



News from Kenya

U-ten-go (Swahili): a refuge, shelter

Supporting rural ministries and schools in Kenya

Serving the Captives

By Pastors Fidelis and Kalysa Wandera

In Kenya, prison inmates may have been found guilty of a crime, or they may be awaiting trial, sometimes for months or years. Since they are considered criminals, the government does not provide them basic needs like sanitary supplies and undergarments. If the families do not provide this, the women have a difficult time. This is a main reason that visitors are not allowed in the living areas. When we go to pray for the sick, one can imagine how it is since the females often do not have sanitary supplies. Additionally, female prisoners who were pregnant at intake must often birth and raise their children during their incarceration.

Depending on the crime, a prisoner may not be allowed visitation by anyone, even relatives. Others have been falsely accused and do not have relatives or friends to bail them out.

One thing to know about Kenyan culture is that



Pastor Fidelis shares with female prisoners

crime is associated with a bad omen so some families reject relatives who go to prison. Ex-prisoners may not be welcomed back to their community and homes. For some, the church is a refuge.

Along with ministering at the prison, Pastor Kalysa and I do follow-up and prayer with ex-prisoners. For example, Julia had defaulted on a loan of 40,000 Kenya shillings (\$450) and was incarcerated. She gave her life to Christ on one of our visits. Julia has since been released, is working hard, and has repaid the loan. Another former inmate has reunited with her family and is very happy. There is also a grandmother who was in prison with 6 members of her family. She is now at her daughter's home in Mombasa and doing well. She plans to visit us soon.

God is doing great things and we thank you for your prayers and support.



Pastor Fidelis dedicates a baby born in prison

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