



Christian Mission Aid
where the resources meet the needs



"Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ." Romans 10:17

By Rogers Wambua

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KENYA

Infinite amount of joyous emotions were displayed during a colorful graduation ceremony that marked the end of a four-year long Leadership Training for 55 pastors from Turkana. To them it was dreams come true; to get a certificate in theological training. This marked the 41st graduation ceremony taking place since CMA initiated the pastors training programs in 1993.



Excitement filled the air as the graduates adorned in graduation gowns, made a procession into the Milimani Church Hall in Lodwar. Family and church members traveling from far and near came to share this special event with their pastors. The congregation cheered and clapped for each one of the pastors as their names were called out for the presentation of the certificate. It was a momentous

occasion recognizing the dedication and accomplishments of the pastors and giving them the encouragement and inspirational impetus to go and reach their communities for Christ.

Under-development in Turkana continues to hamper the spread of the gospel. Turkana is largely unreached with Christianity and are peoples group that are still deeply entrenched in traditional practices of idol worship, cattle rustling and polygamy. The Turkana people are mainly nomadic pastoralists who walk long distances in the dry, barren land to look for water and pasture for their livestock, and often face hunger and starvation due to yearly droughts.



Pastor Paul was eager to listen to the scriptures in his own language.

Turkana whose population is about 1 million has a high number of illiterate people with adult literacy being only 10%. Majority of the people only know their own tribal language. During the Pastors graduation CMA took the opportunity to distribute another two Proclaimers in the Turkana language to Pastors, adding to the previous four Proclaimers given previously. These Pastors will take them into the far reaches of Turkana County where they have planted new churches. The Pastors expressed great appreciation and joy to receive such a precious gift.

Pastor Paul Aremon of Bible Baptist Church expressed with gratitude *"This proclaimer will draw many people in my community to come to church and hear God speak to them in their language. Many people in this area only know Turkana language but cannot even read it."*

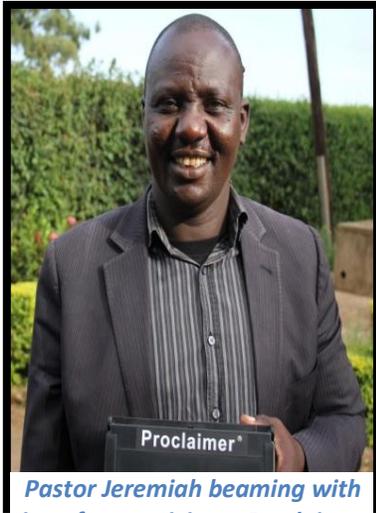
When **Pastor Peter Ettir of Nayada Church** in Turkana received a Proclaimer last year, he knew quite well what he had in his hands; the right tool to reach his community with God's word. His 60 church members have been listening to the Proclaimer in their weekly Bible study and prayer meetings which has brought astounding results. He shares that he has noticed how his church members faith in God has deepened as they hear God's word and discuss among themselves in Bible studies.



Pastor Ettir's communities are nomadic pastoralists, he follows them and plays the Proclaimer as they converge in the evenings at their resting places, at times reaching over 100 people. He also goes to the watering points where people bring their livestock to drink water. As the animals quench their thirst, the people get spiritually nourished as they listen to the Proclaimer, discussing what they heard as they walk away with their animals.

When Pastor Ettir is invited to preach in other churches in the vast Turkana County, he conducts a special session after the church service where the members listen to one of the gospels on the Proclaimer. When Pastor Ettir is invited to pray in the community meetings, he begins by sharing the Word of God using the Proclaimer, through this he has reached to over 300 people in one meeting. Pastor Ettir shared how in one meeting over ten people gave their lives to Christ. Pastor Ettir says, "Since I received the Proclaimer I have reached over 3,000 people in this region. *"Because the Proclaimer is easily portable and powered by the sun, I carry and use it everywhere I go!"*

When the CMA team visited **Pastor Michael Peikai, of the Nakudet Church in Turkana**, he shared his joy with us on how the Proclaimer has helped to effectively reach the people with the gospel. Every Sunday his 120 church members come early to church to listen to God's Word on the Proclaimer. Pastor Michael shared how the Proclaimer was an effective tool in reaching the people with God's word, leading to the birth of five sister churches. ***"I have seen how my people have grown in their faith, now that they can hear God's word in their own language; they have even begun to memorize scriptures."*** ***"This was impossible before the Proclaimer came,"*** he exclaimed.

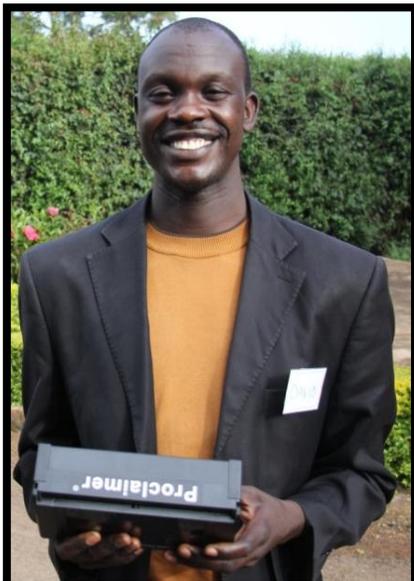


Pastor Jeremiah beaming with joy after receiving a Proclaimer in Maasai language

Pastor Jeremiah, CMA's Regional Outreach Coordinator in Maasailand, covers all of Kajiado County which has a population of over 700,000. He is a faithful and committed Pastor who walks for hours to visit and follow up with churches every week, encouraging them and reporting on the progress of the Pastors and their churches after attending CMA's leadership trainings. Pastor Jeremiah received a Proclaimer in Maasai language. With gratitude Pastor Jeremiah says, ***"this will help the elderly of the churches so much as most are illiterate, they will know God's word better because it will be easier for them to understand God's message. Using a Proclaimer is the best way to spread God's word to the Maasai who are predominantly illiterate."***

UGANDA

A total of **23 Proclaimers** were given to pastors from the Karamoja, Pokot and Ateso of the remote areas of Uganda. During one of CMA's leadership training seminars where both the Karamojong and Pokot faithfully attend, Pastors from Pokot region were so over joyed when they heard that their language was also available on a Proclaimer and they would be receiving this precious gift in their language.



Pastor Ogwapit rejoices to receive a Proclaimer in the Teso Language.

Pastor David Ogwapit from Orisai, Uganda received a Proclaimer in the Ateso language to use for his prison outreach ministry. When he received a Proclaimer last year, he never imagined that its use and impact would go beyond the church members. After seeing its effectiveness in reaching the Church members, he used in a nearby prison. *"I was able to not only have church members hear God's Word but also reach out to the inmates in prison! It has been interesting for them to listen to God's Word and during my subsequent visit they would narrate to me the Bible stories they had heard from the Proclaimer,"* he shares. With Orisai Prison now having their own Proclaimer, we envisage a greater impact to lives of many inmates as they hear God's Word. Pastor Ogwapit also uses the Proclaimer in the local hospital. He shares how it has revived patient's faith, given them hope and encouragement when listening when to God's word every week.



Pastor Olupot holding the precious gift of a Proclaimer in Teso

Pastor Olupot, Church of Christ, Mkongoro, Uganda has used his Proclaimer to reach over 300 people in different communities in the region. Church members, come every week to listen to God's Word from the Proclaimer. As a result, five oral Bible study groups have been formed.

"This Proclaimer has helped me so much in Bible study, church members discuss the Bible together and some members have even begun to witness Christ to other people by quoting Bible verses they have memorized. The youth in the villages are also listening to the Proclaimer," shares Pastor Olupot.

These are just a few of the testimonies shared by our Pastors on how the Proclaimers have made a difference in their ministries. You can feel the appreciation they have for receiving such a helpful tool to help them reach their communities for Christ. With your support CMA has been able to provide **30 Proclaimers** to churches in the most remote areas of Kenya and Uganda. Now they can hear God speak to them and grow in their faith and love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you Temple Baptist Church for providing the wonderful gifts of the Proclaimers, when you give a Proclaimer to a church in remote parts of East Africa, you have indeed placed the love of Christ in the hearts of its people's.

Oral people learn through repetition, and by listening to a chapter a few times they begin to understand and memorize it as they are guided by CMA trained leaders. When they feel that they have good understanding of the chapter, they then conduct a discussion on how to apply it in their lives.

Steve Timbe, Outreach Manager
