

Finding God's Heart



RICK AND KARIN FENDICK—LEARNING AND SERVING IN AFRICA

May 2016

A full ministry day with Christian Care Centre

The brick walls of the church provided shade from the midday sun as community volunteers gathered to worship, pray and talk. After a short encouragement from Romans 8 we began our home visits. Our first stop brought us to the one room home of Mukuzo, a forty year old male who was once a mini bus driver. HIV+, his wife ran away when he became ill. He is living alone, fighting TB, relying solely on the goodness of neighbours to provide little bits of food. Though his hearing is impaired, we attempted to share words of hope.

As God's presence filled the room, the rest of us were encouraged by the words, even if Mukuzo couldn't quite hear them. He remained silent, but his eyes, prominent above shrunken cheeks, spoke volumes; pain and hunger reaching out for relief. When we presented our gifts of mealie meal and cooking oil those same eyes began to shine as tears filled them, threatening to pour. As we said our goodbyes, the image of his eyes remained with me, as I prayed that God would answer all the unspoken questions they were asking.



Our last visit was to Elizabeth, a widow with eight children, seven of whom live in the Congo. Only her youngest child remains with her. With few seats in the tiny room, Elizabeth patted the end of her bed, asking me to sit beside her feet. I was almost afraid that her thin, brittle looking, illness ravaged body would snap. She was barely able to sit up in bed – but her face was radiant with the joy of the Lord. At fifty, she looked more youthful than many younger women we met earlier. Words of healing and truth were declared in a house that was all at once a holy place. Psalm 118:17: ***I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done*** and 2 Corinthians 4:16: ***Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day*** were proclaimed and

declared over the life of this beautiful believer. We laughed, and sang the praises of Jesus, lifting our hands with Elizabeth as she rejoiced in Him.

As those who had come to simply serve, we ended our day filled beyond measure by the goodness of our God, and the wonder of His extravagant love.



Every day, over 4,000 people working in more than 110 countries are serving with OM to bring a message of hope to the peoples of the world. Working on every continent and on every ocean (via ocean-going ships), Operation Mobilization seeks to demonstrate and proclaim the love of God.

Wherever possible, Operation Mobilization works in partnership with the local church, encouraging and supporting local believers. Where there is no church we seek to plant churches.

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Rick's Ruminations



MEET MOSES,
RICK'S DISCIPLE
AND FARMING
ASSISTANT - A
HARD WORKER
WHO HAS TAKEN
OWNERSHIP OF
HIS POSITION

The time since our last newsletter has been quite productive. First I met Moses, hired him as my assistant, gave him a little less than a week of training and then turned him loose! He took ownership of his position and now I have him overseeing the students as they do their practical chores.



I am also excited about the many training opportunities that are falling into place for when we return in September. Mango farmers, churches and even an entire

village, plus the missions class! Looks like I will be busy. Hopefully I can schedule them all in before the rains begin and planting takes priority over all else.

In April we started going out on Thursdays to minister with our church and came face to face with the poverty of the "real Africa". It is heartbreaking and rewarding and now one of my primary motivations to serve.

Africa is a continent with many resources but still needs to learn how to use them so that it may become self-sustaining, even prosperous. What a blessing to be called upon to help create solutions.

.....
: We ambled up the road today, from the house to the nursery to :
: capture flora and fauna in pixels and I was captivated by :
: footprints left in the sandy, impressionable dirt. :
:



: Was it perhaps our homeward journey, so swiftly approaching, :
: that alerted my eye, a reminder to tread softly, to take each step :
: with Kingdom purpose? :
:

**I promise you what I promised Moses:
'Wherever you set foot,
you will be on land I have given you'**

Times of sharing

We've had many opportunities to speak in churches large and small, and have been blessed to work with very good interpreters.



Here Rick preached a communion service and Karin encouraged a small village church.

Pray with us

- for safety as we travel - both to and from Africa and in Canada
- for sweet times of communion with family and friends
- for God's perfect plan for our Canadian home as we leave again
- for the ability to share our experiences and vision with clarity
- that we will have times of rest, refreshment, and refining of our relationship with the Lord
- for Moses as he takes full responsibility of the farming work; that he would fully trust and rely on God
- for continued growth in those we disciple and mentor even as we will be separated for a season
- for some of our spiritual children as they step out on their own missions journeys: Nomsa as she begins to serve in Chipwa Village at Lake Tanganyika and Cornelious as he prepares for serving in Jordan.
- safe and peaceful elections in Zambia in August

*Talking to
men for God
is a great
thing, but
talking to
God for men
is greater
still.*

E.M. Bounds

Living and loving for His glory

RICK AND KARIN FENDICK—LEARNING AND SERVING IN AFRICA



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