

MINISTRY IN MACHAKOS, KENYA

Our first Training Conference since settling in Kenya is next week Sunday-Friday, January 25-30!

Les will preach & minister at the DOVE Church in Machakos where Daniel & Rebecca Mbiti pastor on Sunday, then teach all week. The topic of all of our main conferences in 2009 is Basic Principles of Cell Church Development. It's twenty teaching sessions & cell groups from 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM daily. We will host another conference here in Nairobi in only 3 ½ weeks.

I've included pictures from our last training in Machakos in October. Most of the same leaders will be there so you can see the setting, faces, and get an idea of what it will be like for next week's training.

As you may remember, when we traveled & taught in the fall, we raised enough funding for our own travel costs, plus the cost of meals & travel for the pastors. Now that we are living here, we are still raising our support for our on-going expenses. We don't have overseas travel expenses (that helps!), but it still costs to travel from one location to another. However, the travel cost this time to Machakos is minimal since it's only about 1 ½ hours drive from Nairobi. Since Les will be staying with Daniel & Rebecca, too, that really helps to make this the least expensive conference to do next to Nairobi. The more expensive locations will all be in the second half of the year.

To reduce our costs, as well as help the African pastors to take more ownership of their own training and lessen their dependence on "muzungus", we are beginning to charge for their lunch meals during the week of training, as well as for their notebooks with about 20 pages of notes. However, any pastor who simply cannot afford all of the registration fee of 500 shillings or \$6.50 (in Nairobi 600 shillings or \$8), we have said that we will try to gain extra funds so they can attend on a partial scholarship. I still don't fully understand how they do it, but most of these pastors are NOT supported by their church, instead they support it! Since they don't get any salary, they usually work one or more jobs. Many have started their own businesses so they can have an income while still having flexible hours/days to minister. Thus when these leaders attend the seminar, they not only must pay for their transportation (walking, bicycles, or buses), any extra meals, but they may also lose their income for a week! If that isn't bad enough, the Ukambani Region including Machakos is suffering through a horrible drought resulting in a famine. In America, when there's a drought, it means you can't water your lawn or wash your car...in Africa it means there is NO water...none as many areas have no wells...it means death.

Besides praying, can you pay for the cost of one or more pastors to be able to attend? For little more than the cost of one super-sized meal at McDonalds, you can feed an African pastor here for 5 meals, plus feed him with God's Word so he can in turn feed his congregation. Think about it, it costs about \$1 for the notes which means \$4 feeds a person for five lunches or 80 cents per day.

Please pray for the pastors, their families while they are away, safety in travel, health and anointing for Les as he teaches, and for me while I stay home to get everything done so we can move into our apartment the day after Les returns. If you can donate, you can do so immediately through PayPal by going to the following link to our website:

http://www.strategiccell.com/about_donate.html

Blessings,

Les & Twyla Brickman