

Called-to-Serve

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What are you doing for Him?

How we can WE Serve?

By Elton Cooke

Called-to-Serve Executive Director

I am working on a sermon which I will preach this weekend at Shidoro. It is a small church, deep in the jungle about five miles from here. I will drive up into the hills at the base of Mount Meru. I will park in an area surrounded by bomas. We will walk a short way through a wooded area. We will cross a wide field. Last year it was an empty field. Now it is probably planted and growing maize or beans. Across the field, hidden in a grove of trees is Shidoro. About 50 Maasai will jump up and down and sing; all the women with babies tied to their backs; all the men in red and purple shukas. We will be greeted with the sibilant Maasai language, handshakes and curtsies from the women, a smile and a handshake from each man, and every child 15 and under will lower his or her head to be touched and blessed by us.

I have entitled the sermon "I Want to Be in That Number." I want to be counted in the number who pleases God.

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www.Called-to-Serve.net

Have you been to the site lately?

Jon Cliborne

CTS

I am very excited about this edition of the Called-to-Serve Newsletter, while it is short, it is full of inspirational information.

We hope for this to be a very regular feature, hopefully weekly. So if you have any information that you would like to see, please let me know.

I am writing today to remind you about the Called-to-Serve website. If you haven't been lately, you might be missing out. There is a lot to do and see there, so check it out.

You can find it at <http://www.called-to-serve.net>.



Joshua 24:15b

www.called-to-serve.net

God bless you where you are. We are all in that number. We are each doing what God wants us to do. God bless you. —Elton Cooke.

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The scripture I am using is Romans 1:1-7 and I am reading from the New Century Version. I share with you just a portion of that scripture. Romans 1:5 reads, "Through Christ, God gave me the special work of an apostle, which was to lead people of all nations to believe and obey. I do this work for him."

Nothing happens by accident. In God's plan there is not coincidence.

I sat this past Sunday morning at the front of Grace Evangelical, a non-denominational group. I have wanted to see the Maasai cattle market since I have been here, but it was always something I would do one day. Sunday was that day. One of the elders, Comfort by name, and another young church member, Isaac, met me on the Nairobi/Moshi Road and led me to Grace Evangelical, an excited lively group of worshipers. I crossed the empty Maasai cattle (ng'ombe) and goat (mbuzi) marketplace because the church was right there. The choir was all men and I enjoyed both the harmony and the dance gestures of the men as they sang.

There were over 300 present, but what caught my attention was a lady, off to the side, leading 10 deaf parishioners in worship. I met her after the service, and learned she teaches the deaf in an Arushan secondary school. It crossed my mind, that of the large number in attendance, I would not remember them all, but they would recognize and speak to me as our lives crossed outside that church.

I was shown their new building, under construction, and it, too, was on the piece of land shared by the cattle market.

One of the young men asked for a copy of my sermon. His name was Probus and his wife, Naomi, had translated for me. I apologized, but promised I would bring him a copy. I apologized because I had typed the sermon at three different times on the computer, so when I went to make copies of the saved pages, (there is no explaining why computers sometimes do their own thing) pages 3 and 4 were written in a foreign language and some kind of numerical code. I had to do those pages over, so once I had one complete copy, I deleted everything. Needless to say, that experience was very frustrating.

Yesterday, Monday, I drove downtown Arusha and on the way home I decided to copy that message and make additional copies of a retreat outline I will do in three weeks at Kariat on the edge of the lake Nyumba ya Mungu (House of God). Barbara will teach 30 ladies and I will teach 12 young ministers. As I told you in a previous letter, the Muslim family that helped me was the place I chose to do the copying. That business was closed. They were gone.

Quick decisions and change of plans are a daily activity here. The door next to the place I have gone was open. Above it was the sign "Clock Tower Photocopy." I walked in and asked the two young ladies if they could help me. They were glad to. Everywhere I go, I take work to read or to write while I wait.

As I was writing, I tuned in the music that "duka" was playing. It was Don Moen singing "God Will Make a Way." I looked up and there was the man who had been sitting on the third row of Grace Evangelical, where I had preached. Behind me another man, maybe his brother, welcomed me to their shop. They were glad to see me again. God had led me there.

Many in Grace Evangelical work at Youth on Mission, a Korean ministry here. I was asked to teach English for three months.

I will also be teaching Bible about three days a week for the Christian Mission Society. Their entire purpose is to teach Maasai families and send them back into the bush. I love to teach, so that alone will be rewarding, but we can also see opportunities for Called to Serve to minister more personally to the Maasai.

We have renewed contact with Lupi and Hope Mwaipalo. They are from Kyela, but are now studying at Mount Meru University. They have named their daughter Barbara Evelyn Ipalo.

(Sons have the "mwa" in the name. It is omitted for the girls.) He was pastor of Border Baptist Church, between Tanzania and Malawi. In fact, I was in charge of the dedication service when Barbara Evelyn was dedicated at Borders. We are helping Lupi to work in a church here, (he speaks eight languages), and he will go with us to be our interpreter. Be in prayer for this couple.

We have also hung two flags in front of our house, the Christian flag and a Called to Serve flag.

We know this does not sound appealing to many, but we praise God He has us here, seeing, hearing, experiencing all of this, and for the rest of our lives.

We thank you for your gifts to help us stay here. Your gifts all go to make Called to Serve do service ministry to these wonderful people. We thank you for your prayers.

God bless you where you are. We are all in that number. We are each doing what God wants us to do. God bless you.