

“I am not ashamed of the gospel,
because it is the power of God for
the salvation of everyone who
believes” Romans 1:16

Lori Ogle in Africa

January 2008

Praise... Prayer Points and Opportunities

- † Pray for new opportunities within the Women's Prison in Kenya
- † Pray for True Peace to emerge out of the chaos in Kenya and
- † Praise God that He is Faithful and Always in Control!
- † Please also pray for my Step-Dad's recovery from heart surgery & pneumonia.

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KENYA

Hello!

I'm glad to say that I've settled back into Nairobi. Moreover, I

been simmering for a long time. Indeed, even if one of the other presidential candidates had one there still would have been rioting. The



A Nation in Crisis

I am relieved that all of my Kenyan friends and their families are safe!

On a not so pleasant note, the riots and protests continue throughout Kenya since the presidential election results of 27-Dec. So far over 500 people have been killed and more than 250,000 Kenyans have been displaced from their homes. The reality of this situation is that it came to a boiling point after the election results, though unrest between tribes has

issue is more founded in the oppression of the general population, most of who live in abject poverty, and the corruption that runs through the Kenyan Government. The Kenyan news listed about six different organizations, both national & international including the European Union, that have examined the voting ballots and process. All have determined that it is impossible to tell who has won this election due to vote rigging, missing ballots,

etc... To me this is a much sadder statement.

This week we watched on TV a police officer shoot and kill an unarmed protester who was making faces at him. The policeman shot him twice and then looked as if to see if anyone was watching then proceeded to kick his victim in the side. You may have seen this story on the news; however you may not have heard the Department of Police's response. They declared that the tape was "edited" and what we saw wasn't real. This is hard to believe as the footage was shot by the nation's leading news team KTN and the fact that other area police departments have admitted to killing unarmed civilians. Furthermore, the brother of the victim can testify to his brother's death and did so on the news! It is unfortunate that this man died, however we all have our allotted time on this earth. The fact that the Department of Police has dismissed this shooting and has not held this officer accountable is for me a much sadder statement.

On 1-December, one week before I left for the US, my closest Kenyan friend was murdered. She was shot 8 times while in the car waiting to enter her cousin's home. Alice was a strong Christian who worked closely with me in the prison ministry. She was running for an office in Parliament with hopes of bringing Christian values into this government. Her death was not an accident, it was an assassination. Her murder will never be solved and many believe off-duty police officers are responsible for her murder. To me this is a much

sadder statement.

While many reports describe Kenya as being a peaceful country and

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that this unrest is so unexpected, I, along with many other Kenyans know this to be an inaccurate statement. Perhaps they are using the wrong definition of "peace"; for peace is not simply the absence of violence. Peace is the presence of God, and it is linked with honest dealing and true justice (see Micah 6:8). This is the peace whose foundations must be planted deep into the soil of the country and into people's hearts. Ever since I moved to Kenya almost 4 years ago, there has been tribal fighting and killing across the country. The problem was these acts weren't a concerted effort played out at one time but many separate events, therefore not garnering international attention. To me this is the saddest statement that people feel the only way to gain peace is by force, which exemplifies the fallen world we live in. The only true peace can come from Jesus Christ and there is no way we can win the spiritual battle without Him.

Now if you're thinking that 'these Africans have such problems and all of this seems so foreign to me', might I remind you that we are all of the same species, made the same way by God? I dare to think what life in the US would be like should all of our abundant resources disappear. We'd be fighting for power to control the job markets, water, electricity, fuel and food.

Indeed, we have had wars where Americans killed other Americans, - let us not be too proud that we forget our past.

Overall I am viewing these events here in Kenya as a possibility for true change, for a start of a country that embodies true peace and seeks justice and righteousness throughout its government branches. I'm praying for Christians to be bold and to stand in faith that God is in control, that they'll seek His face and demonstrate actions that glorify His Son. The majority of churches here are lukewarm, most mixing tribal traditions along with their Christianity. I pray that this time of upheaval will bring the people into a genuine, intimate relationship with the Savior Christ Jesus.

While I certainly cry for those who've lost their lives, those who have no home, and for families

...I am confident that God is in control...

who are suffering because they're unable to work hence no food, I am still confident that God is in control. I am confident that He has a plan and that Kenya has the opportunity to turn from their ways and seek His face! Real change doesn't come without pain and there is evidence of that throughout history. Looking at the Bible you can see how many times the Israelites have been in battles and God was still with them and allowed these things to happen; look at the book of Hosea. As for me, I know that I am in the center of God's will and that's the safest place to be no matter

where I live.

So please don't pray for peace (as an absence of fighting) but for God's will to reign upon this country and its people.

Prison

I spent this past fall dividing my time between the women's prison ministry and volunteering with Disciple Support Ministry at their Bible Centers. I wasn't sure which direction I wanted to go or which way was the Lord's will. However during this trial period,

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it became abundantly clear that the prison ministry team was in need of a full-time leader. A few other things also became clear: 1) I really got joy from being with the women in prison; 2) It's hard not to be in a leadership role when the Lord has gifted me with those talents; and 3) There's a pressing need for prison teaching material

that is both appropriate in content and culture. So in regard to the last point, I have been writing some of the lessons, (using many Bible versions, commentaries, as well as Biblical & human resources), and also networking for relevant material to use.

So at the beginning of this New Year, I am focused 100% on the women's prison ministry! This month the prison ministry team has served communion at one of our church services, we've invited more people to join the team, and I hosted a team luncheon mid-month for 14 people (4 being new comers). We had tried to go in mid-January but due to insecurities we we've been asked to wait. We hope to be able to resume our ministry toward the end of January. In the meantime that gives me a blessed opportunity to devote to lesson writing and to build closer relationships with my team members.

At Home

All is fine, no house repair problems, but we have been left without a day guard. Two of our staff traveled to their home area



My roommates: Cathy to the left of me and Susan on the right

in order to vote and have been unable to return due to the fighting in those areas as it isn't safe to travel. (Sporadic road blocks of burning tires or big rocks are common and the transportation vehicles are limited.) So please pray for our continued safety at home and when we are out in the community for me and my two roommates.

I don't plan to make my newsletter top heavy with the events of Kenya's turmoil, but I felt it was necessary to voice my views and hopefully add a bit of insight. I ask that you pray along with me and my church here in Kenya for His Kingdom to come, praising the words of **Psalm 145:3 "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations"**.

Seeking His Truth,

Lori