

## **ICM - ATS news 7 September 2010**

# *ICM - ATS Newsletter*

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### **News from ICM Kenya - Focus on Discipleship**



Recently we had our staff retreat with one of the founders of International Christian Ministries, Dr. Phil Walker. It was a very uplifting retreat for our staff. The retreat refocused us on one of our cornerstone as a ministry. This is discipleship. Discipleship is foundational in all of our ICM programs. It is our desire to grow more like Jesus. We therefore want to do everything to see that our programs become a catalyst in helping people love Jesus more.

The biggest challenge in our times is for the Church to be Christ to the world. It takes commitment to discipleship to be Christ's true ambassadors. My prayer for you and me is that we make that commitment to know Christ deeply each day.

We have several programs at ICM through the Seminary and the CLI programs that can be of help to you as you walk with Jesus. Blessings!

*~ Rev. Stephen Mairori ~*

*ICM Kenya Executive Director Rev. Stephen Mairori is married to Roselyne with son Seth and daughters Kathy and Gracie.*

### **News from Africa Theological Seminary - ATS on Discipleship**



ATS is a discipleship institution. This means our primary purpose is to ensure that our students and staff grow to be transformed more like Jesus in order that they can be used as holy instruments to transform the world into Christ-likeness. This way each lives and serves as Christ would if He were in their place.

At ATS we consider it a great delight and privilege to participate in Jesus' great command to the church in Matthew 28:19—20: "Go and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." For this to happen, we as an institution make discipleship one of our priority goals: "to see every learner spiritually

*transformed to live more like Jesus Christ.*" This is because we believe that a righteous servant will sow and reap righteousness in their ministries.

ATS does discipleship in a variety of ways in order to nurture the spiritual life of ATS community members. For students, student chapel, accountability groups, daily devotions, prayer groups, and mandatory Spiritual Life formation Course. For our staff, we have team meetings and staff chapel. The entire Seminary community grows through: services of Seminary Chaplain; weekly chapel service; utilizing the 24-hour Prayer Tower for personal devotion and prayer time; and expressing servanthood through washing dishes after meals and the handing on of towels to graduates during graduation.

ATS is currently finalizing plans for a mentoring program where each student has a spiritual mentor to walk along with throughout their study time at ATS. This mentor will listen, counsel, and give direction to the one mentored.

~ Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Chemengich ~

*Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Chemengich is the enthusiastic principal of Africa Theological Seminary, Kitale. Dr. Chemengich is married to Dorcas with daughter Subira and 2 twin boys, Wema and Baracka.*

### **A Testimony from a Mentor - Pastor Gideon Wanyama**

I became a Christian during Form 1 in 1975. A Form 4 student shared the Gospel with me and led me to the Lord. After secondary school, I went to college to train as a water inspector, a civil servant position. While working in Lodwar, I sensed God was preparing me to serve Him. I started preaching in schools, preaching in hospitals and prisons. I stayed there for 9 years and my pastor disciplined me. I was transferred to West Pokot, Kapenguria where I continued to preach the Gospel in schools. I was married by that time with 2 young daughters.



I was actively involved in ministry and realized I to be trained to handle the Word of God more accurately. My pastor suggested I study privately with ICI, a distance learning program, but it was too difficult to study at home with family and other ministry responsibilities. About that same time, a Bible school using ICI materials began in Kitale. That was just what I was looking for, so I joined! That school became ICM Seminary, that's how I came to ICM. I worked as a civil servant and went to ICM to train on my "off" times.

When I came to ICM, I was disciplined by Dr. Phil Walker and Dr. Myron Goodwin, the co-founders of ICM. **What happened changed me completely!** I would have left college but Dr. Walker's sensitive fatherly heart encouraged me to continue. I watched him wash his dishes along with the students and that really changed my perspective about leadership. I learned from him that leaders are to help others succeed, not to be the boss. **They demonstrated servant leadership.**

In 1994, there were clashes in West Pokot and my family was greatly affected. Again, I was nearly ready to drop my studies due to financial struggles, when I received the wonderful news that someone from Israel had given a Shepherd Scholarship which helped pay my school fees. Imagine! Somebody who didn't know me helped me get trained.

After that, I committed myself to helping others be trained. In 14 years, God has led us to plant 15 churches. Today, I have a Bible School in Busia. We are currently training 20 pastors from different denominations in our city. This is the fourth group of pastors that I am privileged to disciple, and the first group outside of my Deliverance Church denomination. ICM put tools put into my hands which have enabled me to present something good to others.

I realize that I'm not that talented so when I see others, like my brother Charles Okello whom God has gifted so much, well, I can help him. He has something I don't have, so let me make a platform so he can fulfill God's plan for him. All this came from Dr. Walker. He taught me how to be a good father. He accepted us, he challenged us. That is why I still serve ICM as the Alumni Chairman. I want to be a spiritual father to as many people as possible.

Many leaders are threatened when those they are leading excel, even pass them by. But when I watch men I've been privileged to train like Pastor Charles Okello, I think to myself, "That's my boy, I'm proud of him and what he's doing for God!" My work and joy is to train leaders. **Target the leaders, and you will eventually have the entire world!**

Regarding the future, my wife and I are looking forward to moving to Zambia to begin ICM there, then we can assist in launching ICM in other countries. ~ Pastor Gideon Wanyama ~

*Pastor Gideon Wanyama is married to Jane Njoki Wanyama. They have 2 daughters and many, many, many spiritual sons in the ministry.*

### **A Testimony from a Discipled One - Pastor Charles Okello**



I grew up defending the religious faith of my family but with no assurance of salvation. I gave my life to Christ when I was 14 after the influence and talks with a once-drunkard friend whose life had changed dramatically after he had given his life to Christ. Then, because I had changed religions, my family began persecuting me for my faith. A year later, my father got sick and became bedridden. Some Christian family members came and prayed for him and miraculously, he improved and began walking. This was a turning point. My father gave his life to Christ and as a result, most of the rest of our immediate family did, also. We were all eager to know about our new faith and began attending a Bible-teaching church. A year later, my father got very sick again and was no longer able to work. He moved the family to our family land in Western Province. They decided that I should continue my secondary education in Mombasa because the dayschool was excellent. Since Dad now had no income, several of his workmates helped us by paying my school fees. I lived alone, cooked for myself, and got very involved in the Christian Union and began composing songs. I was energized by God's goodness.

My father died in 2000. After graduating from Secondary School, I became a nursery school teacher then, receive a Certificate in Computer Science and became a computer teacher. However, since I lacked a Degree, I was poorly paid. In December 2003, I felt I needed to move home to help my mother raise my siblings and help pay their school fees. By this time, my mother was sick.

When I finished Secondary School, I graduated with a B- which was a respectable score. However, at the same

time, the Kenya government changed the policy for granting scholarship aid from B- to B. My family could not afford to pay for my university education. I really wanted to be educated! I became discouraged, even with God.

I began attending the nearby church but didn't expect to get involved because I was depressed. I was considering joining the police force or the military. The church was led by Pastor Gideon Wanyama who began discipling me along with 9 other men. Pastor asked me, "What are you going to do with your life?" I told him, "I don't know, my dreams have been shattered." "You have every mark of a man who has God's calling to be a minister of God's Word." he replied. At first, I laughed it off because my impression of pastors was that they were very poorly paid and I didn't want to continue living a life of poverty. Pastor Wanyama taught us systematically through material he had received from ICM, then he gave us, his 9 "boys," the responsibility of leading crusades, and he would sit in the back and pray. From him, I experienced "on the job training."

One day I heard God's voice speak to my heart, "What do you want Me to do for you before you start serving Me?" Then I said, through tears, "God, it's okay, I'll serve You." Immediately, I was flooded with peace. I had a strong desire to be educated where Pastor Wanyama had studied because I saw such wonderful results in his life. He had received his training at ICM later named Africa Theological Seminary (ATS).

January 2006, I was invited to begin classes at ATS. I lacked money, but I knew it was time for me to begin. ATS worked with me, and God provided for my fees. By His grace, I will graduate next year. This will be the degree I have been desiring for many years! I just want to say that I love my pastor, he has truly trained me up. He continues to be my mentor in every sense of the word. Whatever God allows me to accomplish in this life will be because of what my mentor, my coach, Pastor Wanyama has invested in me.

Within this year, I was named as the pastor of Bumala Deliverance Church. The church had lost its pastor in a road accident several years ago and was struggling. Pastor Wanyama and the church released me to pastor this shepherdless flock. I am so thankful that the Lord saw me way back in secondary school, and set me apart to serve Him fully."  
~ Pastor Charles Okello ~

*Pastor Charles Okello is married to Nancy Chepkemei Okello and is a current ATS student.*

## **Upcoming events**

\*\* Sept. 16, 17 EQUIP's Million Leader Mandate training, International Christian Centre, Mombasa Rd, Nairobi,

fee 500/= includes lunch for 2 days. For more information, contact [msopati@yahoo.com](mailto:msopati@yahoo.com), 020 737961,

072 2490325, or 073 3490325

\*\* Sept. 21 - 26 ICM's International Council, the decision-makers for ICM worldwide, will meet in Kinshasa DRC.

Please pray for our leaders as they make significant decisions for ICM and ATS.

\*\* Sept. 24, 25 EQUIP's Million Leader Mandate2 training, AIC Fellowship, Eldoret, registration fee 200/=. All are welcome! For more information, contact Bishop Wamalwa [mosros2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mosros2002@yahoo.com) or 0724 656638.

\*\* Nov. 4, 5 Make your plans now! The ICM sponsored Global Leadership Summit will be held at NPC Valley Road, Nairobi. For more information, contact [msopati@yahoo.com](mailto:msopati@yahoo.com), 020 737961, 072 2490325, or 073 3490325.

\*\* Coming soon: An MA in Transformational Leadership to be offered at ATS Kitale beginning 2011. Watch this newsletter for more information.

### **Visit our website!**

Visit us at <http://www.atseminary.ac.ke/index.html> for up-to-date information on ATS. You can also download application forms. If God is calling you to study with us, apply and mail to the ATS Registrar, address below.



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