



Kibidula News

April - June 2004



Muslims Meet Their Savior

Suddenly, two men grabbed a woman in the crowd and began dragging her away from the meeting. "Let me stay! I want to see the pictures", she pled. The men paid little heed to her cries as they hauled her out. Of course, women have little say in Namtumbo. This remote south-east Tanzania village of 8,000 has been a stronghold (95% Muslim) against Christianity for many years.

Just last November, the local Field office asked us if there was any way we could help to open the work in Namtumbo. Feeling that the Holy Spirit was leading, we placed two lay missionaries there. Keith and Barb Christiansen (lay people from America) agreed to come to Tanzania and do an evangelistic effort in early May.

Keith began preaching on a Friday evening using the ASI DVD with Reuben Kingamkono doing the translation and Barb doing the nightly health talks. We were shocked when almost 1,000 people came to see the pictures and the Jesus video. The next day, Muslims started

pouring into town from the surrounding villages to celebrate the birth of Mohammed-a major holiday. Uh-Oh! Since we were staying next door to the mosque, we observed the celebration first hand. Men and women gathered in separate groups around flags written in Arabic to grunt out rhythmic and monotonous chants around the clock for 2 straight days.

By Saturday evening, the opposition started from political and religious leaders. Things like, "Can't you just explain your messages, do you have to preach them?"; "Please shut off your horn speakers during our celebration."; "Why did you take pictures of our religious rites?" Finally, they said, "Remove all of your things from the government field, so we can conduct our big meeting tomorrow!" We complied with everything that we could and then asked if there was anything we could do to help with their meeting. They thought for a moment and said, "What about those speakers?" We readily agreed, not knowing that this act of kindness was to be a ma-

jour turning point.

And so, according to God's plan, we found ourselves sitting right in the middle of the very thing that the US Embassy tells us to avoid - large, conservative Muslim celebrations. We even raised the horn speakers 10 feet higher so they could make more noise - and they loved it! In front of a huge Muslim crowd, every important political and Muslim religious leader stood up to thank us. They said things like, "These Sabbath keepers are such nice people to let us use these speakers. We are together. We are on the same path." We sat there stunned as we realized that this not only gave all of their people permission to attend our meetings, but made it impossible for them to forbid us to use the speakers ourselves.

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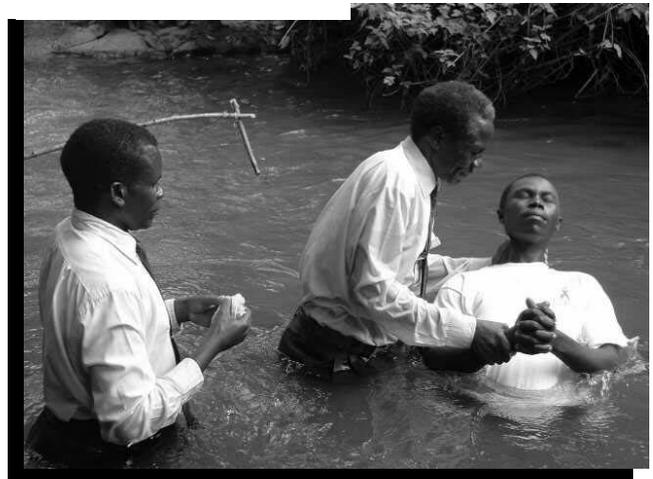
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Rueben Kingamkono; Barb & Keith Christiansen.



Baptism of Precious Souls in Namtumbo.



Come and Help!

In between the Evangelism school sessions, Kibidula Training Centre has worked hand in hand with the Southwest Tanzania Field leadership in conducting weekend evangelism seminars focusing on revival and soul winning training for the laity. Initially, we had three seminars, in Makambako, Mafinga and Tukuyu resulting in the gathering of leaders and laymen from 6-8 districts.

Then, Pastor Mande called us to the Ruanda district in Mbeya because he had a passion for laymen getting trained so that the gospel can go forward like a bush fire. Since so much of his time is involved in administrative functions, he is convinced that laymen can best reach people and that they are his partners in the pastoral call. This precipitated Kibidula training weekend at Ruanda Church in Mbeya. The topics included the Sanctuary message presented by Robert Onsare, Righteousness by Faith by Dan Matekere, and Soul winning by

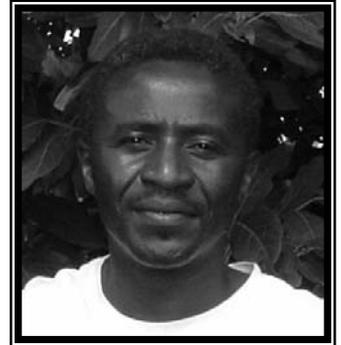
Sylvester Temboh and Watson Kiwovele.

The results were thrilling. People came forward saying, "I have never heard anything like this before." The excitement of revival and reformation was fully evident among the people. Before the weekend was over, elders from Mbeya Town Church came pleading for a seminar in their church. "Whatever the cost, we will pay it," they said. "We must have these seminars." Spiritual change in human being is the greatest miracle performed, and it is God alone who is able to do that.

The initial weekend seminars had been considered a test to see if there was a demand for this kind of training. As it turns out, it seems to be the very experience that people have been waiting for. Doors are opening wide for this outreach ministry. Over and over, during and after the seminars, people were saying, "Come to our

church (or district) and help us!" As we looked into their eyes and saw hunger for this kind of messages, we could see they meant every word of it. But people didn't stop there. Some asked, "Why don't you expand your school like Tanzania Adventist College or to include one month seminars for the working class?" After the seminar in Ruanda, one lady who is a police officer, asked if she can take her one month vacation and come to Kibidula for more training. Some said, "Maybe you could open branches of your program in places like ours and send teachers to conduct week-long seminars in our churches!" On and on question like these kept coming. We would like to respond, but we are limited by facilities, resources and personnel.

Two thousand years ago there was a call from Macedonia to 'come and help us'. Now today the same calls are coming. In Isaiah, God asks the same ques-



Sylvester Temboh

tion, "Who will go for us?" Surely this outcry from the laymen for training to finish the work is a sign of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in these last days. Thank you for your prayers as we consider how to handle these requests. "Come and help us!" is the call of the hour. If we cannot go, who will go? Isaiah 6:8.

May God bless you as you plan to help. Amen.

Muslims Meet Their Savior

(continued from page 1)

And so, night by night 800 people came to hear Keith tell about Jesus, and many more listened from their homes. People thirsty for truth. Without Korans of their own, they are told what to believe by deceitful leaders who control them with threats of devil curses. Our team trained the choir from Songea town to go home to home lifting up Jesus. We showed how even the Koran lifts up Jesus and the Sabbath. Hamisi, a Muslim who was baptized last year in Mahenge, told what Jesus had done for him in his life. People began asking, "How do I become a Christian?"

Finally, on the last Sabbath we worshipped in the newly constructed church building with 23 new believers (including 12 Muslims). After church the pastor

from Songea baptized them in a nearby river. That night Reuben lit a fire at the meeting and burned witchcraft charms that people wear to protect themselves from devils. We invited the main Islamic leader up front to make a few remarks. Possibly like Balaam of old, he spoke a blessing on us, "We are together. The preacher has presented the words of scripture fairly and openly during these meetings. If you did not understand, it is your own fault. If you made a decision to be baptized today, stick to your decision and don't turn back." In front of everyone he accepted the Bible that we offered him as a gift. Thanks to those who have donated funds for Bibles we were able to leave many behind with those who were studying.

Now, ten more have accepted Jesus and the Bible and are ready for baptism. This is only the beginning. We praise God for bringing Keith & Barb to the right place at the right time to strike a major blow in Satan's stronghold. Please pray for the follow up of this effort and that God will continue to pour out His Spirit on this village.



Muslim Leaders Worship in Newly Built Church.



Great Things At Kisada

In March 2004, we had an experience of the power of God's Spirit as never before. The village of Kisada was shaken to its very foundation when our 21 Kibidula evangelism school students joined the teaching staff for a historic evangelism meeting. In the past there had been over 10 evangelistic efforts in this village with very poor results. The village is infamous for being full of witchcraft and resistant to the Gospel. We set before us the remembrance of Jesus, of how he suffered and triumphed. In that memory we found our confidence. During the two months before the meeting we regularly fasted and prayed for courage in the upcoming meetings. Each week our students traveled by bicycle to the village to study the Bible in the homes of people.

One Friday we decided to fast and pray for grace and God's strength. To end the fast we met in a brushy area nearby to pray together. As we knelt one student prayed, "Lord, we join the birds as they give glory to your name that your Spirit may come down and help our helplessness." Birds

of different kinds began to gather around us in a marvelous way. As we closed our prayer, they flew away, but we took this as an assurance from God that our prayers were being answered. We claimed God's power as we knew we were inadequate to witness in this village without God's special blessing.

As the effort began, Ben Vinson was still constructing our new rainy season effort tent. Thanks to donated steel and tarps our dreams of doing efforts during the rainy season were now a reality. We did not set up the tent until the 4th day of the effort, and then, as if a signal had been given, the rains started. We were so glad for the tent and the people loved to gather under it! It was also the first chance to use our new horn speakers. Even people several kilometers away could listen to the meeting.

Trials came. As I presented certain key topics, the computer would stop working properly. Only after prayer would it continue. Then, after presenting the topic of the mark of the beast, I could not sleep. In the darkness I could

hear items dropping on my bed and on the meeting equipment. Four times this happened, but I could not see anything. After a troubled sleep, I awoke to find strange figures running around as if to attack me. I began praying and calling Jesus' name. Fingers tightened around my throat until I could not make a sound. Team members in the next room called out to me, but I could not answer. Then, I saw fire come down and burn up the strange figures and I had peace. The team and I prayed together praising God for the victory Jesus had given us over these devils. On other nights owls (used a lot in witchcraft) would come and call by my window. After prayer, they would leave.

By God's grace, 21 people were baptized and now 11 more are ready. One of those baptized could not sleep for several nights. When asked whether she had any witchcraft charms with her, she brought them out and they were burned up. Only then could she sleep peacefully. Later, she heard that the witches that tried to get to her in the night were driven away by a large fire. It is amazing to see the

power that is available to us when we pray. God is preparing a people, because the time remaining is short and He will return soon. Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement.



Newly Constructed rain-proof tent.

His Death Changed Attitudes

By Sylvester Temboh



Newly baptized church members in Kisada.

His name was Stephen Chande, an evangelism student who came two weeks late and left five weeks early. He came late due to a problem in securing travel money. He was middle aged and well respected by his fellow students, but it was clear from the start that his health was

poor. However, he tried to live as best as he could, making use of the time and the opportu-

nity to mend and maintain his relationship with God - which he did up to the time of his death.

With only five weeks to go in the session, his health took a sudden downturn. He went to his uncle's home in Iringa town to be seen at the Hospital there with the hope of rejoining his friends in a few days at Kisada effort. He did not return, but instead died there. When the news arrived, there were many tears streaming down the faces of his friends. Mental wheels began spinning

and considerations made as to what would happen next if their Christian stand is not solid. Some said that his death was an appeal to their souls.

Attitudes changed, fresh decisions for Christ were made. Sins were confessed. Sometimes tragedies help people to hear the Spirit of God speaking to them. The death of one student can awaken the hearts of others. Praise God that ONE has already died to awaken each of us eternally. Amen.



Kibidula Agricultural Training Center

By Jean-Luc Waber

In one month we will start a new program for the benefit of young people of the surrounding villages of Kibidula. Many children are not able to attend Secondary school and therefore have no possibility to receive a professional training.

With the help of REACH, Switzerland, and ASI we will help some of these children with an agricultural training. We are building a new school along with a new kitchen and cafeteria. The Lay Missionary Training and other programs will also use these new facilities. Right now the walls are up and the roofing can start. It is a challenge for us without experience in building and with the handyman on furlough. It is nice though to see the new structures taking shape. We have to make some of the

building materials ourselves, e.g. most of the big beams for the roof. We get a glimpse of what it meant many years ago to build your own house - first cut the trees, then saw the boards and beams, make sun dried panels out of mud and dried grass for the roof insulation, use handmade bricks, and so on.

We were happily surprised by the response to our advertisement. For the entrance exam and interview 43 young people showed up. Since we can only take 15 per year we need God's wisdom in choosing our students.

This program will enable them to increase their knowledge in agriculture and teach them sustainable farming. Working side by side with them daily will

allow us to point to the blessings of God in nature and His plan for us humans. (Gen 2:15 - *The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*) It is our prayer that many of them will also come



Kibidula Agricultural Training Center & Cafeteria



Current Kibidula Projects You Could Support:

- Church Building - \$ 1, 000 per church.
- Bibles for Prisoners - \$ 3.60 per Bible.
- Translation and Publication of Swahili Literature and Books.
- Lay Missionaries in un-entered areas - \$50 per month.
- Tuition for needy students at Kibidula Training Center - \$100 per student.

to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Thank you for your prayers and your support.



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