



Team Cox

Advisory Board Memo

February 5, 2010

From Garry and Linda Brock Head of CMF urban poor.
Report on team meeting in Africa.

From: Linda Brock
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2010 4:28 PM
To:
Subject: 50 beans

Dear friends,

We spent much of January back in Africa. We started out in Kenya working with some of the Church members from the Community Christian Church of Kenya (the name of the churches that CMF started). These fine young men and one woman are strong committed Christians. They are a part of a new church plant that is near to the Nairobi slum of Kibera. The church is slowly growing and their commitment to serving the Lord is inspiring to see. Their recent vision is to begin another church actually inside the slum. It is a community where some of the church members live.

They want to go into the community using CHE (Community Health Evangelism) to reach out holistically to their neighbors. They understand the need for people to feel the love of Christ physically as well as spiritually. We spent 5 days training this new training team that will lead out in this new community.

Judy Fish (another CMF missionary) and I really enjoyed our time with these dear brothers and sister. We ended with a good time of prayer for the new area and for the team that is leading this work. What a blessing to again be working with Maasai and other tribes who have a vision to start churches. GOD IS MOVING IN NAIROBI.

From Kenya we flew to Ethiopia for a training for the newly formed Urban Poor team in Addis Ababa. God has been preparing this team to come together from different places. This training was the first time some of them had met each other. We managed to fit 15 days of training, team building, writing of a team vision statement, mission statement, covenant, and objective setting for the team and each team member all into 9 days!! The team was so focused and ready we really covered a lot in a short time.

The team for Addis Ababa is so needed. There are so many people in the city that are suffering due to poverty and oppression. This all came home to me on our last day in the city. We had done some surveying and prayer walking around the city, we had talked about the issues people faced, and we know the situation is dire. However, on that last day as we were driving past a small bus stop I saw a young boy I thought was going to be run over by one of the mini vans. He was down on his hands and knees in the street where the busses stop. He was scraping something up and I said, "that little kid is going to get himself killed". What was so important he would risk his life for it? He had spilled some chick peas in the road. He was furiously scraping up the peas from the dusty roadway. I could see risking life and limb if he had spilled a big gunny sack of beans. He was scraping up about 50 beans. Life or 50 beans for dinner was his choice.

It struck me how important the work there in Addis is. God's children need to know that he loves them, and he wants them to have a better life here and for eternity. I said a small prayer for the lost in Addis Ababa and also for our team that has such a calling to bring light into the darkness of the city. The Lord said the poor would always be with us, but that does not relieve us from ministering to bring light to those in the darkness, poor or rich.

PRAY FOR ADDIS ABABA AND NAIROBI AS THESE 2 TEAMS REACH OUT WITH THE LOVE OF GOD TO THE POOR IN THEIR CITIES.

Thank you.

Garry & Linda Brock