

Dave Weaver in Africa. September 14th to 26th 2007

So once again I found myself on a plane to Nairobi. This time a daytime flight so praise the Lord I would get a nights sleep before commencing ministry. This was my first time to minister in Kenya and I would be visiting Pastor John at Dandora and Pastor David at Kawangare.

Bishop Robert picked me up at the ACK the following morning and showed me some of Nairobi by making a detour through various suburbs of this large place. As you travel from the beautiful centre of town with gardens and lake, many high rise offices along with the parliament building and Kenyatta`s mausoleum, you become very much



aware of a rapid change in your surroundings. The housing is drab and run down, the streets are dirty and choked by unbelievable numbers of buses and minibuses all trying to get ahead of each other to pick the passengers up first.



With the many cars, some incredibly ancient, you are very quickly aware of chaos reigning all around you. Approaching the slum areas of Nairobi your eyes and nose are assaulted by incredible poverty, dilapidation and stink.

When you think this is bad enough, you turn a corner and suddenly a vista of absolute filth fills your vision; the tip complete with pitiful humanity dredging in that mass of rubbish for something. I do not know nor can I even imagine what they are looking for, is it food? Or may be something to sell or just something that may make life just a little more bearable to live? When I was able, I shot pictures through the open window of the car but sometimes the window had to be closed because of the risk of personal injury or the camera being snatched. "Welcome to the real Nairobi," shouts Bishop Robert over the noise. I muse to myself yes I think you are probably right.



Pastor John`s church in Dandora is beautiful. Now understand me I am not talking of the building which is a rude timber and corrugated iron structure, but of the people. They do not have much of what this world offers in goods but I certainly experienced some fantastic Christian fellowship with them. They give what they can of God out of their poverty. They give what they can of God out of their poverty. It is not much and when you see what a big heart for God Pastor John has and what he has already achieved you can only say and feel you want to be part of this. Just a few pounds of our hard earned money can go a long way here.



Living-Hope ministries ran a seminar on the Saturday where I was privileged to speak to a good number of pastors. Sunday morning I ministered to a congregation of at least a hundred and it was great to see a number make a commitment to God. The last session of the ministers seminar took place on the Sunday afternoon. Please pray for these pastors, many if not all, must work to support themselves as none of the congregations can finance the church entirely. Also so many live with their wives in very humble homes.

Two small rooms with a family of up to six children are common and finding the rent to pay for this accommodation is a challenge in itself. I visited another slum area of Nairobi later in the trip, where Pastor David is ministering. He has similar challenges and deserves at least our attention to pray for him and his work in Kawangare. These people are rich in faith and trust in God, putting most of us to shame. We are relatively rich in Christian heritage and in financial terms so it would be good for us to share what we have together so enriching each other. They are part of us as Christ only has one church. This visit to Kawangare took place after I had travelled down to Tanzania.



After an uneventful but expensive trip to Arusha in Tanzania on the 17th September we met Pastor Nelson the organiser of the conference with his committee in the evening. It was so good to meet them. It felt like meeting old friends and certainly unlike the first visit because I was totally unknown to them then. This time I felt a greater warmth as we greeted each other and had fellowship. Perhaps my perceptions of my first visit in 2006 were largely coloured because of my own feelings of insecurity, being my first time with them and my first time preaching. However any thought of the challenges of 2006 were swiftly swept away and we enjoyed a good time in the conference over two days. I had travelled down with Pastor Peter and his wife Rose from Uganda. We shared the ministry. Pastor Nelson along with his committee had done a good job in organising the event with up to 70 or 80 in attendance. The conference was held in a community church, quite a contrast to the church in Dandora, but soon we were back in a timber and corrugated church for a seminar in a Great Commission Church of Tanzania on the Thursday and Friday morning. There we met some new friends and what blessed fellowship we enjoyed. We travelled back to Nairobi Friday afternoon.

The love and hospitality of our African brothers and sisters was outstanding. They went out of their way to supply medication when I was ill after I had arrived back in Nairobi. Unfortunately my illness meant I was unable to minister on the Sunday when I was to be with Bishop Stephen. Sadly I was not at full strength for the rest of the trip. The ministry at Kawangare was shared between myself and bishop Augustine from Rwanda. Once again it has been a privilege to go to Africa and meet with so many great brothers and sisters. There is always a question in my mind at times like these. Who is getting the most in blessing and anointing from these times together? It must be me because so much comes back to me from them as I minister. Truly God is no mans debtor.



Bishop Augustine
Pastor David

Bishop Stephen & Wife Susan
Bishop Augustine

Children at Dandora

Pastor Nelson