



Nairobi Great Commission School

OCTOBER - DEC 2008

THE HISTORIC YEAR AT NGCS

- "The year 2008, is not yet over but it will go down as one of our most successful years at NGCS" Daniel Chengo NGCS Principal

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When Kenya saw evil and good

It is not common for the window of evil and good to open up for a passage of both. Nature works in such away that it presents either of the two first, before unleashing the other. Most people hold a belief that evil/suffering must precede good. Those in this school of thought, strongly argue that after a great suffering /pain, there follows goodness beyond measure.

More often, evil is equaled to badness/suffering /pain or unrighteousness On the other hand, goodness is given the same definitions as righteousness or blessings. Early this year, the Kenya window, opened up for both evil and good! Evil and good? Yes, as much as there were so many bad things going on (killings and property destruction), there were as well so many good things that took place. It is now that stories of how faithful Christians, or just good men and women shielded their brothers from the other tribes



The Becklofs, the Principal, NGCS, with the students after the end of Principles and methods of teaching course May 17, 2008.

killer gangs are told. Emotional narrations on the ordeal, paints a picture of a heroine/hero who defied the larger tribe's resolutions to kill all members of other tribes that were considered enemy number one during the skirmishes. In so doing, they saved their brothers lives, by risking their very own lives! Now that the dust is settling down, such stories are narrated with a lot of emotions to the newsmen. This has opened another chapter to think about. That not all in tribe A were as bad as it was perceived back then. In fact, some aided their

friends from other tribes to escape the wrath of their fellow tribesmen. The year 2008, had it's own and unique challenges to Kenyans and NGCS. This year, not much was expected to take place at NGCS from an average man's perception. Especially after the country was engulfed in chaos that resulted from a disputed election.

However, just as Prophet Isaiah puts it down, " For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord " (Isaiah 55:8). Many Kenyans had lost hope in both their country and lives. Their thoughts had seen the end of any continuity in daily lives. But God quickly moved in to replace his superior thoughts to work for peace in this country. Using peace messengers led by the immediate former UN chief, Dr. Koffi Anan, God said YES for Kenya. This made it possible for NGCS to embark on her training efforts. Otherwise, the country was set for the darkest moment in her history. Kenyans have put that behind them in order to come out stronger to bring the country and all the tribes together. NGCS with her multiethnic in take ,stands a better chance

From the Principals Desk



POST ELECTION CHALLENGES

NGCS was not spared by the effects of post election violence as we started the year with a low enrolment of only 19 students, compared to 23 of the previous year. This number however, grew to 23 in the course of the year though one student Wilfred Kiita has since dropped due to lack of support.. We're hopeful that the number will grow to 25 as more students have applied for late admissions.

PROGRESS.

Since its inception in 1989, NGCS has to date graduated 234 students at the main campus and over 1,300 from the affiliate Extension Schools. Many of these graduates are Evangelists, Church planters, Ministers and missionaries in Africa. It is to God's glory that graduates of NGCS have over the years made such a tremendous progress in proclaiming the gospel and fulfilling the Great Commission in Africa.

PREPARATION FOR THE YEAR 2009

A tentative calendar of events for NGCS programs and activities for 2009 has been prepared. The school breaks on 28th Nov. 2008, for holidays and opens on 11th January, 2009. Classes will resume on 12th Jan, 2009.

January 2009 Courses

1. Homiletics 3 hours—Larry Conway
2. Church History 3 hours—Bill Searcy
3. Book of Acts 3 hours—Bill Searcy
4. O. T. Prophets 3 hours—Tom Opondo
5. Public Speaking 3 hours—Paul Musanya
6. Bible Doctrines 3 hours—Paul Pope
7. Computer Studies—Titus Onsomu

MAY JUNE BLOCKS:

- Teaching Methods—Ken Beckloff
- Intro. to Missions—Jim Reppart
- Islam in Africa—Tom Opondo
- Prison Letters—Michael Mutai

APPRECIATION.

I greatly appreciate the prayers and continued support especially by the friends of Nairobi Great Commission School in the U.S.A., the Churches of Christ in Kenya, staff, faculty and the students.

It is because of your prayers and support to this institution that has enabled us to continue equipping the servants for the Ministry in the Lord's Church.

THE PRINCIPAL'S PRE-AMBLE SPEECH (28th, Nov. 2008 Nairobi).

"We thank God that we have come to the end of our 1st year according to our calendar of events for the year 2008.

We want to thank God for the churches for their co-operation with us by sending you here. We honor the trust and the confident they have for this Institution. We believe we have been able to live up to the task for which we are here. We appreciate the Board's service in deliberating on the affairs of this Institution. We are very thankful for the support from Friends of Nairobi Great Commission School Abroad. We appreciate the hard work, commitment and co-operation of the staff, Faculty and students. We recognize that God has used all of us to be able to come this far this year 2008. We are closing today the 28th November, 2008. Reporting date for next year is 11th January, 2009 and classes begin on 12th January, 2009.

As a Theological Institution we have realized that your practical Ministry forms a crucial part of your training. As a result the Institution has decided that as from next year 2009, all students will worship and do ministry in one Congregation as opposed to the current arrangement. This plan will give all the students the op-

The Church's visit to the School.

For the first time in the history of the School, the Church and the School had a meal and a leadership seminar together. Close to 50 leaders from Churches of Christ in the Nairobi region were in attendance. The September 13th, 2008 event was an initiative of the Nairobi Churches of Christ *Ushirika* (fellowship) organizing committee. This is an arrangement where Church in Nairobi congregate in a Sunday afternoon for worship and Bible reading. Under the leadership of brother Jackson Owino of Kayole Church of Christ, God has used this arrangement to foster unity among the Churches in

Nairobi. NGCS Principal or his representative met severally with this leadership to put in place necessary logistics for the success of this event.

Basically, the Churches pulled together Kshs 21,000 (\$ 284) to cater for the day's ten O'clock tea and lunch. Indeed, it was one kind time treat for the student's who asked the Church to make frequent such visits for a treat in a delicacy they came with. The

Church got the opportunity to familiarize with the staff and students of NGCS in this event. The climax of the event was the seminar on effective Church leadership. The two speakers, Bernard Odeny and Tom Opondo are NGCS alumni. Bernard Odeny, a Minister with Dandora Church of Christ graduated in 2003. Tom Opondo graduated in 1999. He is the NGCS registrar and ministers at Magadi Road Church of Christ.

Key Speakers:

- Challenges of Christian Leadership by Tom Opondo
- Effective Church Ministry by Ben Odeny

Extensions news



Graduands receiving certificates and awards from the late local Member of Parliament Madam Lorna Laboso, local district officer (c) in the watch of the School's Principal, David Tonui (r) and NGCS registrar Tom Opondo-March 22, 2008

After postponing their graduation ceremony from February to March, Siriat Bible school (NGCS affiliate Extension), finally had their eight graduation. Initially, the graduation was scheduled to take place in the month of Feb. But due to the prevailing post election violence by then, the school's administration pushed the graduation to March 22, 2008.

In a well attended ceremony, the school's Principal David Tonui, reiterated the school's commitment in training servant leaders for both Church and community. In this particular graduation, thirteen graduated with various certificates in Bible, and computers. Tonui informed the gathering that the school has made some tremendous changes transforming into a regular school. What this means is that instead of the Bible program taking two years, it will now run for one year. This is possible since they now have a faculty that will be lec-

turing on weekly basis. Students don't have to wait for a period of -two months before they come back for another course.

Among the many dignitaries who came were the local member of Parliament madam Lorna Laboso,

District Education officer Mr. Tarino, Sotik District officer, local civic leader and several civil from the office of the president – local administration. Local leadership promised to lend a helping hand to develop Siriat Bible School through Constituency Development fund and local authorities. The School is in need of funds to build a dormitory.

“There is no real success without sacrifice. If you sacrificed today and never succeeded, someone else will succeed because of your sacrifice”.

Isaac Makori quoting an old saying during a fund raising at Rongai Church of Christ, 7th Dec, 2008, Nairobi, Kenya.

SEMINARS AT NGCS:

- NLB by Dr. H. Motsinger in January 14—16, 2009
- HIV/AIDS by Map International facilitated by Joseph O. Anyango in March 16—20, 2009

NGCS BOARD:

- First Meeting—Mar. 10-11, 2009
- Second Meeting—Oct. 1-2, 2009

PRACTICUM:

- Mar 9-15, 2009
- June 13-21, 2009

Elgon Bible School graduates

“Emotional graduation ceremony”

After the reigning of gun-shots and human killing that paralyzed all human operations in the Mt. Elgon region, finally Elgon Bible school ,NGCS affiliate Extension did graduate her students. In an emotional graduation attended by the former long time missionary family to Kenya and founder of the school, Fielden and Janet Allison.



Earlier on, the region was inaccessible due to insecurity caused by SBLF (Sabaoth Land Defense Force) a militia that took arms and fought from the forest in the name of defending their legitimate land from outsiders. This militia caused havoc for a bout two years before the Kenyan military intervened to restore order. However, the people and Christians in Mt. Elgon are yet to return to their lives due to extreme poverty caused by this fighting. The militia looted houses, raped women and children and set food stores a blaze. People in this region are in a dire need of farm supplies like seeds and fertilizer in order to begin their farming activities. It is only in this way that they can realize peace in the 'stomach' after the ceasefire. Here, farming was the major income generating activity before the war broke out. NGOs like the red cross have helped to some degree but still the need for the same here is big. This is the very region some Christians from the USA and Kenya did send some help to through NGCS and Fielden Allison. On behalf of the suffering Christians in this region, NGCS sends out a plea for farm supplies to this region. This will even help to get the NGCS Extension school begin operation.



Nairobi Great Commission School

Message from the chairperson, Board of Directors

NGCS Runs Exploratory Program with SAPTA (Support for Addictions Prevention & Treatment in Africa)

This year I became a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC). Membership requires a commitment to continuing education to stay fresh. A very high and increasing percentage of church members of all denominations and religions are addicted to a chemical or a compulsive unhealthy behavior. In a survey of ministers “94.4% of clergy surveyed consider alcohol and other drug abuse and addiction important issues in their congregations, yet only 12.5% received any coursework on this issue during their studies in seminary (CASA, *So Help Me God!* 2001).” Often conservative evangelical churches shy away from addiction recovery programs like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and are bombastic and judgmental in their interaction with those who struggle with addictions. They increase guilt. It sounds counter-intuitive but the guilt trip usually elevates the use of inebriating substances in order to muffle the pain of a higher guilt level. AAPC is encouraging all counselors and ministers to become informed regarding the issue of addictions, hence AAPC in conjunction with US National Association of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Counselors (NAADAC) and the US Dept. of Health and Human Services’ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offer the **Certificate in Spiritual Care giving to Help Addicted Persons and**

Families. This is a part of the Clergy Education and Training Project (CETP). Other partners in CETP are: the National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA); the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the Fetzer Institute; the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education; the Johnson Institute; many Denominational and State/regional entities; and involvement with Alcoholics Anonymous (AA); Al Anon; Alateen, etc.

In the USA “50% of all children (35.6 million) live in a household where a parent or other adults use tobacco, drink heavily, or use illicit drugs.” According to NACoA, in the USA “seventy six million Americans, about 43% of the U.S. adult population, have been exposed to alcoholism in the family. Almost one in five adult Americans (18%) lived with an alcoholic while growing up. Roughly one in eight American adult drinkers is alcoholic or experiences problems due to the use of alcohol. The cost to society is estimated at in excess of \$166 billion each year. There are an estimated 26.8 million COAs (Children of Alcoholics) in the United States. Preliminary research suggests that over 11 million are under the age of 18.” Most of these stats are for alcohol alone! Think of how much higher they would be if addiction to drugs, porn, gambling, eating, etc. were included. Research also indicates that most new infections of HIV (perhaps 75%) are related to alcohol and drug abuse. People loose inhibitions and have illicit and unprotected sex and use poor judgment in choice of sex partner(s). Addiction is a very big problem in the states where the research was conducted. If that’s how it is in the states, what about Kenya?

In Kenya ministers in the churches of Christ deal with addiction problems. It affects evangelism and church planting; it affects the spirituality and development of members and their families and clans. National estimates in Kenya are that 19

million people (63%) are either *infected* with alcoholism themselves or their family, friends and community are *affected* by alcohol addiction. AA is consistently the most successful recovery program in the world. Other programs like Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, etc. base their methods on the AA 12 steps. Yet, in the whole of the continent of Africa only the Republic of South Africa and Kenya have viable AA groups. Moreover, out of 30 million people in Kenya there are only 200 individual AA members in a handful of groups most of who are in Nairobi. Hence, the need is great for prevention and for programs to help free individuals, families, churches and society from the vicious cycle of addiction.

“SAPTA is the only addiction educational provider in Africa approved by the US National Association of Alcohol



and Drug Addiction Counselors (NAADAC), a professional certification body for addiction counselors in the USA. SAPTA is non-denominational but was founded in 2004 by Dr. William (Bill) Sinkele who is a recovering alcoholic” and who was a Roman Catholic Dominican priest and missionary for ten years. He gave up the priesthood in order to start SAPTA. In addition to training counselors and running AA meetings there is a SAPTA AA project in Kibera slum. SAPTA is also combining HIV/AIDS training in an effort to mitigate these double scourges. Continued p5 col 1.

Since I am completing the certificate in spiritual care giving and considering the statistics, I thought it appropriate to invite SAPTA to come to do a seminar on addictions at NGCS. The recent NGCS Board of Directors meeting concurred that a collaborative relationship be considered. SAPTA trainers came on Wed/Thu, 15-16 Oct 08 and taught the students, some staff and me. The relationship is exploratory at this stage but could lead to bigger and better things in the future. Venues at churches and NGCS extension centers for AA meetings, minister sensitivity and addiction counselor training could become a way of showing the love of Christ. The potential for ministry, for community involvement and improvement, and for Christian visibility could help in prevention as well as recovery of individuals as well as families.

It costs money to have trainers do the seminars or to teach the certificate or diploma in addiction counseling, but it is cheaper training in Kenya than the states. A certificate in addiction counseling costs around \$600 and a diploma \$1200. We don't have that kind of money. Nevertheless, we want to budget into the NGCS plan a seminar or short course to familiarize ministers and other church and community leaders with how best to deal with addictions and the prevention thereof. This would fit nicely with the proposed NGCS plan to work with MAP International in an HIV/AIDS training program. Pray for us to find the money and pray for us to put together a program that incorporates the addiction and HIV training.

Dr. William (Bill) H. Searcy

'Ukiona vyaelea ujue vimeundwa'

(When you see beautiful things know that they have been made). An old Swahili proverb that teaches people to work hard for good things they admire.

NGCS Plans/Needs:

1. Expansion of Curriculum to include courses such as Youth Ministry, Community Health & Development.
2. Establishment of education fund for faculty development.
3. Source for funds to purchase a new college bus for transport.
4. Expansion of facilities to accommodate more students especially for married couples.
5. Land purchase for future expansion and upgrading of the college.

NGCS on the Web

www.nairobigreatcommission.com



Above: LCD projection display of the NGCS web on the wall during launching. Nov 28th, 2008.

It is now official and confirmed, NGCS is on the web. For purposes of keeping all of the Churches (both local and international), the donor community, the alumni and all the FONGS (friends of NGCS), NGCS has now joined the global village home.

The School's website was officially launched by none other than the brain behind NGCS brother Jim Reppart. In a brief ceremony conducted on 28th, Nov, 2008, Jim praised the move by the school's management for going that direction. In attendance too was Larry Conway, a faculty member at NGCS, the Principal, his staff and students.

In the most recent board of directors meeting, it was resolved that time was ripe for NGCS to go on the web. The meeting authorized the Principal to look for a qualified personnel to handle this project. Without hesitation, brother Chengo sought for various professionals from whom he chose the most qualified for the job.

Perhaps this will mark a new era of disseminating information from NGCS to her clients. Just like most websites, this web has information about NGCS inception, courses taught, how to apply online, the alumni, faculty, location and contact information.

According to the people who developed it for NGCS, it has a provision to update information from time to time. This means what was placed during launching will not be there forever. On behalf of the staffs and the students, the Principal NGCS takes this opportunity to thank the board of directors for authorizing the commencing and funding of this noble project. Many thanks to Jim Reppart for accepting to launch the web out of his busy schedule while in Nairobi.

Readers of this newsletter are hereby asked to suggest to the managers of this website on how and what would be in-



cluded to improve its face and informative purposes.

Front: (L) Daniel Chengo, NGCS Principal, right, Jim Reppart

Back: (L-R) Mrs Winnie, Dickson Bett Julian Orimbo & Tom Opondo during the official launch of the NGCS website 28th, Nov, 2008.

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Thank you all for supporting NGCS in prayers, finances, moral and goodwill, entrusting us with your preachers and leaders to train, believing in the NGCS mission and vision, choosing NGCS for quality and Biblical training. May God bless you all.

COMMUNITY HEALTH EVANGELISM – CHE COURSE

Nairobi Great Commission School, located in Kenya serves Churches of Christ within Kenya and around Eastern Africa. The graduates from NGCS get certification on Bible and Missions at two levels: Advanced Diploma and Advanced Certificate. In the process of expanding programs at the school, new courses are on the line to ensure holistic ministry for the graduates. This has been prompted by the Kenya community needs served by Churches of Christ, and the students' personal development which for now greatly interdependence with our mother churches in the USA.

In response to the need to help students get exposed to areas that can promote church-community relations, NGCS included Community Health Evangelism (CHE 3 credit hours) in the curriculum. Community Health Evangelism as a course will give students the basic knowledge and skills to select appropriate communities and start a CHE project. The lessons cover the importance of integrated physical and spiritual ministry focusing on prevention of disease along with strong evangelism and discipleship applied at the home level. The students get to discuss programmatic concerns including the importance and practicability of community ownership and sustainability within local resources.

Lesson objectives:

Participants will understand the relationship between Worldview and development as well the role of CHE in changing worldviews. Multiplication should be the end result of any program if it is to have lasting impact. Addition is not sufficient. Multiplication is described in both spiritual and physical ministry. Participants see that Jesus came to meet the needs of the whole man, not just one aspect of his/her being: Great Commandment, Great Commission and Great Concern resulting in Great Commitment. Participants understand the different elements and a definition of the Biblical basis of community. Participants understand that God made every thing healthy, but sin adversely affected our health. Good health is living in harmony and being whole. That the participants know how to communicate the Gospel in a clear and simple way. That participants identify the importance of follow up and sound discipleship. Participants to understand the dangers of relief, the differences between relief and development and the situations where each should/should not be used. Participants understand prevention is as important as cure in health care. That participant understands their future job as trainers. To understand the validity it is not an option

to integrate a physical and spiritual ministry. It is a requirement.

According to Franklin Graham in his writing says, "If you only see the physical needs you'll become a humanitarian. If you only see his mental need, you become an educator, and if you only see his political oppression, you become a revolutionary. If you only see his spiritual need, you become a religionist. It's only through seeing the whole man, with a strong emphasis on the spiritual, that you become a Christian witness, a missionary and a communicator of God's Word". Community Health Evangelism is a realistic ministry which we desire to encourage our students to in their church planting and maturing ministries. It will help to bring balance in ministry by being responsive to the needs of the community being served. This course is aimed at equipping students to minister to the whole need of an individual and be obedient to both Great Commandment and Great Commission. We trust this would bring Godly view of a Christian Community which is characterized by fellowship, sharing, commitment to the doctrine of Jesus Christ and devotion Psalm 22:3; Romans 13:9; 2 Tim 2:2; Rom 12: 1- 2).



In conclusion, three approaches stand out in this program that students can follow community involvement into the CHE projects such as Family-Based Approach, Community-Based Approach and Church-Initiated Approach. Family-Based Approach considers a Christian family that becomes a nucleus for the future development of the CHE projects. The family must be highly committed and mature couple in order to champion the program. Unlike the first one, Community –Based Approach is dependent on establishment of committee chosen by the community who in turn mobilize the people and give technical supervision. They also have responsibility to do Participatory Learning Activities (PLA), and hold School Health Screening to ascertain the health status of children in village school in order to create awareness with parents of the problems affecting children.

On the other hand, Church-Based Approach demands the churches to view this strategy as a means to reach out to their non-Christian neighbors in holistic way, rather exclusively using it for their own church members. The Church-Based Approach has the following guidelines: The church vision for evangelism and to minister physically in the community

The church concern with man as a whole and not just his spirit
Readiness to win people to Christ and help them grow as whole persons
The church views development as being important for the community
The church willingness to work initially with the unsaved community members as a Way to reach them for Christ
Development is not just for the church or church members, but for the community

In conclusion, we realize that the task to evangelize, to grow and mature churches, to serve communities and to build reliable Godly servants is too big for one person. Therefore, our great task is to teach students to address their own problems including training them to train other people in the church community. In this way, they will help communities meet their spiritual and physical needs, promote good health and transfer the biblical truth to their communities. Students are encouraged to take up *multiplication method*. It refers to the **winning of men and discipling them to win, build other faithful men who will be sent to win, build and send others, generation after generation** (Matt. 28: 19-20). In transferring the truth students are expected to pass on truth from one person to another and then to another, generation to generation without distorting or diluting the original biblical meaning (II Tim 2:2).

Tom O. Opondo
Registrar, NGCS

Contact information:

Principal:
Daniel Chengo
Nairobi Great Commission School
P. O. Box 15179- 00509,
Langata—Kenya.
ngcs@nairobigreatcommission.com
www.nairobigreatcommission.com
+254-02-890477 (office).
+254-712470335 (cell).

Board of Directors chair :
Dr. William H. Searcy
P.O. Box 600-00621
Village Market Nairobi,
Kenya,
wsearcy@africaonline.co.ke (email)
www.SearcyCare.com (website)
+254-20-7121434 (hse).
+254- 722-530189 (cell).

US Contact:
Dr. Milton Wells
Stillwater Church of Christ
1104 N. Prairie Rd.
Stillwater, OK 74075
Ph. 405-372-8774
Mewells@aol.com