

ICM - ATS Inaugural Newsletter

September, 2009

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News from ICM Kenya



Karibu sana , welcome to the first issue of the ICM - ATS newsletter. We hope you are encouraged by what God is doing in Kenya through the ministry of ICM. I am happy to report that people are seeing that the church is bringing hope. They have assisted with material goods like food, clothing, and shelter.

Most recently ICM and other Christian NGOs formed the Hope for Kenya forum taking reconciliation meetings to different cities in Kenya following the aftermath of the post election violence. Meetings were held in Kisumu, Nairobi , Mombasa , Kakamega, and other cities. Pastors have cried together asking for forgiveness, and now they are able to help the people in their congregations heal.

The ICM staff on Mt. Elgon have been instrumental in helping people with food with generous donations from Kenya and the US . In the Kopsiro area, people have been dying of starvation. The Mt. Elgon people have begun to return to their homelands, but during the violence, they were unable to plant crops because they were "on the run." Please pray for the people of Mt. Elgon as they wait for their maize to be harvested in October. May God sustain them in the interim.

I am excited that ICM trains pastors and church leaders through Africa Theological Seminary (ATS) who are not only ministering to their congregations spiritually, but in other aspects of life as well. ~ Rev. Stephen Mairori



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

News from Africa Theological Seminary



ATS IS MOVING FORWARD — Praise God With Us!

The year 2009 began with great excitement in ATS as we looked forward to the largest graduation ceremony of 98 graduates in April 2009 and anticipated the registration of the Seminary as post-secondary institution with the Ministry of Higher Education. It is a joy to report that by God's gracious provision both of these events came to pass. Join us in praising God for His faithfulness!



But these are not the only amazing things God is doing at ATS. We are greatly blessed to receive the following three new staff members: a missionary couple from California , USA , Rev. Darryl and Kathy Bowe . Darryl serves as Dean of Theology Department and Kathy Coordinates the Documentation Centre as well as the Editor of our newly launched ATS Newsletter.



Rev. Daniel Kirwa is our new Dean of Counseling Department. With these new additions ATS is looking forward to streamlined service provision and an efficient way to meet our institutional objectives through enhanced management team.

The Seminary is in the final phase of moving from Affiliate Status accreditation level to full accreditation status with ACTEA (Accrediting Council of Theological Education Africa). A comprehensive Self-Evaluation Report has been submitted to ACTEA administration to facilitate this process. Do keep the Seminary in prayer as the ACTEA's Visiting Team of inspectors visits ATS in the course of 2009.

In July 2009, the Counseling Department of ATS won the bid to do baseline survey for the staff of government-owned Corporation, Kenya Seed Company. This survey was on the Extent and Effects of Drug and Alcohol Abuse and Prevention Among its Employees. The survey was conducted through questionnaires and interviews on selected staff and analysis of the results were handed over and well received by the management of the Company. The Counseling Department staff will soon proceed with workshops based on these results for the staff of Kitale-based Kenya Seed Company.

In improving its public relations system, ATS has begun the process that will lead to the official launch of the Seminary's official website by December 2009. In addition, with this inaugural launching of this Quarterly ICM/ATS Newsletter, the Seminary looks forward to updating you on regular basis of the new developments in the Seminary.

Finally, join and **pray** with ATS as we trust God in making the following immediate key future plans come to fruition:

- Publish a 5-Year Strategic Plan document (2010—2014) by December 2009
- Publish Personnel/Staff Manual by December 2009
- Build a modern Administration Block
- Acquire national Commission of Higher Education (CHE) accreditation/ validation of ATS programs by 2010
- Achieve full accreditation with ACTEA by 2012
- Establish a comprehensive institutional research policy
- Add new academic programs: BA Counseling; BA Children/Youth Ministry; BA Organizational Leadership; etc.
- Establish Seminary Endowment/Reserve Fund

~ Dr. Emmanuel Chemengich ~

ATS Principal Dr. Rev. Emmanuel Chemengich is the principal of the Africa Theological Seminary, Kitale campus. Dr. Chemengich is married to Dorcas with daughter, Subira and two 3 year old twin boys, Baraka and Wema.

A Testimony from ICM Associate Staff member and ATS student, Mrs. Jane Talam



I was 13 when I became a Christian. I didn't come from a Christian family however, I attended Sunday School with our Christian neighbor. The first Sunday I went to the main church, the sermon was from John 5:24, *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."* The Holy Spirit convicted me that I was not a Christian. At the end of the service, I gave my life wholeheartedly to Christ.

Immediately, my life changed. I looked for my old friends and told them of my new-found faith. In my zeal, I wanted to remain friends with them only if they also embraced Jesus as Lord.

Next, I told my parents. They brewed beer in our home and drank a lot. I had always participated in this family tradition but now that I had become a follower of Christ, I requested they excuse me from it. My parents said, "This was the way we sustain our lives. If you refuse to participate, there will no longer be money for school fees or even for food."

"Okay, God will take care of me," I said. Though life became difficult for me as a young girl, God gave me love for my parents. I chose to stay in their home even though they persecuted me because I wanted to protect my two younger sisters from suffering. Today, those sisters are married to wonderful Christian men and are actively involved in their local churches. The same is true of my two elder brothers. After my father died, my mother totally repented from her former way of life.

God has consistently provided for me. I left home to go to school and had no money for transport or for school

fees. I believed the promise of Ps. 34:10, "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing." At a shopping center someone gave me 20 ksh. Then God miraculously provided transport to school.

Here is how God called me into fulltime ministry. I was in school and my class had gone on a tour near Nakuru. We were in a very bad accident. The vehicle overturned, and the two girls sitting on either side of me were instantly killed. Others had broken arms and legs. As for me, I was thrown from the vehicle but miraculously I landed standing straight up in a near-by field. I had no injuries, I wasn't even knocked down. I decided to dedicate my life fully to serving God.

I attended Kapsabet Bible College and graduated when I was 22. Dickson Talam and I were married and after three months, he felt God calling him to be a pastor. We prayed for funds for his education and God miraculously provided, confirming this call.

While he was studying at Moffat College of the Bible, I stayed in the village and had our first child. The first 3 months of our daughter's life, I had no money but God wonderfully provided. Not once in 3 months did I need to go to "the duka" (local shopping market). Someone would come to visit and bring sugar, another would bring eggs, and so forth. God continued to provide for our every need! When our daughter was 3 months old, I felt my Heavenly Father calling me to join my husband as a student at Moffat. Serving God completely is the most important thing to both of us!

Speeding forward to today, God has given me a fulfilling ministry with women. I love sharing of God's faithfulness to us and encouraging others that they can trust Him also. My real passion is seeing spiritual growth in others, seeing lives changed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am the Associate Pastor at AIC Nuru working with women and organizing small groups. I am also an associate staff member of ICM Kenya, an active member of its Women's Ministry, and a current BA student at ATS, Kitale campus.

I leave you with these words, "When you are going through difficult times, remember that ahead of you there is a blessing. Hang on to Jesus, for He is faithful."

~ Mrs. Jane Talam ~

Mrs. Talam is married to Rev. Dickson Talam. They have 5 children of their own and 2 adopted children. She is a sought-after conference speaker.

A Prayer Request

As you are aware, Kenya is now on mandatory electricity rationing and parts of our country are in desperate need of rain. <http://www.wfp.org/stories/drought-stricken-kenyans-struggle-one-meal-day>. As an ICM/ ATS family, let us intercede for those who are so affected, "Almighty loving Heavenly Father, please look down on Kenya with Your eyes of grace. We in Kitale thank You for the rain, but we ask You to bring rain to the Rift Valley, and other places which desperately need rain. You know that people and animals are dying. For those of us who "have", show us how to actively love others who "have not," we pray in the powerful name of our resurrected Jesus, amen.

Interested in pursuing education at ATS?

Is God calling you to inquire about education at ATS, or do you have a friend who may be interested? If so, you can contact the Registrar's Office at the ATS address below. You may also email: info.atseminary@gmail.com

We have GREAT NEWS in the Counseling Department! ATS is launching our new Study Program, a BA in Counseling, beginning January, 2010.

Have a meaningful ministry week and continue living your life totally for God's glory!! Bwana asifiwe, praise the Lord!

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