

# ICM - ATS Newsletter

22 April 2011

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**ATS Kenya, Mt. Elgon campus, 16 April 2011**

Easter greetings to you,

The sky was a brilliant blue in Kopsiro as preparations were underway for ATS Mt. Elgon's 4th graduation. This past Saturday was a dream-come-true for the graduands because in addition to receiving their hard-earned academic awards, the Chief Guest at their graduation was none other than His Excellency the Second President of the Republic of Kenya, the Honorable Daniel T. Arap Moi. Retired President Moi is now 87 years old but he is still strong in mind and body. He addressed the audience in English, then in kiSwahili and, finally in mother-tongue which the people greatly appreciated.



He spoke against the violence that had taken place on Mt. Elgon several years ago. He said, "I am happy that you have brought the violence to an end. Violence is the work of the Devil; those times disturbed me a lot. We Christians need to let our faith shine on earth."

He commended Rev. Stephen Mairori for bringing the seminary to Kopsiro. "A small cottage hospital would go hand-in-hand with the seminary. But you have done the important thing first, souls first, then healing of the body. Souls first!"

In his speech, Diploma in Bible & Theology graduand Amos Ngeywo gave a short history of the ATS Mt Elgon campus. "In the early beginnings of ATS Mt Elgon, many people thought that ICM was a church like AIC and even in 2005, when the campus was 3 years old, there was a graduation. However, 60% of those attending thought that the Christians at this college were simply doing Bible study and prayers." We have come a long way, now ICM is a household word on Mt. Elgon.





The newly installed Africa Gospel Church (AGC) leader, Bishop Dr. Robert Lang'at was the guest speaker. He spoke from II Timothy 4: 9—18 challenging the graduands to not forsake the faith using the example of Demas, verse 10 “for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.” There are many challenges to life in the ministry but it is God who called you into the ministry, so don't forsake that holy calling for the love of the world. Very Godly advice for these graduands!



Here are a few of the graduands, meet Diploma in Bible & Theology graduand Kipkirui Justus Sichei. The writer has known this tall Justus since 2004 and it was a joy to witness his Diploma graduation last weekend.



Mrs. Caroline Cheuno was the only woman in the Diploma in Bible & Theology class. She is brave and followed her dream to graduate in the same. Her dream continues as she would like to enroll in the BA in Counseling at the Kitale

campus.

In the photo, she is with her husband, Kimtai Stephen Cheuno who is a head teacher of a local primary school and a current student in the BA in Bible & Theology on the Kitale campus.

A tradition at every ATS graduation is to have a photo session with the graduating classes. They take their photos with the dignitaries and ATS officials. Doesn't it look like the former President was happy taking his picture with these graduands?



And then, His Excellency left as he had come, by helicopter. As you can see, many were there to see him off and say, "Asante for taking the time and energy to bless our graduands and, by your presence, to care for the people of Mt. Elgon."



ATS is most grateful to our ICM leader, Rev. Stephen Mairori the Executive Director of ICM Kenya. It is through his God-given diplomatic gifts and his high priority on good relationships that he was able to obtain our Chief Guest and guest speaker. We thank you for being used of God for so much good, Rev. Mairori!

*(Several photos courtesy of Greg Snell)*

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