

The NEWTONS *East Africa*

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Dear Pastors and Friends,

We have had an exciting past two months. In February, we had our Missions-Emphasis Month. We had several guest speakers teach our people the concept of Faith Promise missions. This took awhile, as the traditional view of missionaries here is a Christian American or European coming to the country to provide aid. By the end of the month, everyone was excited to do their part in God's plan for reaching the world. In total, our people committed to giving approximately \$150 a month toward missions. Honestly, I was surprised by this amount. When our treasurer and secretary brought me the totals, I did not believe them and went to count the totals myself. This was a blessing, because the average job only pays \$200 a month, but jobs are few and far between.

On the first week of March, we had Everywhere Sunday. On this day, we shortened our service times and went into the surrounding areas to hold mini-services on the streets. We divided into three groups, and over half of our church got involved. While preaching for one of these mini-services, I saw a lady crying in the distance. After I gave the invitation, she came to me, barely able to speak through her weeping. Her name was Esther; she told me that she had never heard anything more beautiful in her life. After a few minutes, she bowed her head and received Christ. By the end of the day, we had seen 43 people accept Christ and had handed out 250 invitations to our church.

Last week, we had the opportunity to travel upcountry to a few villages and work with a few national pastors. On this trip, we preached in several schools, organized a film outreach about the life of Christ, and participated in soul winning. On one occasion, all we did was stand on the dirt road in front of the church for a few hours, stop person after person, and share the Gospel with them. Even in that setting, we witnessed to many people. One person I spoke to was an elderly man named Saruni from the Maasai tribe. The Maasai people are one of the few tribes that still hold to their traditional practices, making them very difficult people to witness to. Saruni told me that he was once interested in converting, but the pastor he spoke to could never answer his questions. He said, "I have prayed every day for the last three years for God to send me someone to answer my questions." After about an hour, Saruni bowed his head and received Christ.

In total, our ministry has had the privilege of seeing over 200 people come to Christ in these two months. We thank God that we had had that opportunity to do our part. We thank God for the people in our church who are growing and spiritually maturing, and we thank God for each of you who faithfully supports our ministry.

In His service,

The Newton Family