

God's Early Church in Kenya

Back in early 2006 I received a request for information about how to observe the Passover from a Pastor in the Massa Mara, Kenya. At that time I was the Pastor of the North West Church of God, as it was called then, in Britain.

After answering more questions, it was felt that if our church was to support this man in his reportedly successful efforts in raising up Sabbath keeping churches, who wanted to find out more about God's Holy Days, I would need to visit Kenya to see the evidence firsthand. I duly flew into Nairobi after the Feast that year and rented a four wheel drive to transport Julius, for that was his name, myself and one more 'minister' who had contacted me just before I set off, back to his church area in the Massa Mara.

The drive from the airport took two days over what had once been roads when Britain governed Kenya, but had received no maintenance since then so that no one drove on them, but rather alongside them, until eventually we had to leave the car and set off on foot to reach the farm compound where Julius lived and farmed with his family and several orphans. We received a great welcome from the gathered ministers and God's people.

I quickly learned that Julius was quite genuine, living in a compound comprising several mud huts with thatched roofs and cattle corals. Fortunately I had brought a small tent and to the amazement of all it was quickly pitched in the compound, next door to the cattle coral, under a tree in the shade.

Soon, there were about ten young ministers, Julius, myself and the other 'minister' – the only one wearing a dog collar – crowded into Julius's hut – one room really, with a small sleeping place, the mud floor tiled with hundreds of bottle tops pressed into the mud, and all the food scraps (from food mostly grown on the farm) quickly cleaned up by scavenging chickens.

Some of the young ministers enjoying a meal in Julius' hut.



Being introduced by Julius (on left) to one of the churches I visited.

All were eager to learn more of what the Church of God believes, especially about the Holy Days, which were then virtually unknown to them. For the next week or so I visited about nine different churches, in each one being welcomed by a crowd of joyful, colourful men, women and children, whose praise of God often

consisted of singing while jumping up and down with great energy. Most of the people could not speak English, so my words were translated as I spoke.

I realised that Julius had indeed raised up these churches, each one now pastored by a young minister, eager to pass on the information I brought. Most had a simple tin roofed structure to worship in, though one at least simply worshipped under trees out of the sun, where benches were firmly planted in the ground. Each church seemed to average about 100 or so, with many children.



Here's one of the churches which at that time still met to worship under the trees, out of the sun.

These young ministers gathered at Julius' home several times while I was there to learn more, while I enjoyed the privilege of explaining God's Plan for mankind as pictured by the Holy Days, to near one thousand people, not counting 6 hundred school children at the local school, which had been built on land Julius provided. Since I left, these churches have continued to grow in grace and knowledge using this website, and, after Brian joined in the project, 'Abib of God', Brian Convery's website. [Home - Abib of God](#)

These Massa people are a noble featured folk, tall of stature, often dressed in red – the men folk only then recently having left the tradition of having to kill a lion with a spear before being accepted into maturity. All gained their living from the land, and counted their wealth in cattle, not money. Here is a yoke of oxen being prepared for ploughing by some of the orphans Julius took in after their parents died through AIDS.



All of the Church people I met lived in mud huts with a dirt floor, and relied entirely on what they could grow and raise in the way of crops, chicken, goats and cattle. If it didn't rain, they would go hungry, and what little money they gained was provided by selling an animal or produce. This was then used to buy what they could not make or produce themselves, such as rice, school books and clothing. No wonder they quickly learned to trust in God!

I learned that Julius travelled widely to visit and preach, on his bicycle, often taking half a day or more to reach his destination, and sometimes risking his life from wild animals. He had achieved a great deal in God's service over the years, and was eager to implement the new knowledge I brought about the Holy Days. Already he had given land to build the home church at Shanko, on his farm, but it had no electricity of course, nor even kerosene lamps, which I was able to provide so that I could actually see the congregation that Friday evening.



On the left you can just see the roof of the old church building, with a new brick church/school building on the right, and an interior view with the current congregation at Shanko.

Over the next years I and my fellow minister in God's church, Brian Convery, were able to help Julius Lenkume expand the ability of his flock to preach the word in Kenya, as we continue to do.

We encountered fraudulent ministers, like the one who wore the dog collar, who were only interested in money, but with our help, the churches Julius raised gained an office in the local town, computers, a motor cycle for Julius, and a new brick built church building which is also used for the school. This was needed because the government schools require their pupils to attend on Sabbath mornings.



Notice the school blackboard at the front of the church.

It has been quite a journey. Julius reminded me recently that he had asked me long ago for money to buy two heifers to give to poor families. Each family was then to give its firstborn heifer from that gift, to another poor family, with the same conditions, and now that programme has continued to spread, helping many more of the poor church members improve their living standards.

The work goes on. Knowledge of God's Holy Days has spread from this group of churches to others, way outside of Julius's flock. Now more churches are being added at a greater distance, but drought and flood have recently caused problems, and deaths.

Here in Kenya, the people are open to God's words and calling, unlike so many 'Western' Israelite nations. I give thanks to God for the fruit borne from that visit nine years ago, for here now are people who understand the Plan of God and His Way, well qualified to teach their brothers and sisters in Africa, in God's Kingdom. I invite you to help grow more fruit there. If you wish to join with us in that effort, please use the 'contact us' tab on this website.



other churches.

Julius with the red tie, and one of the



The women in their colourful dresses.

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