing the preaching.

This is an important matter to be considered, and it pivots everything that I've been discussing so far in today's message. Discipleship is a matter that needs to be correctly understood, grasped & absorbed into our comprehension.

Because understanding the meaning of (and being) a true "disciple" of Christ is of consequence to us. Discipleship directly affect our thinking, our actions, and even our profession, because "true discipleship" "rudders" the very course of our lives.

To be a true disciple of Christ, "qualifications" are involved. One has to have his calling "totally" on the front burner. One has to love Christ more than anything else (including self) and "action" is the order of the day.

Most in God's church (if asked to define the word "disciple" will tell you that a "disciple" is a learner or pupil. But that is not necessarily correct. There is a Greek word that means just that. "Matheo" which simply means a learner or pupil.

But the word "matheo" can not be found anywhere in the entire NT. Not once is the word "matheo" used by any of the NT writers.. When Christ was addressing His "disciple" He was addressing much more than mere "pupils" or "students".

The word used for "disciple" in the NT, is "mathetes" (math-ay-tes) it comes from the word "matheo" but it means a whole lot more than a mere "pupil" or "learner".

"Mathetes" (Math-ay-tes) means an "adherent" one who not only accepts the instruction given to him, (but most importantly) makes it his rule of conduct. Adherent means: Clinging or sticking fast. "Adherent" is one who is devoted or attached to a cause or leader.

One of the biggest problems in the church in the past (and sad to say, still today) is that too many are adherents to "ministers" instead of adherents to Christ. Too many, too often are looking to and following men instead of Christ.

(Not to digress but) Remember, no where in the NT are we ever instructed to follow a man. 1st Corinthians 11:1, where the "King James Version" quotes Paul to be saying: "*Follow me as I follow Christ*" is a miss translation. The word mistranslated "*follow*" is "mimic" or "imitate". Not "follow"

The Scriptures tell us "*cursed be the man that puts his trust in man*" in numerous places. When "following" is mentioned in the NT, It Always speaks of following Christ, and that is exactly what a true disciple does.

You see a true disciple doesn't only know what Christ taught, he Acts on it. He doesn't only know how Christ walked (we all know how Christ walked, He was Upright & Full of Compassion).

A true disciple of Christ doesn't only know how Christ walked; he walks in the same shoes. (And he is able to walk in those same shoes, because He's led (and empowered) by the same Spirit.

Brethren when we were called by The Almighty Father Himself. We answered His calling and came into the church, back when we got ourselves baptized, when He gave us a portion of His Powerful Holy Spirit....

Back when we had that "First Love", But I ask, what have we been doing with that Holy Spirit of His??? Is it leading us?

We were admonished last week from Tom about recognizing how Awesome our calling is (Eternal Life in the Kingdom of God) and Dave reminded us about how it is those who are "led" by the Spirit that are the sons of God.

Well, is it leading us? The definition for "leading" is Chief; Principal; Most Important; Foremost; Coming in Advance of Others (That actually describes the church – Firstfruits).

But too often, too many, spend too much time just warming seats at Sabbath services, then retreat back to their mundane lives for another week, as they compete, trying to keep up with the Jones' to have a nice fancy abode, with the best mattress to sleep on, and the largest "flat screen" TV on the market for their entertainment.

But Christ said that *"Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the son of man hath no where to lay His head."*

Disciples don't have time for "mundane" lives True Disciples of Christ changed professions and forsake this world, and everything in it... The question is, have we forsook this world and everything in it? Have we placed Christ and our High calling on the front burner? Are we (like Christ) About our Heavenly Father's Business?

If we are, then we are of the minority, because the majority of those called by the Father either never left the world, or have returned back to it. Why? Because they "love" this world, and feel that there are better things to do than adhere to Christ and the Fathers calling.

(Luke 14:15 please)

Brethren, not everyone is a true disciple of Christ (Many are called to be true disciples, but only few "value" that calling, and take the proper "action" to actually qualify.)

Luke 14:15 *"And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God."*

[16] Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many [17] And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.

[18] And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

[19] And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. [20] And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.

[21] So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

[22] *And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. [23] And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. [24] For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.*

[25] *And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, [26] If any man come to me, and hate (love less by comparison - God Must come first) if any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple.***

[27] *And whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me (take action – walk in Christ’s shoes) **he cannot be my disciple.***

(Dropping down to verse 33).

[33] *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not **all** that he hath, he cannot be my disciple. [34] Salt is good: but if the salt have lost his savour (If we have lost our first love) wherewith shall it be seasoned? [35] It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; but men cast it out. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Brethren, Disciples of Christ haven’t been called by the Almighty God, just to learn all the Scriptures, and have all the correct doctrines. We’ve been called to be doers of the word. We’ve been called by The Almighty God, to be Ambassadors for Him, officials of the Highest Rank, sent on a mission to walk this earth in all of His ways, clinging to, sticking fast, and following, the one and only head of the church Christ Jesus.

And He (Christ that is, has sent us on a mission, a commission, to preach the Gospel of repentance to the world, even to the “*utter most parts*” of it.

Now let’s head over to E. Africa, one of the places where God has His church involved in doing just that. I’m hoping to show the tremendous need for the Gospel to be preached there, the thirst that so many have to hear the Word of God, and the many “doors” that God has “opened” for His church to walk through.

I’ve been involved in Kenya/Tanzania since 2,005; the living conditions for most of our brethren are quite “rough” to say the least. But they endure the harsh conditions quite well, and amidst their suffering, they are the happiest people that I have ever known.

There kind, and very soft spoken. Kenya was a former British commonwealth, so they drive on the left and “many” speak English (Fact most Kenyans are at least bilingual if not trilingual.) There are 52 tribes living together in the country.

It’s a 3rd world Country, so it can be a bit dangerous.... At night time (especially) in the city, you don’t want to be out and about, at night you need to be in side and well secured.

(I have some case in points to mention about that as we move on.)

Nairobi is the Capital City of Kenya, it’s full of high rise buildings, and looks a lot like any modern city here in the States. But its suburbs are filled with slums. The city itself has one of the fastest growing “middle class” on the planet, but the majority of the population is quite impoverished.

Nairobi is also a Huge Airline Hub... If you’re headed to anywhere in E. Africa, you will be flying into Nairobi first, and then on to your final destination “Kenya Airways” is considered the “Pride of Africa”

Now often times I arrive in Nairobi Airport and fly right back out, either to Western Kenya or the Coast region, without ever entering the City to avoid the traffic & the danger.

Traffic is horrendous from 6am to 8 or 9pm. & then there's al-Shabaab (a relentless terrorist group that is periodically active) and Somalia's who not only Pirate ships for ransom, but also kidnap Westerners for ransom.

On this last trip, I spent the first few days in the City to visit a group there for Tom Kerry "COG Ministries International" who's located in Louisiana.

The various COG's here in the States receive many requests over the Internet for support, fellowship etc.... But many doing the requesting are cons. Over the years we have exposed a lot of them... It's amazing how many churches here send funds there (in the blind) thinking there helping some church group and their Orphans.... But actually just padding some cons pocket....

So from time to time, a cog here in the States will ask us to check the credibility of a contact they have over there.... This was the case with Tom..... It turned out there was a true congregation, but the assistance never got past the phony "leaders" pocket.

Fortunately Tom was very cautious from the start with this guy, and hadn't sent him too much money. It's quite difficult for a church group here to know for sure whose a con and who's legitimate, without having feet on the ground over there.

Sad to say many groups here that are of a "hierarchical" nature continue to get burned, but those like Tom, who are (more God like) and not against working with other administrations, consult one another.

We oftentimes can easily check on the validity of contacts there because we have a number of true contacts scattered around the country that we know personally, and have worked with for years.

Now let me elaborate a bit on this church group of Tom's I met in this slum called "Kiambui" (Ki Um Bi) (this slum is about 30 minutes from Nairobi City Center. The group consists of 70 adults & 55 children.

I spent the Sabbath before the feast there and spoke three messages to them that day. (They were so attentive you could hear a pin drop) (Former SDA, so Sabbath Keeper's for long time) and thirsty to hear the Word of God.

Like many of the former SDA's, they left that organization due to (Holy Day observation) and (Hierarchical control.) Now I don't know the exact background of this particular group. (And by the way, it turned out there are "three" groups, in three separate slums.)

I don't know exactly how it happened with these three groups, concerning their separation from SDA, but what I do know, is that God has sent a bit of a "Tsunami" through the SDA church in Kenya over the past few years.

(And by the way, SDA church is Huge in Kenya) The Tsunami was carrying the Holy Days contraversary, and it caused quite a stir (to say the least) within the SDA congregations, causing a number of members in many areas of Kenya to separating.

(I was involved with the Coast region of Kenya when it happened there about six years ago), it started with an open bible study we had where we spoke about the Holy Days. At that time a couple of sda pastors (along with a few of their congregation) left, and began associating with us.

(It happened elsewhere also) We previously had mostly x WWC in our fellowship groups, but probably half of the church members we are associated with now were former SDA's....

And it's the same scenario with all of them... (SDA's are very humble & very dedicated people) The ones who separated are very zealous to learn Truth. (Same with all that are in our fellowship groups)

For an example, what normally happens at the feast there is we have two services every day (morning & afternoon) then end up bible studying & counseling with people till late at night.

(tell ya a funny story, late one afternoon I was so tired, I snuck into a totally empty tent, zipped it closed, and fell asleep.... Then all of a sudden I woke up hearing kind of a hissing sound, and smelling some awful odor.

Turned out someone who slept in the tent the previous night noticed a number of spiders and tarantulas holes around the walls of the tent, so they had emptied every thing out, and were spraying and filling the holes (and the tent) with a powerful insecticide.

(I abruptly woke up scrambling (still half a sleep) trying to find the tent doors zipper, so I could get out.) (So I use more caution now with where I choose to take a nap.)

(Getting back to the Nairobi slum) (The thirst to hear the Word was the same with this group, they were all ears.)

My messages covered a number of basic subjects. One elaborated on what the "church" is, that its not a building made of bricks or stone (in their particular case sheets of metal) I make it a point to all the groups that I address, that the physical building is only "shade" and that the members, the "ecclesia" is the church.

And that Christ is soon to return to His church, and looking for a Glorious one, unspotted... And that those who manage to become unspotted, will be meeting Him in the Clouds....

Also addressed more concerning the Holy Days, showed how the world doesn't have a clue to what is going on down here, due to keeping holidays instead of HD's. Spoke about all the HD's and what they picture, but elaborated on "Firstfruits" & "Tabernacles".

I also promised them bibles,,,, As I mentioned before, only a very few had bibles. The next biggest thing they need (and this is the same need with all the groups) is for someone to spend some time with them.... There totally ripe for hearing God's Word.

(If anyone is fishing for Men, this spot will yield him a Huge catch.)

Now the living conditions in the slum is "horrible" not one toilet in the entire slum, only open sewers.) And walking around is difficult... Like most slums, there in areas which are unsuitable for building houses (like swampy areas, where the ground is wet & muddy).

(Slums locate in areas where real-estate has no value). It is in these areas that the poorest of the poor move into and try to erect some kind of shelter where they (and their families) can exist. BUT, these people might be the poorest of the poor, but they are quite "valuable" to God... because they are Very Rich in Faith.

Many of our True brethren are living in these conditions, and they very much need our help. (Galatians 6:10 tell us to do good unto all men, especially those who are of the household of faith.) (Please believe me when I tell you, these brethren "qualify"... They are of the household of faith.

(Trying to get our impoverished brethren help over the years is like pulling teeth though)

(We need to be very careful concerning this brethren, because we are NOT living at the time when Christ foretold that *“The love of many shall wax cold”*. We are living at the time when the love of many Has waxed cold.

And I bill Goff, can attest to that, because since I first seen with my own eyes (back in 2,005) the living conditions of many of our brethren, I have been heralding how they need our help.

How every church family that I’ve met over there has members (including little children) suffering from Malaria (because they can’t afford to purchase a mosquito net that cost as little as \$4.)

We are still burying brethren there who die from malaria (even though it’s a curable disease) because they cannot afford to purchase the medicine that costs as little as \$5.) Brethren I’ve been shouting about this need for a long time. But my plea (more often than not) falls on Deaf Ears.

How sad, especially considering that the very Crux of our calling pertains to Compassion & Love for our brethren..... Now don’t get me wrong, there are some out there who do have *“The Love of God”* dwelling in them. Most of them are poor themselves.

But it is important for the rest of us to comprehend that we are living at the time when *“many”* in God’s church have lost the indwelling of *“The Love of God”*.

The Beloved Apostle John Admonishes us in 1 John 3:17: *“Whosoever hath this world’s good, and seeith his brother in need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dweleth the love of God in him.”*

(Moving on) (As I passed back through Nairobi on my way back to States, I spent a day with the pastors of the 3 slum congregations... wanted to hear their minds and what they teach... I was especially concerned to find out if they preach *“repentance”* (and how overcoming sin is a must for all first fruits at this time) or if they preach the false doctrine of *“once saved always saved”*.)

I’m very happy to tell you that all three of these pastors are preaching Truth, preaching repentance and how we need to develop *“Holy Righteous Character.”* It amazed me, not only that they are teaching something that is so important and such a rarity, but also that God had brought us together with one another.

Tom Kerry has been kept up to date with my findings, and he is now working with these sincere men directly, and beginning to help them with their needs (including trying to supply them with bibles.)

Tom has also proposed to bring me down to New Orleans and interview me for KHOH on his Internet telecast called: *“God’s Unchanging Word”*. Tom recognizes the need that our impoverished brethren have there in Kenya, and hopes his Internet telecast can help in raising some assistance.

(He says he has over a million viewers during the year.)

(I also hooked those three pastors up with E-mail addresses while in Nairobi.) What I try to tell these cog groups here in the States who are associating with congregations abroad, is not to just communicate with the lone leader there, but also reference some in the congregation, its helps keep people honest.

After departing Nairobi, next stop was in the middle of the *“Great Rift Valley”*. We had to cross it to get from Nairobi to Western Kenya; it was a 10 hour bus trip.... Half way is *“Narok”* where all the busses & everyone else crossing the *“Rift Valley”* take a *“pit stop”* to eat etc.

On this trip we spent a day and a night there in Narok. Because we met up with 8 pastors of cog groups that are scattered around that Valley. Ondazi has been working with these men for about one year now, but it was my first time to meet them.

Our discussions touched on many subjects (including Romans 2 where it talks about “*you teach others, but do you teach yourself?*”) It’s an important part of the Scriptures that all who “speak” & “teach” need to “read” and “heed”.

We also discussed Luke 12:47 where it talks about: “*the servant who knew his Lord’s will, and prepared Not himself, nor does according to his will, will be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few strips. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required, and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more*”.

Also discussed what it states in Mark 4 (and elsewhere) that: “***To him that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.***”

(Interpolation): I believe what we’re being told here is that when God gives us something (new understanding) we need to act on it, change, and do it. And if we do, He will give us more. If we don’t act on new understanding, He will take away even that which we had.

In the previous verses in Mark 4:23 & 24 Christ says: “If any man have “ears” to “hear”, let him “hear” **But take heed what you hear: because with much measure you mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.**”

I discussed this because here again (this time in the middle of the “Great Rift Valley”) were more men (of the same mind) whom God had opened their eyes to important Truth (Brethren this is a rarity) these men also teach that we in God’s church have to Stop sinning, and walk upright, and walk in Truth.

And it’s important for all of us who have had our “eyes” opened to Truth, to realize that “Truth” is still coming. Christ told His disciples (and is telling us today) that the “Spirit of Truth is going to “guide” His disciples into “All” Truth (And even show them things to come.)

And it’s important for those who have had their eyes “opened” those who are of same mind & spirit, to unite with one another, converse with one another, and “sharpeneth” the “countenance” of one another, like we’re told to do in the Scriptures.

I think what’s happening here (what might seem to be a “small things” or coincidence) being brought into acquaintance with 3 total strangers (who are of like mind) in three different slums in Nairobi (two of whom didn’t even have Email addresses and the other barely ever used E-mail) now brought into our fellowship.

And another 8 pastors also, that are scattered all around the “Great Rift Valley” of Kenya, who are of like mind, and now brought into our fellowship.

I don’t think what is happening here is “coincidental” or a “small thing” but instead, something that Tom spoke about in his message last week: “A Still Small Voice” at work. The “Still Small Voice” of The One that works in mysterious ways, whose thoughts, are higher than our thoughts, and who ways are higher than our ways.

We had a wonderful meeting. And to show you how dedicated and conscious everyone is concerning “funds” and the proper use of them. When we went down to the Hotel restaurant to eat, those 8 men suggested for them to go across town to a different restaurant, because they could eat the same meal there for half the price.

(And they did just that) I wanted to go with them, but they said that was impossible because that part of town was much too dangerous for a white man. (Not because of any prejudice, but because whites have money in their pockets.)

The following morning we were up and out before the sun came up, headed to the ATM for some funds, and as I mentioned before, we had to take the long (but better lit) way to avoid the possibility of being mugged.) Even with six of us it was too dangerous to walk through the dark streets there in Norak. (even at 5:30 in the morning.)

Then Ondazi and I caught a bus headed to Kisii Kenya, and from there on to Masaba Kenya to begin the Feast. The others headed back to their Villages to begin making preparations for their feast. All we were able to assist them with was 20,000 Kenya Schillings (that's \$225.)

They didn't complain, on the contrary, they were very thankful, not only for the assistance, but also for the opportunity of getting together and discussing God's Word. I also distributed to them 4 books written by "Warren Zehrung" (Another man of like mind that we recently were brought into fellowship with).

Warren is a former minister of WWC, now in his 70ies, but going strong not only giving a sermon "Every" Sabbath on his Internet/Telephone hook-up, but also speaking on Internet radio station called: "Radio For Living" Broadcast 24/7 out of London.

The station is great, preaching Truth, BOLD Truth, and that is quite rare these days (even amongst the majority of the churches of God) The order of the day in many c'sog today, is to preach what the members like to hear (just like was foretold 2,000 years ago.) (Smooth Things.) (just like much of their literature)

(Back to the trip) We started the feast in Masaba with around 100 in attendance (many more wanted to attend, but with low funds to help with transport, many couldn't afford it.) Also, it took many days for some to travel to the site because we had a little rain almost every day (usually at night) and muddy dirt roads Always slows transport down (usually to a complete stop) until they start drying out.

The hundred or so who did attend, had a wonderful feast (most meals consisted of Ugali, the staple food in West Africa made from corn flour, and some rice (which we ate I think three days in a row.) Everyone who attended was extremely happy to be there at the feast.

Ondazi & I also traveled to Kisii during the feast to visit the brethren at that site (with about 150 or so in attendance)... In the message I addressed current world conditions (Africans are quite cut off from the world) No one watching the 6 o'clock news or the 10 o'clock news, or any news for that matter.

Our brethren have no TV, no Radio, no Electricity except for a few solar panels that they use mainly to charge cell phones and power a few 12 Volt lights at night.

After the feast we continued to travel around and visit as many groups as possible. One was a Sunday keeping group in a remote area high in the rugged hills of Western Kenya. What we found there was (as usual) a group of people starving for spiritual food. And when they got some, they acted on in instantaneously, changing from Sunday worship to Sabbath.

I could go on and on with story after story concerning how many there are having their eyes opened, and in need of teachings & preaching's... But what I feel I need to emphasize on the most is how help is needed in order to move forward, because the demand is so Huge.

Brethren, many dismiss the obligation of preaching the Gospel to the world because they feel that the “bigger” cog organizations are fulfilling that.... But I don’t believe they are.

I know of one cog organization that had well over \$200,000 sitting in the bank, and numerous “stocks & bonds”. All that money collected from Tithes & offerings sitting in the bank. Why? Because the head of that organization has no clue what to do with it.

I contacted him a while back trying to get our impoverished brethren some help, that there were True Widows and Orphans in God’s church who were suffering and in need, and that there were many new people requesting visits. He immediately replied that he would not help, that he couldn’t afford to.

When in Kenya this year, we ran dry of funds near the end of the feast. I remember passing through a small village as we were walking about four miles total to & fro to visit another group (walking because we couldn’t afford a motor bike taxi) I got this strong urge to E-mailed that rich organization again, stating our situation. But this time, not even a reply.

Now don’t get me wrong, I’m not looking to bash some of the big COG organizations, but I’m trying to make a point here, a point that the big organizations (The Mighty Ones) who so many brethren are “blindly” sending their Tithes & offerings to, are Not pushing the Gospel.

I was at a feast site of another big cog organization here in the States a few years ago. The guest speaker had flown in to address the brethren. In His message, he boasted about the organizations wealth.

He told how they were about to begin broadcasting on a TV station in NYC at the cost of \$7,000 per half hour spot, and how that even with that venture, they still had multiple 10’s of thousands of dollars still sitting in the bank.

(I took opportunity to sit down and talk to that leader, and explained to him some of the needs that our impoverished brethren had in Africa, and how the doors were open there for the Gospel to move forward.

He patted me on the back, said I was doing a wonderful work, but that he couldn’t help because they like to help brethren here in the States before helping anyone abroad.

I told him that broadcasting on the NY station wouldn’t produce any fruits, that God’s calling here in the States was over, that He was now opening doors in places like E. Africa.

(A while later I came to find out that after broadcasting on that NY station two weeks in a row (for a total of \$14,000) and Not receiving even one response, they pulled the plug.)

I contacted them again asking for help for the brethren, and again was denied. I was told this time that preaching the Gospel is a “business” and that a business doesn’t use funds where there is no return.

(He said they preached in Africa before, but got no return.) How sad, relating the preaching of the Gospel to being a business venture and looking for a return. The Scripture says “You have freely received, so freely give.”

(Christ, the one we are to follow example of, Preached to the Poor.)

I knew they wouldn’t get response, just look at the majority of the big splinter groups, there not growing in numbers, on the contrary, there dwindling. Doors are not opening up here, there closed. And when God closes doors, no one can open.

One COG group in Colorado has been on 3 separate radio stations for years pushing “Ron Dart” sermons.... Now I know a little about Ron dart’s messages, their said to be wonderful. But no matter how wonderful they are, it still takes God to open Eyes & ears.

I had a friend in that church in Colorado, and I asked him how much response they were getting from all the Tithes & Offerings funds they were using to broadcast with. He kind of laughed, and replied was (and I’m quoting him’: “zilch” (he said) “I don’t know why we even keep spending the funds.

(I informed that organization about Kenya, but they also refuse to help) They insist on preaching to deaf ears (with absolutely no fruits being produced, no calls for new visits, and no baptisms.)

(But our “request for visits” is becoming very back logged) as we struggle for the funds to move about and answer those calls.)

The Gospel is being pushed by the little organizations, the little people, describe in the Scriptures as “the foolish ones”. We had a guy on this hook-up who was retired and getting up in years... But full of compassion for the impoverished brethren, and also wanting to help push the Gospel in a place where he saw how there was a lot of results.

He even took on a part time job to raise funds, and worked at it until he died a couple of years ago.

I could go on and on, but I think I’m past the time allotted, so I’m just going to quickly read a few of the “many” E-mail received here, that may help show how the doors for the Gospel are wide open in E. Africa, and calling for more disciples of Christ to help move through them.

And please understand something concerning funds; a truck load of money is not what is needed to push the Gospel forward, or to assist some of our brethren in their time of need, just some funds. Actually 10% of our income would do just nicely. 10% has Always worked well, How could it not, if it’s God’s design!