

Summary of the EMMA Kenya mission: 17/2/18 - 3/3/18

AWAY Team: Doctors: Kwasi Appiah (team leader), Alison Jordan, Tony Males, Richard Scott, Charlotte Spencer

Nurses: Loraine Donegan (eyes), Doreen Wardle (pharmacy)

Registration and Prayer: Paul Spencer, Jenny Wong

HOME Team: Pastors David Kereto, Aaron and Rogers

Dentist: Shadrach (email: shaddykaelo@gmail.com)

Nurse: Patrick (one day)

Catering: John (i/c) with Elizabeth, Musa and Dan
Translators: Joseph, Gladys, Lilian, Noah, Emily (maneno mengi), Maria
Helper: Stephen,
Driver: Joel

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Saturday a.m 17/2 Flight: BA Heathrow (3), arriving late evening in Nairobi - where we met a Canadian medical mission team ("Tumikia" = service) who'd also just arrived for a fortnight in Kenya - and were relieved that at least some Englishmen had faith! The incident humbled us: we are just a tiny part of God's much bigger picture. Stayed in a noisy town centre hotel.

Sunday 18/2 a.m: Alison led our team time. Theme = Faith, which she memorably likened to hearing a bird sing when taking the dog for a walk in the dark. Many of the heroes in **Hebrews 11** were scoffed at - like Jenny, prior to Kenya. But as the Bible reminds us 2,000 times - serve the poor.

Travelled to our first camp - @ **KIRKURIA**. Very windy, hot and extremely dry. Population approx. 700. Dumping kit in our tents, we sang, Doreen gave testimony and Paul preached in the Church service. David Kereto introduced us to an old lady who'd set up many churches. With no schooling, God had taught her to read & write and she was seen taking notes from Paul's sermon!

Sunday p.m: set up clinic in the primary school. We divided ourselves into registration and prayer, male docs, female docs and dentist/pharmacy/eyes. The headmaster gave up his office for the female medics, and after compressing the pupils into half the school buildings, promptly gave up the unequal battle, giving them a day off and us the run of the place. This was probably my worst "consulting room" ever! Unpacked the pharmacy (supplies sadly incomplete from Nairobi).

Sunday eve: 1st Jesus Film. No George Wanyonyi, so Bernard showed the film here instead (replaced by Rogers & Aaron elsewhere). Very well-attended and although no-one responded to Tony's testimony/call mid-film, some hands were raised when the call was repeated by Aaron at end. Cold night.

Monday 19/2: Fascinatingly, primary school children walk to school carrying not only the obligatory firewood, but also now their parents' mobile phones! The school was the only source of electricity for charging!

Continued Faith theme during team-time. Tony reminded us to hold onto faith via the 3 Ms: personal Moments and historical (biblical) Memories of what God has done in the past - and via present-day heroes eg. Michael Green - produce a Memorial that ensures we are not dominated by any adverse present circumstances.

CLINIC DAY 1: Following joint team introductions, Kwasi's morning Gospel preach to the assembling patients emphasised the need for spiritual and physical healing. We treated 247 patients, with 54 dental extractions taking place and spectacles dispensed. As ever, God linked patient numbers to doctor supply. One memorable lady with arthritic hands was frustrated, no longer able to work "like a tractor"! Another reflected a common theme: beaten by her husband, this time as a leopard had taken 2 goat kids. Another complained of a painful side, having been butted by a ram as a child. Finally, everyone thinks they have anthrax!

That evening, I felt prompted to preach next Sunday on **2 Chronicles 7: 14**.

Monday eve: Charlotte spoke @ 2nd Jesus Film. 40 kids later responded to Pastor Aaron's appeal, kneeling before God - a wonderful experience for all.

Tuesday 20/2: Alison led the team-time. Wonderfully, her toilet had fallen down just before-hand. It wasn't on solid ground ... which chimed with Jenny's calling as an architect. We need to align ourselves with God's plan.

CLINIC DAY 2: Picking up on Kwasi's previous day theme, RS spoke from **2 Kings 20** (Hezekiah's healing). Six (adults and kids) responded: presented to the local pastor.

290 patients today, with 74 dental patients (64 extractions) and 48 pairs of glasses dispensed. Kwasi saw a deaf & dumb boy, whilst I advised a man with a forehead bony exostosis following a tree falling on his head not to have it removed - to avoid inadvertent brain surgery! One lady, shown shoulder exercises, had no problem as she praised the Lord already! Sadly, a 21-year lad not walking well, following a motorbike crash, demonstrated spastic gait, having undiagnosed spinal cord injury. One for the prayer team, in addition to an 11-year-old anorexic girl.

Wednesday 21/2: Struck camp following an early start. On the way to our second location @ **OLIBELIBEL**, extended population 5,000, near the TZ border, DK and RS spent another £225 on medicines. We'd been allocated a small "cooperative" building - but not the secondary school, as planned. The smaller building became our accommodation (along with 5/9 tents) and dining room. Later, the headmaster insisted we use General Joseph Nkaissey

High School buildings, across the road. The only problem: exams were still taking place! This would delay our first morning (tomorrow), although the school chaplain would help by shifting the last exam to the laboratory. Registration and prayer now under the big yellow canvas.

During team-time, Tony mentioned the onion rings of faith: an inner ring = I go to work, treat 45 patients, get some right. Middle ring = I'm helping the community in my work, seeing some patients come to faith. Outer ring = I am helping transform the whole area. Several team members spoke of tough times at home: Doreen's son (Charlie)'s death, RS' daughter Abbie's health, Alison's husband's adultery, exacerbating her migraine, Paul's heart surgery. We also noted that Daada (our EMMA Liberian contact) was recovering from back surgery. Later this week, Alison's health would improve and RS would have the great joy of hearing that Abbie was now engaged to a lovely Christian lad, Nick.

Thursday 22/2: CLINIC DAY 3: 239 patients seen, 46 glasses dispensed but just 34 teeth extracted after delay in purchasing more dental cartridges. Following the usual introductions, the old men asked to be treated first! One most unusual patient was the butcher who supplied the school who'd fallen whilst carrying a sheep's carcass. He'd dislocated his patella superiorly - something we'd never encountered previously, then promptly dislocated the other one, falling off a motorbike on the way to hospital! Another younger man presented to Tony with a grossly infected leg requiring removal of the intramedullary nail pinning his femur, whilst a third man had fallen before being trodden on by his cow. One lady nicely illustrated a common complaint - I can't walk far, meaning only 5 kilometres, rather than the usual 20 K!

Thursday eve: 20 secondary school kids responded to Kwasi's memorable testimony @ 3rd Jesus Film. No surprise that God influenced the rota in advance, ensuring that Kwasi - who'd boarded @ secondary school in Ghana, spoke to similar African secondary boarders? We sang, "God is good, all the time" - then translated it, singing "Ashe, Ashe, Ashe, Jesu" - thank you x3 Jesus.

Overnight, however, we were reminded that saints and sinners co-exist. Three boys were caught trying to break in to our temporary pharmacy.

Friday 23/2: RS spoke on the benefits of faith @ team-time. So many!

CLINIC DAY 4: A total of 488 patients seen over the 2 days in Olobelibel. 79 teeth extracted and 48 glasses dispensed. Tony's interpreter, Joseph (David Kereto's middle son) wants to become a neurosurgeon - benefitting from time together. During the lunch-time Gospel talk from Doreen, it transpired that none responded because all were already saved! A lovely late eve walk allowed us to reflect on the animal bones so reflective of drought - but also on the goats moving towards their overnight thorn-protected compounds. Safe from leopards and hyaenas, they little realised that their greatest enemy were the missionaries (we eat one per day).

Friday eve: Both generators struggling. The Lord didn't mend our team electricity supply; instead, fill it up with oil! But He did enable the Jesus Film generator to work following

prayer. To paraphrase Scripture: seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added ...

Paul gave an excellent testimony of God supplying his cardiac needs. Billy Graham has died, but Pastor Aaron is equally anointed!

Saturday 24/2: Camp struck early. Another gorgeous sunrise as we decamped to our 3rd place - **ENOOSIKITOK**. With Kilimanjaro in view, the local population of 300 were tough: it was even hotter and drier with even the Kenyans finding it hard going. The toughest place DK has ever worked in. Tony reminded us of the aphorism, "11 – 3, go under a tree". After putting the large marquee up, a sand-storm nearly blew it down. DK worried as a recent, large political gathering here was buffeted by such a storm, killing one person and hospitalising 70 others. Placing the lorry between the tent and any future storms sufficed. We sent word to 2 translators who'd left us at Kirkuria to return. Local translators were used to the generosity of World Vision (builders of the clinic here), demanding payment for their services. We prefer to give gifts at the end.

At team-time, Charlotte taught us about the 3 As: Ask and be Astonished at the Abundance of God's provision. We'd soon discover (again) just how apt this was.

Sunday 25/2: As our extended team introduced themselves in Church, DK lined us up opposite local Maasai for them to rename us: "Hot", "Peace", "He who breaks many spears" were among them. Translator Gladys then asked to give a word: **"if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."** Just the encouragement I needed, as this reading from **2 Chronicles 7: 14** - was my text. Jenny's mime on God hearing and forgiving also proved just right. At the conclusion, the entire Church (of 100) sank to their knees, crying out for forgiveness and healing of the land. We ended by singing (in English and Maasai), Russ Hughes' "We Humbly Pray (Lord, Send the Rain)", the chorus of which goes;

Lord send the rain
Pour it on this parched land
Soften every hard place
Flood through every desert
That we may wade
Out into the water
A mighty flowing river
Lord send the rain.

How would God respond to His peoples' cries? It wouldn't take long to find out ...

Sunday p.m.: some time off, driving to Namanga to straddle the Kenyan / TZ border. On our return, the local pastor told us that people were coming from far, staying overnight, having been told to arrive at clinic at 6 a.m tomorrow! Clouds gathering.

Monday 26/2: CLINIC DAY 5: in all 3 locations, we acceded to requests from primary school teachers for extra Paracetamol and Mebendazole - for fever and worms. One woman

presented in pain after being beaten by her drunken husband (thus neatly demonstrating two of the sins for which we'd repented the previous day!) Another lad required antibiotics for an infected skin graft post-snake bite. A dust-storm passed through our clinic.

Today was a market day, reducing our work by half. 149 patients, 17 teeth and 12 glasses only. The reduced workload allowed Jenny, Tony and myself to learn more of Maasai customs - and the country's problems - from Pastor Aaron.

FEMALE CIRCUMCISION: sadly, some Christians are still practising FGM. They do so in secret, not shaving the girls' heads and without special dresses being worn. Culture still tops religion. Even pastors can be influenced by their grandmothers. They **MUST** teach the Word. But now 70% in Maasailand are against FGM, with the Church making the difference, alongside government rules forbidding the practice and modern education. Tony wondered whether specialist teams might help here too - especially where an affected prominent female was involved.

ALCOHOL: the Kenyan government has banned local brewing - although the practice still continues rurally.

PREGNANT TEENAGERS: are very common. Two of our translators/cooks have children already. Before children get admitted to Form 1 - they must undergo a pregnancy test! If positive, they will not be admitted, returning home with their parents' fees of 70 – 80,000 Sh. forfeited until the child is born. Rape in Maasailand is very rare. One added problem - children are off school in November/December - so there are many September babies!

Once a girl is pregnant, the father may come and claim the baby. If paternity is unclear, DNA testing is possible, but pastors eg. Aaron are heavily involved, identifying the father - who then has to pay for her lost school fees. Having done so, the child is taken to his home., and brought up by his mother - unless there is a strong agreement between the boy and the girl.

If a girl becomes pregnant, her mother may also be at risk of a beating; she should have brought the child up better. Running away, the pastor is needed for reconciliation between father and mother, teaching them they fight for nothing!

CONSANGUINITY: the Maasai are very clear that close-linked relatives must not marry. ALL Maasai trace their clans and blood-lines - so early on in a relationship, a couple asks the pastor to search their kinship. Only if the relationship is acceptable can they continue. If the two marry and are later found to be closely-linked, a penalty is paid (usually a heifer).

DISPUTES: eg. land boundary disputes or theft. Although there are village chairmen etc - they won't do much without consulting the pastor - who gets involved. Pastor stands for peace.

Rather late in the trip - the team laid hands on Alison, praying against her daily afternoon migraines. Immediately, her headache descended and left - following which two migraine-free days ensued, with a minimal headache the third day. Praise God.

A lovely walk uphill to a manyatta (small village). Prayed for the family there. Passed many cow skeletons, a hyena ambush hole and a venomous snake.

Monday eve: 15 responded to the Jesus Film.

Tuesday 27/2: at team-time, **Ephesians 1** taught us again that it's all about God. Later, Paul's Gospel message from **John 1** to assembling patients saw 4 respond. At lunchtime, so many patients came that Tony gave a second Gospel message - using a cardboard box, sharp piece of wood and plastic bottle-top to illustrate Christ being pierced and crushed for our transgressions. Another 8 adults responded!

CLINIC 6: 271 patients today, 30 teeth and 52 glasses. One old man memorably dated his low back pain to his days as a Moran (warrior) - falling over whilst killing a lion! Another man had been gored by a buffalo and a third girl pierced her cornea with a needle whilst attempting to remove a thorn - so ubiquitous in Maasailand. One man told a different story: his side pain resulted from being beaten by robbers. To illustrate Aaron's teaching, a very young mum (now 13) came in with her handicapped year old child. Finally, one man testified that his sciatica had responded well to prayer previously - so we prayed again!

Tuesday eve: 20 children responded to Alison's testimony @ our last Jesus Film.

Wednesday 28/2: at team-time, we learnt that it's not what you give that counts, but what you hold back (cf. the widow's mite). We reflected on the simplicity of life here, not being a slave to time or the internet. Not planning each day by the minute. How powerful local preachers are and how we need to take life in the UK similarly by the horns. As we packed up and gave gifts for the last time to locals and our departing translators, RS was humbled to receive an extra necklace from a lady pleased with my sermon.

Wednesday p.m: safari time @ Amboseli National Park. Driving over the bed of the completely dried out Lake Amboseli, the urgent need for rain was obvious.

Thursday 1/3 a.m: Finally, at 2.40 a.m that night - the clouds that had been gathering burst! The whole night and the next one it rained. We would learn from DK later (**Friday 2/3**) that rain was heavy in Narok and Nairobi and that the place where we'd prayed - Enoosokitok - asked us to return from the airport to give thanks! Truly, we serve a great God! Awesome!

NB: Final TEAM MEETING 1/3 - money-distribution - see Tony's later report.

Saturday 3/3: overnight flight back from Nairobi to UK. Sadly, Loraine's luggage was misplaced in DK's car - to be sent on later - but otherwise, all went smoothly.

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