

# Pokot Update

Below, I am with Edward Kwendo on our compound having camel milk chai (tea) as we discuss the upcoming leadership conference at a nearby church in Kachelisha. I have known Edward for 30 years. He was my translator on my first trip to Kenya in 1986. Edward now has a number of churches in western Kenya and has come to Pokot to seek the Lord about doing mission work among the Pokot. We welcome our longtime friend to come and labor with us in the Kingdom of God among the Pokot tribe.



The conference in Kachelisha was at the Glory Church, whose pastor is Marco. We have known Marco for 7 years now. He was one of the original people we met in Pokot when we first came and stayed in a tent under the trees you saw in the first picture. Marco has 6 churches, 3 being in nearby Uganda. We were able to connect these two men of God, and now they will be working together to expand the work with a specific vision for reaching the Pokots in Uganda.

The Lord really blessed this meeting with His presence as we taught about the mystery of “Christ in us, the hope of glory”. The people were greatly encouraged and showed a renewed zeal for taking the gospel further to places where it has not yet been heard. To see God uniting people of different tribes for the purpose of taking the Gospel to other people in Africa, is very exciting to us!



We averaged around 50 adults at the leadership conference as we met for 4 days. They cooked outside by fire, with the food which was provided by a dear friend of ours from the States. We cannot over emphasize the importance of such meetings. I am reminded after the Lord's resurrection, with Peter's denial and restoration, Jesus emphasized clearly, "...if you love me, feed my lambs..."



Above is a godly grandmother named, Susan. I accredit her for much of the work that is now going on here.

I meet her about 4 years ago. I asked her to pray for God to do a work in her area, especially praying for a well. We had a possible donor in Canada and were now looking for the county government of Pokot to match funds. She and other women began to pray. The government was the first to donate the money and then the donor from Canada. The drilling began, and they hit a huge aquifer of water. Later, the government came and supplied a solar pump and tank. We are grateful to the Governor of West Pokot and to “Organics for Orphans” who both donated money for the well. But I know in my heart all of this came about because Susan took prayer seriously.

Later, the government made a road and others came in and started a school with yet another well. People began to move into the area and Marco started a church. Never underestimate the prayers of a grandmother.



As the conference was going on, I was also invited to speak at another leadership meeting nearby at the nearby African Gospel Church (Left Picture). Over 200 leaders came from all over Pokot and Turkana. From there, I was invited to go to Turkana to speak to the churches there. We hope to do this at the end of this month. We then left to go to the mountains of Uganda (Right Picture) to meet with elders of both Pokot and a nearby tribe called the Karamojos.

These two tribes have been enemies for years, now the leaders have called for a renewed peace, another historic meeting of repentance. If you remember, this is our second meeting of such repentance. Now there is peace between the Pokots and their two long term enemies, the Turkanas and the Karamojos. We traveled and reached the village of Maricha after sundown. We set up our tent in the dark and woke up to the view below, with the village of Maricha at the foot of Mt. Kadam.



We met with people of the village and talked about starting a church here. We have other Christians, which we have helped disciple, that now have migrated here from other churches that we worked with. The Lord is doing these things. We are just trying to catch up with what He is already doing!

Below on the left, Edward and I met an old man walking from Mt. Kadam. He was on his way to the nearby meeting of elders from the two tribes. We invited him to ride with us. We later learned he was a priest of a very powerful spiritual cult which lived high in the mountains. They are a mixture of their traditional ancestral worship and some knowledge of Christianity. This happens a lot when evangelism is not followed up by discipleship. I asked him if he believed in Jesus and he said yes. I told him I am a teacher of Jesus. He was happy and asked me to come and teach them more of Jesus. This is a huge open door, because they are usually not open to outsiders. It helped that he and I shared a very similar name in Pokot, "Lima".

He has now invited me to speak at a big meeting that they are having on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November. They believe in dreams and visions, so we are praying that the Lord will prepare them with such!



To the right, we stop with others on the way to the meeting of the two tribes at a stone which was inscribed in 1965. It is an agreement between the two tribes of a declaration of peace. For many years this has not been honored. Now they have come together to renew this past agreement.

Needless to say, we have been the only white people to have attended such meetings. In the past, the ways of the colonial whites were very much resisted in these areas. Some even came to us and thanked us for our boldness to come to such a meeting. We were warmly welcomed, and they recognized that God had sent us. Thank you Lord for your timing and great favor!



The field at the foot of Mt Kadam where the meeting was held



Elders began to come for the meeting. The tent was provided by the U.N.



These are Pokot elders waiting under the trees with their traditional stools which also serve as pillows. They are patiently waiting for the bulls to arrive so that can sacrifice them to the creator and ask for forgiveness. We believe that God is pleased with this effort of repentance. It now opens a door for us to visit them and explain the sacrifice of Jesus and the better way of repenting to God.



To the left is the young, new Pokot Prophet. I know him and his father who sent him to represent him. The Old Prophet is now sick with TB. We hope to visit him soon and pray for him. Now there is a church in their village where once we were

not welcomed. But now after we visited there during a drought and prayed for rain they are now open. The Lord answered our prayers for rain in a single day. After 7 months of no rain, it rained heavily in that area for 5 days. God soften not only the hard ground, but also their hard hearts. On the right, sits the securing man for the Old Prophet and his son. He was once very much against me, but now he warmly greeted me with a hug. Jesus is on the Throne!



On the left are the traditional spears which will be used to kill the bulls. In the picture on the right in the distance you can see one of the bulls to be killed. I had pictures of them killing the bulls, but Mary did not allow me to show them in the newsletter!

In the next 7 weeks, we will be very busy traveling back in forth in Pokot, Uganda and into the Turkana tribe. Please be praying for the vehicle not to break down since we will be in the most remote palaces.

Blessing to All !!!!!,

Love Rick & Mary