



Mixon Prayer Letter – September, 2010

A Father's Love

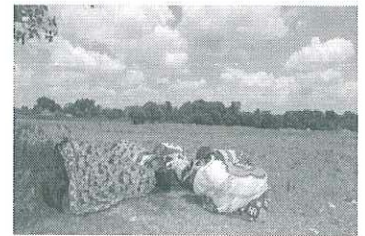
Naini, the teenage daughter of John Ole Letumo, had ignored her upbringing in the fledgling Maasai church, running around with immoral young men and showing disrespect for her father. As a leader in the local church and a respected elder in the community, John was so deeply shamed by the actions and attitudes of his daughter that he chased her away from home. Running away to Tanzania, she encountered poverty and deprivation, just like the lost son in Luke 15. Finally, like that son, she told herself, "I will go back to my father." First she went to her uncle so that he could approach John on her behalf since she was still in great fear of him. His first response upon hearing the news of her return was indeed anger as all the shame he had felt came welling up again in his heart. But in the time since Naini had run away, John had sat through our long discussions of that Luke story, of the way that God, like the father in the story, welcomes us back, sinful and rebellious as we are, with joy and mercy.



Overcome by the remembrance of God's love for him and the father's reception of his son in the story, John repented of his anger and welcomed Naini home. When she arrived at her father's village, she was covered in rags, barefoot, and gaunt with hunger. After a tearful but joyous reunion, John immediately sent money to buy her new clothes and slaughtered his best goat to nourish her and welcome her home again as his child! Her life is now changed as she is not only returning to John but to her heavenly Father as well, having experienced a rich taste of the fullness of His mercy.



This was one of the testimonies of the Maasai that encouraged me deeply last week as my dear friend Julius and I were out at Kawai again teaching rich stories of the Old Testament-- stories of Joseph, of Moses' birth and his call at the burning bush, of the



Passover and the Red Sea Crossing, of the giving of the Law at Mt. Sinai, and of the idolatrous worship of the golden calf. The joy and enthusiasm of these simple folks in their growing understanding of the Gospel – how God has been working out his Gospel plan since the Garden of Eden and how the beauty of the Gospel of Christ speaks to the daily issues in their lives – are contagious! The fervor with which they work to learn God's stories by heart, their willingness to dig deep in discussions of what God is doing in these stories, their desire to share these stories in their churches and villages – all have me as excited as ever about growing our team's capacity to equip Kenyan churches to share God's truth through chronological Bible storying.

I was furthered buoyed up by the company of Ed, an American friend who is planting an urban church in Nairobi, and Julius, one of Ed's disciples who is preparing to begin planting a church in his rural home north of Mt. Kenya. Ed went away eager to make plans of how to use Bible storying in his own church's discipleship and evangelism. Julius will continue accompanying Julius Munyithia and me to Kawai so that he can be fully equipped to use Bible storying as a key training tool when he begins church planting. This kind of opportunity to disseminate what we are doing is one of our goals as a team.

That leads me to a very important prayer request. As you know, I am a newly appointed team leader with World Harvest Mission. Our team is focused on training Kenyan church leaders in chronological Bible storying and in Sonship. As the Marines say, "We are looking for a few good men" (or women!) who would feel called to engaging in this type of work for a season. We would love to have another family or a single man who could devote three to four years helping us in this training – the potential places and opportunities for ministry are numerous. We could also use a partnership of two women to focus on using Bible storying in women's ministry. Lastly, I would like to start developing some internships, especially for folks interested in being pastors or missionaries. Interns would focus on learning how Bible storying works and would participate fully with me in the process of training Kenyans. So please pray! And if you or someone in your church feels a pull in this direction, let's start communicating.

In Christ's service,



George

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