

The Cormier Family: Reaching the Deaf of Kenya With The Gospel of Christ

September/October 2021

Dear Pastors, Supporters, and Praying Friends,

Greetings from Kenya! We hope this letter finds you well as you continue to serve God in your corner of the world. We are excited to update you on some recent blessings that the Lord has given us in the ministry.



In early September, the Lord blessed us with spiritual fruit that we have long been praying for. Last year, I told you about Wilson, a Deaf man who received Christ as his Savior. After Wilson was saved, I continued traveling every week to Naivasha to teach Wilson's wife, Phyllis, about salvation. Phyllis is also Deaf. Unlike Wilson, whom I had been teaching for many years, Phyllis had never been taught the truth. She had no foundation in what salvation through grace without works meant, so I had to start at the very beginning with her. Phyllis was attentive and asked many questions as I taught her the Gospel Seed lessons. Wilson added explanations as well as his own personal testimony which aided his wife's understanding of spiritual matters. True conversion, though, cannot be rushed. It takes time for seeds to grow and mature, but we know that in good ground, the Word of God eventually brings forth fruit. What a joy it was to us when Phyllis in full understanding of the Gospel opened her heart's door to Jesus Christ! That is what makes being a missionary one of the greatest callings on earth! We greatly appreciate your prayers for this Deaf couple.



Our planned trip to Butula finally took place at the end of September. My son, Seth, and I, along with missionary Billy Coley, were able to spend two days in western Kenya with Pastor Ephraim and the Butula Baptist Church. That weekend, I taught music classes to the church folks and Bro. Billy preached. Before September, Covid restrictions, license issues, and other hinderances had made it impossible for us to travel to Butula for more than two years, so it was a blessing to see Pastor Ephraim and his people again. We praise God for their faithfulness during these trying times.



In October, another session of the Rift Valley Baptist College was held in Nakuru. That week, I had the opportunity to teach both the hearing and the Deaf. In the afternoons, I taught music to the hearing students. In this class, I focus more on how to discern between Godly music and the world's music rather than simply lecturing on the fundamentals of music.



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During the morning hours, the Deaf students and I completed the Gospel Seed lessons that we had begun in August. It was a blessing to once again plant seeds in their hearts believing that God's Word will not return unto Him void. Three of my Deaf students (shown on the right) admitted that they are not saved. One of them, a young lady named Naomi, shared with me her heart-wrenching story of being erroneously led everywhere in her search for the truth.

Naomi became Deaf at the age of thirteen. Her mother took her to countless churches, standing her up before various congregations, because she wanted her daughter to be healed. At one such church, the pastor smote her on the head and then began asking her questions. "What is your name?" Naomi read his lips and told him her name. He asked her several more questions to prove to the people that she had been healed. After the meeting, though, Naomi was still deaf.

Years later, a Church of Christ missionary visited Kenya. He knew some ASL, but he did not know KSL. He gathered the Deaf of Nakuru together for some lessons and the following day he asked how many of them wanted to go to Heaven. Of course, they all wanted to go to Heaven, so the missionary led them down to the river and baptized them.

Still craving peace, Naomi tried the salvation army church with her husband. With a large group of people, they were told to march through town to the beat of a drum and then kneel in front of the church while the church leader passed a flag over their heads. After that, he pronounced them all saved.

Naomi has been confused her whole life about what God requires for salvation. At Bible College, she listened attentively to the Gospel Seed lessons and came to the realization that she is not saved. That is the first step! Please pray for Naomi that she will understand salvation as she is patiently taught the precious truths of God's Word. Naomi currently attends Grace Bible Baptist Church in Nakuru where my former KSL students now interpret the services and teach KSL classes.

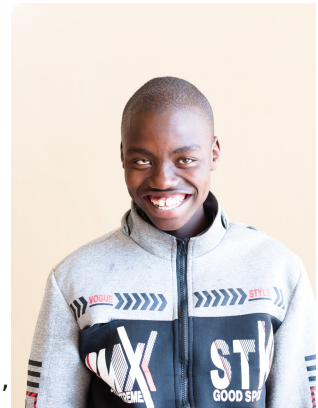
We praise God for the opportunity to minister to the Kenyan people, Deaf and hearing alike. There is no greater joy than to serve the King of Kings exactly where He has called you serve! Thank you for making this possible for our family.



Naomi



Caleb



David

Because of Him,
B.J. Cormier



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