

Kibidula News

July - September 2010

ODC – One-Day-Churches for the Masai people by Jason Fournier

The following report from his trip building One-Day-Churches for the Masai people is an excerpt from Jason's blog. You are welcome to follow Jason's stories on his blog:
www.kibidulapilot.blogspot.com

... As we had agreed we left at 4:30 and headed down the road - or could I call it that? It quickly and steadily deteriorated into a path and even though they claimed that the trip was only 14 km, we only got to the first site around 8 am. This was a mixed group



It is rare that Masai pose for a picture

of Masai and others. I unloaded one church's worth of parts and only stayed long enough to get certain items done so I could take the necessary tools and head for site #2. The Masai there had been told that we were vegetarian but what does that mean? It's like asking someone - „You don't eat food?“ They went ahead and slaughtered a goat - I got into my truck and drove away. The next site was also not pure Masai but a pretty remote and interesting village. They took me and my truck way out down narrow and sometimes steep roads and through paths between corn fields where I had to drive over one row of corn on each side of the truck for quite some distances. The church site was actually in

a corn field so they had to clear out a bunch of corn. That was lucky for me as I missed the goat feast (YES!) and eventually got hungry ...

As evening came, we kept driving on (just a cow path by now between huts) with a whole lot of ladies and kids singing and dancing around the truck. When we finally stopped and got out I was surrounded by all these ladies shaking my hand and crowding around me and still singing and dancing. After the excitement died down, a very tall guy with greying hair took me by the hand and led me between some herds of cows and goats into his house. They had a little kerosine „candle“ burning so I could see. They took me into a little room. There was a hen with a bunch of chicks in a corner, a big cowskin „bed“ filled half the room. The bed is built in and is partly enclosed by stick walls partially separating it from the rest of the room. The



Building a church in a cornfield

room quickly filled with ladies who just stood around me trying to offer me milk or food, asking questions etc. They all had big grins on their faces. I was told to sit down on the bed. There was a constant flow in and out of the room but it was always full. As it was approaching 1 a.m. I wasn't sure what to do. I asked where the choo was and they said Masai don't have choos (outhouses). Ok, I walked outside and they left me so I went for a short walk ...

The next morning ladies and boys were busy milking cows, collecting the milk into beaded gourds by different huts. Bill and his crew arrived shortly and we moved to the building site. After things were

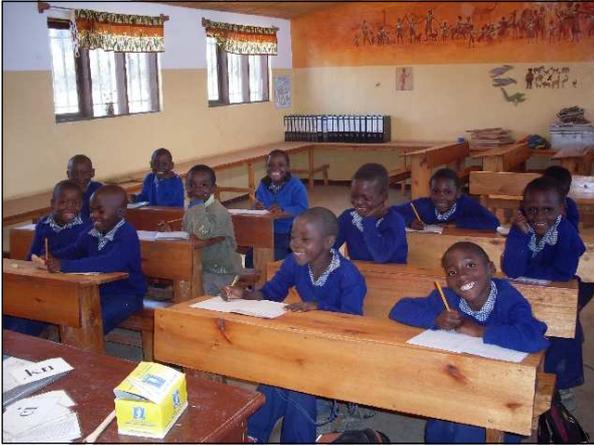


Big pot of milk tea brewing

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Praise and Petition - Primary School by Hanne Lise Vik

Over the course of the last five years, a lot has happened at our school. We have seen God's blessings in so many different ways. When I first came here, there were three children at the school, through the support of local government leaders we were



given the "go ahead" to start, and a few more were added. Still things were challenging, as we needed more Tanzanian staff. One by one God provided them for us, a translator and assistant, a pre-school teacher, student missionaries and finally a primary school teacher. As the last one came on board the school also was registered. Now it is a very attractive option for many village children from the area around Kibidula.

The original school building has three classrooms, and we have now outgrown that building. More rooms were needed for different purposes,

but to find the finances for building such a building is a challenge. Then God sends a group from the Czech Republic who wants to help build another school building, and they bring along finances to start off the new building, and partly finish it. At the moment walls are coming up, and window and doorframes are being put in. When the new school year starts in January we can start using our new building. What a blessing that is!

The finances are always a challenge, as we are a non-profit school. This year I want to say a BIG thank you to everyone who has supported us. As you can see at the back of the newsletter God has provi-

ded over 90 % of the running costs for this school year already, through cooperation with you. I sincerely pray that God will bless every one of you for your generous hearts. It is a great encouragement to us who are working at the school!

This year we also had a group of 7th grade graduates. The children who came to the school when it first opened have now finished their primary school

education, and are ready to venture out on new adventures. The month of September saw them sitting for their exams, and celebrate their graduation. We pray that God will continue to lead and protect them in their lives.

You might wonder at the headline of this article. Paul heard in his dream a man from Macedonia calling him to come over and help them. I am asking if you or someone you know might be called to come over to Tanzania and help us. I have been leading this school for 4 years now, there has been a lot of growth, but I really feel the school now needs someone who can take it beyond what I can do. Do you know of a teacher who knows Adventist education, speaks English, who wants to train local teachers to know Adventist education too and is called to be a missionary? If you do, there is a little school here which needs help!



Graduation of the seventh graders

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happening as they should, I took my camera for a little walk. I met some kids with hands full of goat parts - for breakfast? I needed to leave soon - but couldn't get away soon enough. A huge pot of milk (like 35 litres) was arranged for our breakfast and they had prepared some „chapatis“ (kind of pancakes). These were actually about 1 cm thick and were obviously deep fried. The oil ran down my fingers as I tried to eat some of it. They also brought some greens (they had been told we like greens) cooked in a pot but it was cooked to the point of being like a slimy layer of sludge in the bottom of the pot with a bunch of oil floating on top.

I usually don't take milk either but all things considered and being that we



A shepherd boy

were all being watched very closely by a group of people we didn't want to offend them. They were obviously going out of their way to please us, so I had to gulp down a big cup full of the stuff. Somewhere along the way someone had questioned Bill about what we eat. He mentioned he does eat fish occasionally. That got passed on as a message to the Masai pastor that fish should be prepared for Bill. The pastor tried to arrange that but the Masai women answered incredulously, „Who will cook it? We have to plug our noses around fish.“ They class fish with snakes.

Ezekiel and I took the guide with us to the next site and began working ... Several tall slender and very Masai looking young ladies watched Ezekiel

and I work most of the time. There were several men in the shade of a tree also watching. They are usually willing to help but have no idea what to do as Masai don't work. They herd cows and are very knowledgeable in that area but have no manual labor to speak of. The men usually wear red or red/purple plaid cloth around them while the ladies and girls usually stick to blue. Their cloth is tied on one shoulder and another piece around their waist. The cloth is wrapped loosely and is open on the sides and by now I've decided that although it isn't heavy on the modesty side, it is really very practical for these girls because besides being cool, the predominant activity is breastfeeding. It seems that every girl has a baby and is carry-

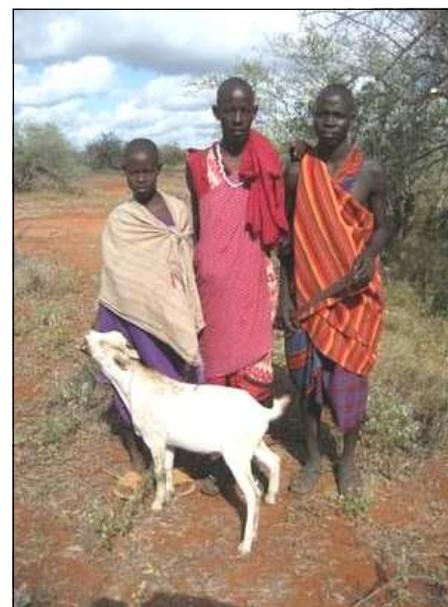


Jason with the stake hammer: quite a work out

the next site - located about two and a half hours away ... The next night we stayed in a guest house where I was looking forward to a bath (would be the first since Sunday which is a long time, since I've been practically living and working in cow manure every day this week) and a nice bed. The bed ended up with a board missing that holds the mattress up in the middle and the sponge mattress was worn out so it offered little comfort. There was only one shower room in the place and all the guys wanted to use it so I opted to try for some sleep.

Ezekiel and I again shared a cow skin bed while Bill had a bed next to us

with a mattress. This time I didn't have a sleeping bag but managed to sleep ok just laying on the cow skin. Morning dawned early. We started by unloading and preparing the site for building. I saw someone carrying an unfortunately looking billy goat away from the herd and decided it was time to load my truck and head to



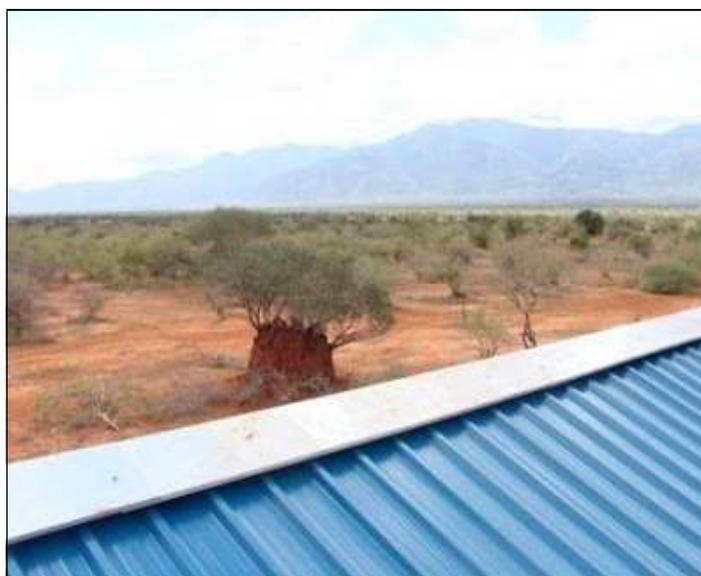
This goat is about to be breakfast



Bill in front of the truck with ODC material

ing it on her hip all day and feeding it every ten minutes ...

As we finished, they brought another meal of yet another slaughtered goat but this time they had some rice and beans also so I actually enjoyed the food this time ... Later the road was so narrow and full of corners between trees that I really had a struggle to make it with such a long truck. We arrived at some huts and were warmly welcomed by yet another group of Masai Christians. They had Masai worship which included lots of singing in their strange manner of singing.



View from the church roof over the Masai steppe

Friday: today was the first day we only planned on one church. I was slightly worried because our foundation stake pounders had both broken apart because of very hard ground all week ...

My building crew have been quite taken with the idea of eating goats every day. They now refer to them as *cabbages* and the goat pens as *gardens for the Masai*. I think they've gotten tired of goats by now. We've had 6 goats slaughtered in our honor this week ... On to Makanya where we were

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met by a pastor. He took us to a welding shop where two young boys welded up our pounders without welding shields. I wonder how long their eyes will last. We were taken to a nice guest house where I am now able to have my own room, plug in my computer, charge my phone and camera, sleep on a double bed with a thick mattress, and have my own shower ... I told them we are vegetarian. I have



Masai church members under the new ODC-structure

no worries in that line - folk here understand that there is a whole host of foods besides goats ...

Oh, we are here over Sabbath and then Sunday head out into Masai land again to build more churches. We've done seven and have seven more to go ...

Jason

To learn more about the One-Day-Church program please visit www.onedaychurch.org



This donkey brought us our lunch



Masai "Cabbage": freshly slaughtered goat for breakfast

Missionary in the Background by Irma Bauder

Did you ever wonder whether your skills could be used in the mission field? But because you are not a pastor, doctor, builder or pilot, you thought that your talents would not be useful?

If you answered one or both of the questions with yes, then please read on!

I was comfortably living in Switzerland in 2003, when I felt more and more impressed by God to consider serving abroad. I was not sure what God meant: "Shall I leave my comfortable life in Switzerland behind, my family, friends and the work I liked? But what can I do as an office secretary and accountant? Normally I only hear calls for medical personnel and pastors!" These were the excuses that I used to quiet the small voice in me.

But by mid 2004 God had prepared my heart in such a way, that I willingly said "Yes" when a call came to work in Asia! The job description was exactly

what I was looking for, in the world of finances where the ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) office needed help. Once arrived, I was thrown into the challenges of a new culture, which included different language, foods, smells, etc. And lots of kind and lovely people who were eager to teach the newcomer! I was amazed how my skills and talents were fitting into the need. True, I was often in the office and did not get to go on exciting "field trips". But I realized that my work in the background, like preparing reports for donors, paying salaries or phone bills, writing contracts, etc. was a crucial element for the organization. At the end of 2005 the office was closed by the government, and I was wondering where God would lead me next.

And – to my big surprise and rather unexpectedly – the doors opened to go to Africa. Africa?! I had never felt especially attracted to go to Africa;

there are just too many rumors about the Dark Continent! But I accepted the call and here I am, more than 4 years in Tanzania now, and I see how God is using my skills. Again, I find myself many hours in the office (sometimes way beyond office hours), but I know that the work as an accountant is essential to keep Kibidula going.

Do you have similar skills, in the area of administrative work that you would like to put to use for the Lord? And you don't mind to play a role (seemingly) in the background? Then please come and help us!! Our project here in Kibidula is in urgent need of people who have skills in lines of secretarial service, accounting, administrative assistance, Public Relations, Web-design, Newsletter writing etc. etc. The field is vast! The few people who are currently working in this area can only do so much in a day – and we see

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Voice in the Wilderness

by Watson Kiwovele

"I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Make straight the way of the Lord." *John 1:23*

This was the motto chosen for the revival meetings of Kibidula's lay missionaries, which took place June 25 to 30, 2010. John the Baptist was chosen by God for the responsibility of preparing Jesus' way; in the same way we recognize our 35 lay missionaries as chosen people to work in unentered areas (wilderness) to call people for repentance.

We were blessed by listening to their six months' work report and testimonies. We witnessed how God is working through them. The total number of new baptized members within those six months was 170. The missionaries are studying the Bible with 781 people. Five companies are mature enough to take care of themselves and their missionaries asked to be moved to another place to continue the work in new areas. Their hearts are burning for the work of God! They did not choose to go home to their native area; notwithstanding the challenges they will be facing. They would rather start working in an unentered area again!

Here are two of the testimonies shared during the meeting:

The old man

This 71 year old man lives alone in Mapogoro for his wife passed away two years ago. He had serious back pain, a hurting foot, and a hernia problem. In his condition he could hardly stand or walk. He was feared and hated by the whole village because of his witch-craft.

In July 2009, we had a special Sabbath worship in Mapogoro village, where we invited guests to attend. "I am not coming to the Guest-Sabbath because I can not walk," said the old man after I invited him to attend. But God provided a way for him to attend: the plot we were given to use for this program was close enough for him to walk to! While he attended the meetings he asked many questions which were beneficial to the other listeners. At the end of the meetings, he decided to follow Jesus!

The man asked us if we could pray



Kibidula's Evangelists during their retreat

for his health problems and so we did. We continued to encourage him to depend on God the Creator and Redeemer. We also raised money so he could go to the hospital for treatment. His pains are gone now and he eagerly tells others what God did for him through this church.

Through his testimony two other people have come to know Jesus and will soon be baptized. One of them is willing to help us secure a plot to build a church. It is amazing how God is leading!

Let us pray for them and the work in Idodi.



Amosi Lulandala is working in Idodi (Iringa-Region) where three people were baptized and 35 are studying the Bible.

Prayers

I arrived in Mtula village (close to Mafinga) to do preliminary work for upcoming evangelistic meetings. In my house-to-house visitations, I met a head teacher's wife who had been

unable to conceive for many years. After talking with her, I invited her to fast and pray with me for three days. Within the same month, to her big surprise, she became pregnant. I continued to visit her. She was not interested in using natural remedies to improve her health. A short time later, her husband became sick and I gave him natural remedies. He recovered quickly and this opened the door for his wife to also start using natural remedies.

In the village, I found some former church members who had backslid. They were quite discouraged, but I encouraged them to have prayer-meetings together and I fasted for them. The result was that many of them decided to come back to Jesus.

I praise God for his guidance and for answering our supplication even for the seemingly impossible. Please pray for our work in Mtula village.

Joyce Usimba is working in Mtula where 19 people were baptized and 17 are studying the Bible.



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a lot of room for improvement! Can you dedicate two years of your life for a work like this? Or would you even consider staying long-term? We will be happy to get to know you and have you as a part of our team. Please contact us at kibidula@gmail.com so we can learn more about you!

And what, if you **are** a pastor, doctor, builder or pilot and you are reading this? And you feel a calling to serve in the mission field? Then, of course, you are invited to write also! Our medical clinic for instance has been closed for some years now, due the lack of dedicated medical personnel. Take up the challenge and write to us!

At the end of time, it is not about me or us, about our position or the kind of work we did. The only thing that will count is, when our Lord will tell us: "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord." *Matthew 25:21*

Kibidula's current project needs

Donations received as per 30 September 2010

Completion of Hangar Building for New Airplane: \$9,000

14% received \$7,760 still needed

Dental Assistance to Villagers: Running costs per year \$1,700

\$1,700 still needed

School of Evangelism: Running costs per year \$6,500

21% received \$5,100 still needed

Prison Ministries: Running costs per year \$2,000

\$2,000 still needed

Lay Missionaries: Goal for 2010 – 35 Missionaries at \$90 per month: \$37,800

51% received \$18,700 still needed

Kibidula Primary School: Running costs per year \$9,000

91% received \$800 still needed

Service Opportunities

Kibidula is looking for:

- Administrative Secretary
- Accountant
- Medical Doctor
- Elementary School teacher
- Farm manager

If you are interested in working for Kibidula please contact us via e-mail, and we can give you more detailed information regarding these Service Opportunities.

The Lord needs YOU in His vineyard!



REACH Switzerland is a permanent sponsor of Kibidula, supporting students of the Agricultural Training Center.

Donations

You can donate online with your **Credit Card**. Go online to: www.outpostcenters.org and click "Get involved" - "Donate to Missions" - "Donate by Credit Card"

Transfers from Europe

Please contact us, or visit our website ("How to Assist Kibidula"), for bank details in Switzerland.

Checks from USA

Please write to:
Outpost Centers International (OCI)
5340 Layton Lane
Apison, TN 37302, USA

Please write your Check to "OCI" and specify "Kibidula" and the Kibidula project you want to support.

Thank you very much for your help!

Kibidula

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