

NEKESA - "The Harvester" January, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

You probably have heard that there has been and is violence in Kenya. It seemed good to write you about conditions there so that you may have peace and so that you will know how to pray.

The violence is a result of the recent national election in which the incumbent president was re-elected. The opposition Orange Democratic Movement alleged that they had won the election and that the vote counting was incorrect. While they used paper ballots, the local tallies were put in a computer and the computer results were alleged to not match the paper ballot counts. The incumbent president was sworn in for the next term on the government TV station 10 minutes after the vote result was announced. The opposition protested this, the government banned protests, shut down all but the government media and violence ensued.

The land area that comprises Kenya contains 42 nations (tribes) in one state. A nation is a group of people with a common language, customs, culture and beliefs. A state is a government (organization) that governs one or more nations. Since Kenya became independent, the idea of the state of Kenya being considered a nation by all its citizens has been promoted. Many people now reside outside their traditional tribal territories. The Kikuyu tribe of central Kenya is the largest and most prosperous. Many people of Kikuyu descent have spread out over Kenya and own many or most of the businesses in most towns. The first and second (current) president are from the Kikuyu tribe.

The opposition leader in the last election is from the Luo tribe whose traditional land surrounds Kisumu. The violence was originally focused on members of the Kikuyu tribe and, for instance, nearly all the businesses in Kisumu were looted and burned. In Eldoret, which is in Kalenjin tribal territory, they attacked the Kikuyu people first. Then the Kalenjin began attacking all people from other tribes. In one event it was reported that an Assembly of God church in which Kikuyu women and children had taken refuge was burned with the people in it. The airports in both cities were closed. Similar things are happening all over Kenya. This is causing a resegregation of the people into tribal areas and has made it impossible to travel safely. Because travel is not safe, the economy has come to a general stop. People are staying close to home and trying to survive.

Justus reports that in Bungoma they hear gunshots, many homes have been burned and it is still dangerous to go out but the situation is quieter than it was. So many people sought refuge at the police station that they had to be moved to Bungoma High School where there was room for them. One of our members is headmaster at a local school and one of his employees was shot. Since the police were too busy and there are no ambulances, he used Justus' Peugeot to take him to the hospital. Someone threw a rock through the windshield on the way.

Justus said that many members have fled to their traditional tribal lands. Between the loss of people who fled and the economic slowdown, church income has fallen drastically even as ministry demands are exploding. We have been teaching that we are one in the Body of Christ and that we are not to have division, pride and greed operating in the body. This situation is certainly putting the principles of faith, love and unity to the test here. It happens that Justus is from the Luo tribe and Margaret is from the Kikuyu tribe. Their focus on Jesus and their loving relationship is a demonstration to the people of that unity and many say that it helps them.

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The personal and economic loss to most people in Kenya is tremendous. Some of the people in the church have lost their homes and businesses. We are asking the Lord how He will have us help the people. We are providing food to families who had to take refuge for safety. I have talked to both Mama Doris and Justus and they report that all our people are OK as far as they know.

Justus asked us to pray that the church will stay full of the Holy Spirit and power so it can truly function as the Body of Christ with His love and power. He also asked that we pray that tribalism will be contained, that the people will be able to work out the election peacefully and equitably and that the whole country will come into Christian revival.

Violence is indeed rocking Kenya. Read inside for the details.

labor with God

with us to sow

seed (the

Word). We

believe that it is God's will to bring the next two lines to pass.

Violence Rocks Kenya Co-
People Turn To God! and
Country Changed - Peace Reigns! Godly

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