



# Spruce Grove Newsletter

Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake, MN

Vol. 10

No 7

October 2005

## Greetings from Kenya!

This month we thought we would share our daughter Eno's e-mail from Kenya even though it is rather lengthy. Eno is spending five weeks with Deb Hendrickson (Daughter of the late Pastor Ken and Verna Hendrickson) who has been working as a missionary nurse in a remote village in Kenya for more than ten years. Many of you recall that Eno was born in Nigeria when we were there in 1976 and 1977. She has always wanted to visit Africa and an opportunity came now for her to do so. The village they are in is so remote that they will not be able to communicate by phone or e-mail until they return to Nairobi at the end of October. The following are excerpts from her journal.

Dear Family and Friends,

### Day 1-September 20/21

My flights from Seattle to Amsterdam and Amsterdam to Nairobi were long, but uneventful. However, the Lord gave me the opportunity to have some interesting conversations with the people sitting next to me. I got to Nairobi around 7:50 pm and went through the Visa/Passport line and got my luggage without any trouble. Then I went out (around 8:20 pm) to meet Deb, the missionary I will be staying with, who said she would be waiting for me, but I did not see her anywhere. I walked around, stood and waited as I was heckled by taxi drivers who wanted to take me to my destination, but I told them no. Finally I decided to go into a little shop in the airport where a person could make telephone calls. I remembered Deb had emailed me that she was staying at the Mennonite Guest House (MGH), which is a common place in Nairobi for missionaries of various organizations to stay. I asked for a telephone directory and had them try to call the guest house, but unfortunately no one answered.

I started to get very concerned, so I decided to call a missionary couple, living in Nairobi, who are friends of a friend of mine in Seattle. I told them about my situation and we concluded that it would be best for me to take a taxi to the guest house to see

if I could get in before it got too late. They said that if I was not able to find Deb or get a place to stay at the MGH to take the taxi to their house and that I could stay with them. I asked the woman who was in the phone kiosk if there was a safe taxi that I could take. She told me that it was pretty safe to take a taxi in Kenya, but that at night women should be careful. Then she said that she was a taxi driver and could take me out to the MGH. I decided to do that—I felt much safer going with her than with the male taxi drivers who kept harassing me. I didn't know if leaving was the best thing, but since it was already about 9:30 pm, I thought it was best to get out of the airport.

The taxi driver's name was Jo and was very nice. During the course of our conversation, she said she is also a born again believer. That was very exciting. We talked about her background and the spiritual condition of Nairobi. It was very nice to visit with her and calming to hear some familiar worship music on the radio (in English and familiar tunes sung in Swahili). It brought tears to my eyes realizing how the Lord was watching out for me.

Jo got me to the MGH around 10 pm, where the guard let us in after I told him that I was a guest of Deb's. The guard brought me to Deb's room. She had mistakenly written on her calendar that I was coming on Thursday evening (one of the days we had originally discussed) and not Wednesday evening. Deb felt really bad about it, but I told her not to because it was a faith building experience for me. She was impressed that I had made it to the guest house riding with a Kenyan female taxi driver who was a believer! She told me that it is very possible that I had witnessed an angel, which may have been the case. (Other people who have been in Kenya for a long time said they have never seen a female taxi driver.) Whether it was an angel or a Godfearing woman whom the Lord placed in my path, I know it was by the hand of the Lord that I made it safely. I am reminded of the Scripture that says the Lord encamps around those who fear him. The Lord certainly does watch over his children.

## Day 2 –September 22

Today I tagged along with Deb as she was running various errands. Things did not go according to plan as is the case here very often in Africa (according to Deb). We picked up some cassette players that are crank-operated. They give them to people in the village along with cassettes containing health messages and sometimes spiritual content. We then went to a shopping mall where there are some modern grocery stores where we were able to buy food for the next month. I guess there is very little food available in the village—only maize flour, fat, and camel’s milk.

We went to pick up her vehicle that was getting two new tires. We were about ready to leave when I noticed that one of the bolts on the rear wheel had been sheared off. At first they told us there was no way they could fix the bolt, but the owner came out and said he could have it done in an hour. We decided to wait to have it fixed. Once they finally got the housing off and removed the sheared bolt and another bolt that was not in good condition, they said that they needed to go somewhere to buy new bolts. After an hour had passed, they kept saying, “It will be ready in 10 minutes.” We had to be somewhere by 4:30, so finally after being there over an hour and a half, the owner got a driver to take us to the appointment. Unfortunately, we still do not have the vehicle and were hoping to leave for Arsim in the morning, but we will not be able to do that. We still have to pick up relief food, medicine, and other materials before we can leave. As soon as everything is ready we can leave. I must say that although I have only been here for about 24 hours, I have seen a lot and have witnessed many frustrations that the missionaries here face. Already thus far, I can see the hand of God protecting me and increasing my faith.

## Day 3 –September 23

This morning I got up a little after 6am. I think I am over jetlag now since I went to bed at 10 pm. I feel pretty good. Yesterday I felt like I was a bit in a haze. We were going to leave early so we could get everything done that we had hoped. We walked to the “bus” stop and took a matatu to go to pick up the truck after repairs. A matatu is a van-bus that can hold up to 14 passengers. They are privately owned, but are a form of mass transit. The following picture shows a matatu.

The traffic here is pretty bad, so after sitting in the matatu with things at a standstill for about 10 minutes, we decided to get out and walk because it was faster.



We picked up the Land Cruiser with the bolts finally replaced. Then we made our way out to the industrial area of the city to pick up building supplies, so that I can make screens for Deb’s windows in Arsim. The man who helped us is a believer originally from India. He was very good to us and gave a discount because the items were for the mission.

Then we stopped at a place that makes what they call “unimix.” This is a high protein hot cereal mix that they give to the young children who are undernourished in the village. We got 15 25-kg



sacks of the cereal which cost about \$12.50/sack (about \$0.05/100g serving).

Following that, we worked our way through the traffic, which is much crazier than any traffic I have ever seen before.

We ran into another traffic jam which was mostly caused by workers painting lane stripes/arrows on the road. They paint them by hand. It was very



interesting to see a group of about 15 workers, with only 4 people working. I guess they are supposed to

do the work during evenings and weekends, but they were doing it on a busy Friday morning instead.

The next stop we made was at a flour mill. This mill makes a special cereal mix that has more nutrients than the unimix. This “uji” is given to



people suffering with AIDS or anyone in the hospital who has lost a lot of blood. We got a 50 kg bag of this mixture which cost about \$50 and is about twice as much as the unimix per weight. The owner/manager of the flour mill was

named Nancy and is pictured here.

Nancy is a Kenyan woman who told us she was born again and asked if she could pray for us. She had such a sweet spirit and greatly ministered to Deb and I through her prayer. She also sent us away with a 50 kg bag of beans for the village as a gift. In addition, she had 1 kg of her special cereal mix made for me without wheat! I am anxious to try it.

This picture is of the milling/sifting room, where evidence of flour dust is very obvious in the air. The



picture shows the workers making various mixtures for customers as well as the special mix for me. Her

workers were focused and efficient.

We put the sacks into the truck which we had to park in the median because there was no other reasonable place



to park as you can see in the picture.

In the afternoon, we ran some other errands and brought most of the load for Arsim to the WMPL (World Mission Prayer League) guest house, which we moved to today since it was more economical to stay there.

#### **Day 4 – September 24**

We found out today that we will not be able to leave Nairobi until Tuesday morning because the nurse (a Kenyan from the western side) who needs to ride up to Arsim with us cannot join us until Thursday after his sister-in-law’s burial on Wednesday. There is no public transportation to Arsim and the cost of renting a vehicle is extremely expensive, so we will wait for the nurse in Maralal (about 6-8 hours from Nairobi) to ride with us to Arsim (about 8 hours from Maralal). In the meantime, we are getting many things done here in Nairobi, and we have also been able to take time to relax and get a little rest.

This evening we had a chance to visit with a missionary couple who just moved to Nairobi after being 18 years in Ethiopia. They are now going to focus on work in Sudan, so they will make Nairobi their base.

#### **Day 5 – September 25**

Today was pretty laid back too. We went to services this morning, went out for lunch, and then relaxed the rest of the day. This evening I went to visit the couple who I called when I got to the airport and didn’t know what to do. They are missionaries to Somali refugees here in Nairobi. I had dinner at their home and we ate Ethiopian food. It was fun to meet them and their children.

Today we found out that the nurse we were going to wait for cannot go with us on Thursday because the burial was moved to Friday. We will go on ahead without him because Deb cannot be away from Arsim for that long.

#### **Day 6 – September 26**

We had a very busy day today. We got many errands accomplished (getting a truck battery, buying paint, getting polio vaccines and anti-snake venom, etc.) and packed the vehicle for our journey tomorrow morning. (While we were packing the truck, I saw a monkey on the roof of the house.) There will be four of us traveling in the truck, three (Deb, Matthew-our guard, and I) in the cab and Drew (missionary intern in Arsim) will be in the back with the boxes. We are planning to travel 6-8 hours tomorrow to Maralal where we will stay the night. Then, Lord willing, we

will make it to Arsim on Wednesday. Once I leave Nairobi, I will not be able to email or call.

This evening we decided to have floats prior to leaving. Deb saw root beer (which is not usually in Nairobi) for sale at a specialty store in the shopping mall, so she bought it. I bought 1 liter of ice cream, so we made floats. Deb said it was her first float in Kenya—she was thrilled.



### Summary

Although I have only been here for a few days, I feel like I have learned a lot. I think I am getting a pretty realistic view of what a full time missionary in a remote village must do to keep things operating. The many errands that have to be done when coming to Nairobi can be overwhelming especially when some of them can end up taking much longer than anticipated and because the costs can be very great.

I am seeing how weary, lonely, and discouraged missionaries can get. I met a number of missionaries from many different countries at the Guest Houses. They all had different stories but love the Lord and the people of Africa. Pray for them.

Matthew (our guard) has been teaching me a few words in Swahili and Samburu. I am excited to learn more of the language.

Through our many errands, I have been able to meet and visit with a number of Kenyan people. Most of the Kenyan people that I have met so far have been very kind and beautiful. I am anxious to see the Samburu people in Arsim. It is interesting that many Kenyans here in Nairobi have thanked Deb for going up to Arsim because it is so remote.

The satellite phone is not working, and Deb will have to wait until November to get a new one. Hence, once I leave Nairobi, I will not be able to communicate with you.

Please pray for us as we travel—it is not an easy journey. Pray for the people of Arsim—especially the women as they have a very hard life. Pray that

revival would break out in the village. Also, pray that I will be used by the Lord while I am here. Pray that my ears would be open to hear what He is speaking to me.

I pray that the Lord will be near each of you—as His word says, “Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.”

In God’s abundant love,  
God’s Peace,  
Eno

## **A 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the Spruce Grove church is planned for the October 21, 22, and 23**

*Friday evening Service— 7:30 P.M.*

*Saturday evening Service— 7:30 P.M.*

*Sunday Morning Service— 10:30 A.M.*

*Dinner*

*Sunday afternoon Service—1:30 P.M.*

*Including History of Church followed by  
Coffee and fellowship*

Speakers for the week-end will be Pastors  
Gordon Nelson of Laurium, MI and  
Orval Wirkkala of Kingston, MN  
Along with Elmer Yliniemi

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match  
all donations to church building fund up to  
\$1300

### **Spruce Grove Apostolic Lutheran Church Wolf Lake, MN 56593---Phone#218-538-6540**

Pastor-Elmer Yliniemi	V. Chm.- Harvey Aho
19505 Co. Hwy. 39	Tel.-218-538-6640
Frazee, MN 56544	Sec.-Joshua Aho
Tel-218-538-6615	Tel.-218-538-6719
Chairman-Raymond Aho	Treas.-Jeremy Howard
Tel.-218-538-6735	Tel.-218-564-4483
Sunday School Superintendent -Jason Aho	
Newsletter Editor - Miriam Yliniemi	