

Each trip I am reminded why I go.
“We Africans have heart, but we lack knowledge,”
 shared one of the pastors with me. So it is with great joy that I go
 and share with them the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ,
“...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” Col. 2:3NKJV.

We praise the Lord for a wonderful twenty-five-day mission's trip to Uganda and Kenya this past month. We travel to bring the HOPE that is only found in JESUS and His Word.

Monument Leadership Institute (MLI)— The MLI meetings were a great blessing! The Lord answered many prayers as we not only studied the Scriptures together but discussed at length the desired future of the MLI program and how to best move forward.



Lira, Uganda- Five key leaders and their wives traveled to Father to the Fatherless (F2F) in Namuganga for the meetings. Because of transportation problems, our time together was limited but still fruitful. Mark taught the men and Renee shared and taught the women. We also had a time of teaching together where Mark taught with not just one, but two language interpreters! We renewed some friendships and were blessed to make new friendships. While we shared the Scriptures with them, they also shared much of African life with its struggles and strengths with us.



Kaimosi, Kenya- We had two full days of church meetings which culminated with an MLI certification and ceremony for the men completing half of their course studies. The first day we met all together in the church and the second day the men studied outside under the trees and the women met inside with Renee. We were blessed by their beautiful acapella singing, hunger for the Word, big smiles and friendship. We are thankful for our driver and MLI member Noah, and for Pastor Paul who traveled and ministered with us daily. The church in Kaimosi was started by Pastor Paul (Peter's father).

Border Crossing into Kenya- Our trip to the Kenyan border took 7 hours by van. We did stop for one break and the van needed a jumpstart to keep going. At the border, the Ugandan border agent gave our driver a difficult time as expected. We went on our way as he received a few extra schillings to pad his pockets. When we crossed the border we were met by Kenyan Pastor's Joseph and Paul. Paul said, "I hope you don't have too much stuff." Our ride was a Toyota Yaris. It's still amazing how our luggage and 4 people fit in that compact car! Then we had another three-hour drive to Eldoret.



Eldoret, Kenya- Because of their daytime work schedules, the MLI men met four evenings in a row from 5:30-9:00 pm at our guesthouse meeting room. This was a comfortable central location to meet. Our theme was from Hebrews 12:1-3, "Running to Victory." The hours of teaching and discussion were thoughtful, in-depth and challenging for all of us. It was a blessing to be reunited with the Eldoret MLI men who have been gathering for the past 6 years.

Donations- We were able to bring 300 pounds of donations. It was like Christmas day when they received the warm clothes, shoes, glasses, etc. Acts 20:35 says, "*it is more blessed to give than to receive.*" What a privilege to share your donations with these dear people.

Father to the Fatherless, Uganda- We slept under mosquito nets and woke to African drums and worship music under our window each morning as the sun rose over this lush land. We ate fresh fruit and spent time with the workers and children. We visited the villages and shared the Good News.

Children with Hope, Kenya- The children are full of ready smiles and laughter. It is a blessing to see them growing up. We visited the new school and children's home which is a blessing to them all.

So Much More!- How do you sum up twenty-five days of people and their stories? Of 4-hour church services? Of little children running to the well? Of an entire school coming out to see the Muzungus? Of walking the village roads? Of entering humble homes? Of the poverty? Of prayers prayed and of prayers answered? We are excited to be sharing this trip and ministry by letter and in person!

Prayer Praises & Petitions

Open hearts & New friendships
Discovering more about the culture and people
Learning to better communicate internationally
MLI logistics... where, when and how to meet
Traveling to share the ministry

Upcoming Opportunites

Mark will be sharing MLI and our Africa trip:
March 1st in Grand Junction, Colorado
March 15th in Hot Springs, South Dakota
March 22nd in Ashton, Iowa
Renee will be the speaker at the Ladies' Spring Banquet on March 21st in Ashton, Iowa

Monument Leadership Institute – Training men to be Biblical servant-minded leaders

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MLI Musings February 2020 number 3