

## Palmer Trip Report August 2022

### Kenya Service Center

The Kenya WBS Service center is running well as snags in electronic transference of lessons to and from the USA are resolved. The desired HP Printer was available for purchase in Nairobi for less than it costs in the USA. It is now in operation at Eastleigh, and is fun to see working. (It is fast and duplex!). Richard Karima is asking for WBS to buy a 20' container for the premises in order to have adequate storage space, particularly in anticipation of larger quantities of inventory. I am waiting for him to tell me the cost of that. I believe it would be of value in the long run, though their current office space is adequate for the storage needs this year. Another improvement made was getting a better Wifi modem—what they were using was not working at all!



**Emily with the new duplex scanner at the Nairobi Service Center**

### South Nyanza

South Nyanza, in the southwest of Kenya, is one of the areas of Kenya where the church is the strongest. However, other than an initial WBS workshop in 2013, I have never done another workshop or campaign there. I had high hopes for touching base with a lot of preachers and congregations, but having taken advice on who to have host the workshop I ended up a little disappointed. The host preacher did not publicize the



**Preparing to go recruiting in Erenet, Kenya**

preachers workshop, so it was very poorly attended. The 2 recruiting campaigns planned were also very parochial. I was, however, connected to a little dynamo in Awendo, Kenya, whom I feel will do a lot to advance WBS among the churches within his sphere of influence. His name is Isaya Omullo, and his history with WBS goes back to the 1980's.

My expected campaign in Migori was actually in rural Suna East, and also over at a new church plant in Narok County among the Masai—the village of Erenet. My host was Julius Makombe, whose history surprised me. He was once supported by the Leveretts of Hillcrest and his son is named "Lynn Leverett"! His is the classic tale of a young man in the 90's picking up a paper off the ground that happened to be a

WBS advertisement, leading to his conversion. He is a strong, dedicated evangelist to this day.

The figures for the campaigns are: Galilee (Suna) – 29 participants with 25 enrollments; Erenet – 17 participants with 20 enrollments; Wii Nyarago – 21 participants with 340 enrollments. The Wii Nyarago preachers workshop had 24 present from 5 congregations.

## Transmara

When you reach the Kipsigis churches in the south Rift Valley of Kenya, you have a different experience! I have not seen the same independent, self-governing and self-propagating spirit anywhere else in Africa where I have been. Bro. Nelson Siele of Bomet worked with elders in the churches of Transmara to organize a 3-day WBS recruiting campaign (with Bible teaching sessions) in the town of Dikirr. There are 38 congregations of the church of Christ in Transmara. 17 are in the western region where our campaign was hosted. The opening Bible session had over 100 in attendance, over half of whom went out into the neighborhood to enroll people over the next 2 days. A well respected brother who has done WBS in Kenyan prisons for over 10 years was there one day, and he was thrilled and surprised to see even the old women going door to door for evangelism. He said he had never seen that before. I only counted participating congregations on the last day, and there were 5. We enrolled 384 new WBS students.



Neighborhood enrolling in Dikirr, Kenya



Joshua Ogada and 2 of his sons by the WBS banner on the church building wall

## Koma Rock

Joshua Ogada continues to take advantage of the location of the Koma Rock Church of Christ to draw in seekers. A new more permanent sign was put on the church wall facing the main road into this suburb of Nairobi. By evening, a lady walked in and inquired, downloaded the **WBS Lite** app and since I was there, became my student! Doris has been diligent and is now on *This Is Good News!*

## Zimbabwe Service Center / Substations

Terrence Muza is well organized and is keeping detailed records of inventory both in a ledger and in Excel. Since US participants have only barely begun to use the inventory what has mainly happened so far is that Intro's and Short Intro's have gone to recruiters. Terrence and the two substation clerks (at Nhowe and Igava) have been engaging in recruiting themselves, but to a very limited extent on the part of the substation workers.



Machona and I supervise Terrence at the Avondale Service Center

## Greencroft

*Intro* Lessons distributed and answered lessons returned:

April	14,986	5,206
May	9,993	3,069
June	12,986	4,164

GHS delivered in July: 26

Igava April to June: *Intro*'s distributed: 310; answers returned 44

Nhowe April to June: *Intro*'s distributed: 164 answers returned 35

Irregular electricity has sometimes hindered the Inventory Office at Greencroft, so I want to look into solar panels sufficient for the computer, scanner and printer. With power, the wifi seems to be adequate.

## Harare Workshop and School Seminars



Elaine had the little kids class at the Herentals Seminar

Together with John and Beth Reese and new WBS staff member Machona Monyamane from South Africa, we participated in the WBS Recruiters Workshop at Avondale, attended by 61 church workers from around northern and eastern Zimbabwe. Then 2 school seminars were held in Harare, one at Prince Edwards High and one at Herentals College-Kuwadzana. These followed a program that has become fairly standardized over the years, in which an entire school has a one-day Bible teaching program with students divided (though unknown to them) by denominational orientation into small classes. Experienced evangelists co-teach each class, and an emphasis is made on making a choice to follow Christ. Such seminars invariably result in many responses and many baptisms. It is expected that the local preacher(s) will

then do follow up with all those baptized. It is assumed many of the students have taken WBS courses already and so have some basic teaching. The class of 22 that I co-taught had 4 who had reached the course *Born of Water and Spirit*, 4 who had never done a WBS course, and the rest had only done the *Introduction* lesson.

The Prince Edwards seminar, where John and Beth participated, had 164 students present and resulted in 46 baptisms. The Herentals seminar, where Machona, Elaine and I helped teach, was attended by 199 students and there were 85 baptisms.



One of 85 baptisms at the Herentals College Seminar

## Zimbabwe Workshops



**Gweru preachers WBS Workshop**

I was excited to get to cover some geographic ground in Zimbabwe on this trip (993 miles, actually). For me there is no better way to affect the work than to meet our working brethren in person in their locales. I am grateful to Alice and Terrence for helping me set up these meetings, and to the leaders who organized them. We had 'Training-Information-&-Feedback Workshops' in **Kwekwe** (15 participants, some from Gokwe and Kadoma), **Gweru** (19 present, held at the Bear Valley Bible Institute); **Bulawayo** (35 present from

19 congregations all over the country); and **Masvingo** (19 present from 10 congregations). Machona and Terrence helped teach/motivate in each session. It was amazing to see how many old connections Machona has in every place from his many years taking the Gospel Chariot everywhere. Many of them are preaching in churches planted by the Gospel Chariot Ministry.

Feedback from the brethren at our workshops consistently named as the major hurdles the slow return of books to the students after they do lesson one, the cost of transportation to enroll and then collect answers, and the many people who do not know English and so need a Shona translation of WBS materials. One factor we repeated at the workshops is the necessity of WBS being a ministry of the congregations, not just lone wolves dependent on US support. We also emphasized the importance of networking between preachers and WBS recruiters around the country.