



**Eastern
Mennonite
Missions**

*together with Christ,
transforming the world*

BOYER BRIEFINGS

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

September was a most interesting month. My sister, Martha, and her husband, Clayton Nissley, were here for 3 weeks. We had a most wonderful time.

They enjoyed the monthly hymn sing at the Guest House and then a Safari in the Masai Mara. The road to the turn off is very much improved but the road into the Mara is very bad. This is Africa!

We were there 3 nights and had 6 game drives. That place is enormous. Our guide said it takes two weeks to cover it all. We saw lions, up close just lying in the grass. Usually there were two; a male and female. Once we were so close we could hear him purring.



Lion & lioness

We saw lots of wildebeest and zebras moving in migration. We did not see them crossing the river. It is so dry the river is very low and they crossed earlier than usual. But we saw them moving as a great mass. We saw lots of other animals: impalas, gazelles, giraffes, warthogs, monkeys, buffalo, and a leopard, which people often don't see. We did not see cheetahs, rhinos or hyenas.

We were also very close to elephants. The driver kept inching away from them. We asked if they are dangerous. He said one tried to charge his van

once so he doesn't like to get too close. They are enormous animals.



Elephant coming toward us!

We were given royal accommodations and service by the Maasai at Sekenani Camp. The food was excellent. Then we went to a Maasai village and were even in one of their homes. They are small, and dark inside. We also saw their school which is fairly modern. We met a teacher who gave us a tour. It was a great trip!



Maasai home we were in

We also visited Menno Kids Academy in the slums of Mathare and then Rosslyn Academy, the American school for missionary and other children. So very different.

We were invited to have lunch with Pastor Rebecca in her home. She served us a typical Kenyan meal of ugali, rice, greens, beans, beef, fish and excellent mandazis. Then we sang for her and her family and they sang for us. Some of her children and nieces and nephews were there who

are a part of Eastleigh's Church Choir which is very good. We enjoyed our visit very much.



Pastor Rebecca's home

We went to Hunter's church one Sunday and enjoyed the service there. Pastor Abraham preached. (Wes said no!) Martha and I sang for them.

Our next big trip was to Shariti, Tanzania, where the first Mennonite missionaries settled. Martha knew a lot of missionaries who had served there. Verle Rufenacht was our excellent host. We stayed at Hotel 2000. It was adequate. No running water but they had tubs of water and a shower stall to wash. We did not have electric part of the time. But we slept well! Verle gave us a tour of the hospital and I got to stick my foot in Lake Victoria! Verle took us to the local hotel for supper. The electric was off so we ate by candlelight!

We saw the monument they had for Elam Stauffer and the graves of Bishop Kisare and his wife and Alta Shenk's grave and some others.

The service was interesting and well attended. We attended the first of two services with 400 or so, including children, and Verle said the second service is usually fuller. Three choirs sang. They had a baby dedication for about 20 + children and prayed for each child. The offering was an occasion. The people filed around and dropped something in the offering.



Baby Dedication at Shariti MC

We enjoyed a brunch at Verle's after the service. In the evening we went to Esther & Josiah Kawira's for supper. We had a nice visit and saw a beautiful sunset. It rained several times while we were in Tanzania so things are green.

Martha & Clayton left Tuesday evening. Wednesday and Thursday we were busy catching up here. By Friday we were exhausted! So we took it easy for a day or two.

Sunday morning we received the sad news that Jeff Crist, Wes's foster brother-in-law, the husband of Edith Lapp, had died after an 8 month battle with mesothelioma cancer. He was 60 years old. It is very hard to be half a world away at a time like this. We are grateful that he was a fine Christian and is no longer in pain and enjoying the presence of the Lord. But he will be greatly missed.

Pray for us as we grieve the loss of a dear brother-in-law.

Pray for rain. The need keeps getting greater.

Pray for continued good health.

Pray for Wes as he gives direction to the team and works with the physical needs of the compound.

Pray for us as we go to the Majiwa MC in the Siaya Diocese where Wes will be teaching the leaders on Leadership October 17-18.

Pray for Lois in the office work.

Praise the Lord for safety as we traveled many miles and for good drivers.

Note from the MST

Thank you for your support. Praise God, we're on track. Make contributions payable to Vincent Mennonite Church, and send to Marcus Kolb, 580 Wall St., Phoenixville, PA 19560.

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amstahl31@gmail.com

Or call 717 509-5829

Boyers email: lwboyer@gmail.com

Mailing address: P.O. Box 14646, Westlands 00800, Nairobi, KENYA

Phone number: 0716198617

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