

Rooted in Jesus conferences in the Diocese of Kajiado, Kenya

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Summary report from Mike Edson

Team: Mike Edson (TL), Chris Clark, Stephen Barbor, Sylvie Barbor, Obadiah Mushene.

2 introductory conferences, in Kajiado and Oloitokitok, attended by 40 pastors and lay leaders in each place.

The **first conference** at Kajiado was shorter than usual – 2 ½ days – due to unexpected financial complications. This was compensated for partly by the fact the team was able to add sessions before and after supper on both Monday and Tuesday, and partly by the fact that the sessions were conducted in English. The majority who came were clergy so could commute and therefore not many in fact stayed overnight. I concentrated on making sure they were themselves rooted in Jesus through teaching and ministry and giving experience on running the groups. We had to instruct them time and time again to put their books away. That in fact was the major challenge of this conference. Tuesday, there they were dressed in suits and dog collars, notebooks to the fore... seminar mode. Wed am... T-shirts and relaxed... that's why we need the full days! We had some exciting times of worship and ministry and some significant times of healing prayer, with several testimonies to having received healing.

Obadiah stands at 6 feet 8 inches, 150k, is the archdeacon of Kajiado, and held in great respect – he did kill two lions! He is very Pentecostal in his ministry but highly committed to making sure RinJ works. He was in a car accident some weeks ago and having great difficulty moving his right hand and in pain. He was ready to go back to hospital for treatment, but after ministry offered by Chris his hand was fully restored, and he was more than able to wave us goodbye ten days later.

By Tuesday night we were pretty exhausted but held up by the experience that the Lord had moved mightily. I have some confidence that RinJ will take root because we have a good coordinator in Obadiah, and he has already charged 12 of his leaders that he intends to follow book 1 with them, and when they have finished he expects all of them to start their own groups. About 15 people came for ministry and we got 15 others to pray for them.

The **second conference** was held in Oloitokitok, and was more like RinJ as I have experienced it. Obadiah joined the team, and another excellent archdeacon, Naphthali, from whose archdeaconry the people came. 9 parishes were represented, which included several congregations. Every pastor attended with between 1 and 6 lay leaders. Some of these leaders, especially the Masai, led congregations and groups of illiterate people, so from the relatively sophisticated and brain trained Kajaidi, we were with people who were grounded and still had their soul earthed to heaven. Thanks to an individual gift of additional funding, we also had an extra day. Naphthali had organised it properly. A dozen or so stayed in a nearby Catholic conference centre. Ladies from the church cooked lunch and brought out tea. We focussed again on making sure they themselves were rooted in Jesus through teaching and ministry, we gave them three experiences of running RinJ groups, and we think they got it. We had to create time by limiting the groups to 1 hour, turning the workshops into plenary seminars of 1 hour each – so we covered the topics – but of course it is by the end of the second day that the conference begins to have a life of its own. I do however have great confidence for this area, because we were with very local leaders who were excited with what we were bringing.

And then there was the worship. As you know it is always uplifting... but the last morning was truly amazing... the Spirit fell immediately and moved in ways I had not experienced for many years... freely flowing... touching this one... prostrating another... firing the word... Imagine what it was like commissioning them in all of that! We had already decided to anoint them as part of the ceremony... they came forward as church groups... and they were magnificently overwhelmed by the Spirit as they were anointed... crying, slain... imagine what it is like trying to catch a 6 feet 8 inch Maasai ex warrior weighing 150k! And of course the ministry times... healing of leg and back pain, partial restoration of arm and hand movement to Joyce who had suffered a stroke some 12 years ago. There was a time of testimony. One very sophisticated woman told of the time she prayed over a dead child which had been dumped on the doorstep, and the child was restored. A former illiterate Maasai, spoke of how he went into the bush and fasted for seven days and came out bring able to read the Bible. Sort of stuff hard to swallow by the majority of our English readers! The Lord has prevailed over all obstacles, and we give thanks to Him.



Mike Edson

Chris Clark writes...

"I personally had a great trip and very much enjoyed working with Mike, Sylvie and Stephen. I think we made a pretty good team and coped well with the challenges and opportunities with which we were faced.

In Kajiado they got the idea of how to run a group, and the work we did on the Holy Spirit and the practical healing session seemed to be truly liberating for them. They were a very well educated and theologically qualified group and I have to say I felt a little in awe to start with. I think my biggest disappointment was that the commissioning ceremony was a little bit rushed. We redressed this at Oloitokitok and it was a very powerful time.



At Oloitokitok the extra funds that became available, enabling us to extend by a day, really helped. The numbers of people attending each conference were almost exactly the same, at around 40. We delivered the programme in Oloitokitok although this time we needed a translator and even then I think the Maasai guys struggled but the awesome Obadiah was a big help. We heard amazing stories: One guy had prayed and fasted for 7 days in the bush, asking God that he would be able to read and write as he could not afford school, needless to say God was gracious and he found that he could miraculously read and write afterwards! On the downside he did have to be washed in goat's blood before his village would let him back in. Another lady had been left holding a dead baby when the distraught family left the room they were all in. She prayed that God would bring the child back to life as He had done with Jairus' daughter. The baby then started crying, you could tell this was a huge event, as tears were forming in her eyes as she told us the story.



The healing session was equally powerful here, with many receiving healing to some degree. Residual pain from pneumonia disappeared instantly, back problems, leg and stomach pain all improved or were completely healed. One lady called Joyce who had a stroke down one side of her body 13 years ago was able to lift her arm to her shoulder and had received some movement back in her hand. She was amazed as was her friend, who burst into tears when she saw what she could now do. The delegates found all this very encouraging, as we did.

The commissioning ceremony was good. Mike decided that we should anoint them with oil in their parish groups. This led to a very powerful time of praise and worship with a number, including Obadiah, being laid on the floor in the power of the Holy Spirit as they were anointed.

At each conference we asked them to write down the names of the groups they would form, during the Pastoral Care session. They gave us a copy and kept one for themselves. Mike was a great leader once more; wise, calm, caring, inspired, Spirit filled and fun. Stephen and Sylvie were great team mates too. Obadiah will be a great coordinator and is a great man in every sense."

Sylvia Barbor writes...

"The last conference was wonderful. Many healings, Joyce had a stroke 13 years ago and had no strength in her right arm. She can now lift it. A back healed, chest pains gone, cataracts gone, a friend in Nairobi pregnant and suffering from blood clots and swelling of the legs was healed instantly, confirmed by text! And many more!! Lots to add from last weeks as well. many were touched yesterday as they learned to listen to God and share words of knowledge with one another and this mornings worship was wonderful. At the commissioning service this morning over 30 were anointed with oil and filled with the spirit. Catching a 6' 8" Masai as he goes down in the Spirit -a 2 lion killer- is interesting!!"