



A New Dawn of Church-Planting for the Maasai

In the sweeping landscapes of Kenya's Kajiado County, a transformative initiative is underway. Known for our global mission to "open the way" for the Gospel, Harvesters Ministries is now turning its focus to the remarkable Maasai tribe.

The Maasai, a pastoralist people known for their distinctive attire, have long inhabited regions of Kenya and Tanzania. Yet, from their remote communities came a yearning for a stronger spiritual foundation. Recognizing this need, Harvesters is initiating a new church-planting Stream, igniting hope in the hearts of the Maasai people.

Pastor Andrew, a dedicated local pastor and Harvesters Licenced Trainer who will lead the new Stream, explains the urgency of this endeavor. He reveals that existing churches are few and clustered in central locations, and pastors are often

untrained and lack resources. "When you go outside the town, you don't find churches," he shares. "So, there are so many people who are not reached with the Gospel!"

Harvesters has the solution. We train pastors to strategically evangelize and plant churches in unreached communities. Through a comprehensive three-year curriculum, pastors will be equipped, empowered and fully resourced.

Our recent Kick Off training saw enthusiastic participation. "With the information and training we got today our eyes are opened," affirms Pastor Andrew. "Every pastor is going to use the skills and methodology delivered by Harvesters to open churches."

The impact of this movement transcends borders. The Maasai's reach extends into Tanzania, providing opportunities during market trading to evangelize and plant churches even further afield.

Now, through the prayers and support of friends like you, the promise of vibrant, self-replicating churches among the Maasai is on the horizon. ✉



Also in this issue:

2

The Cost of Evangelism

4

From Street to Sanctuary

The Cost of Evangelism

In a world where religious freedom is a privilege, many Christians in Southeast Asia are facing extreme levels of persecution. According to Open Doors, 5,621 Christians lost their lives for their faith in the last year alone. Included in this number are Christians from a closed nation where Harvesters is working. In this spiritually dark environment, believers live under constant threat, facing discrimination in their communities, families and workplaces. Pastors are especially targeted, enduring arrests and lengthy detentions, often requiring exorbitant sums for their release.

LIGHTING THE WAY

Harvesters Ministries is at the forefront of efforts to bring the vital Gospel message to these spiritually oppressed regions. Through church planting and pastoral training, Harvesters is opening doors for the Gospel in over 87 nations worldwide.

Recently, church planters from the aforementioned closed country in Southeast Asia gathered for training and shared their triumphs and challenges. Despite the great excitement over 15 new churches being planted in the last six months, their testimonies unveil the grim reality they face. One church planter, whom we will call Brother Lun, spoke of

the ever-present danger in their evangelism efforts. They never venture out alone, as the risks are simply too high. The cost of preaching the Gospel extends far beyond imprisonment; it could lead to their very lives being taken.

TARGETED FOR HIS FAITH

Brother Lun heartbreakingly recounts the fate of a fellow preacher who was found dead and brutally beaten after previously being arrested for evangelism. A villager had witnessed the abduction of Pastor Seng, whose name we've also changed. Three officials forcibly took Seng away in an unmarked truck, leaving no trace of his whereabouts.

When his lifeless body was discovered days later, the motive became painfully clear: it was his unwavering dedication to spreading the Gospel that cost him his life. This tragic incident highlights the grave dangers these brave evangelists face.

PERSECUTION SURROUNDS THEM

In December 2019, a glimmer of hope emerged with the introduction of the Law on the Evangelical Church, granting Christians the right to conduct services and preach





throughout the country. However, very few churches meet the specific criteria set by the government to qualify, and pastors of these “unregistered churches” are being arrested. Furthermore, although the Law allows Christians the right to practice their faith, it is the local authorities and communities that often bring persecution upon believers.

Pastor Seng’s ordeal serves as a stark reminder that even legal protections cannot always shield believers from persecution in this predominantly Buddhist nation. Local authorities sought for years to suppress his faith, demanding he renounce Christianity and cease his preaching efforts. His refusal led to imprisonment, fines, and ultimately, his tragic death.

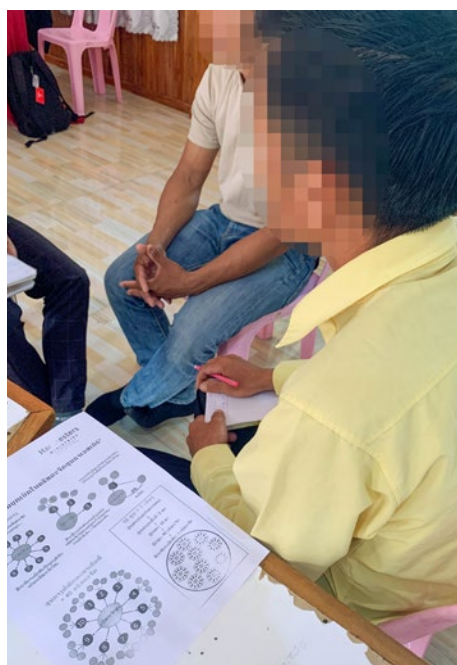
The attendees of our church-planting training believe that Pastor Seng met a tragic end because his Christian belief displeased local residents. Brother Lun explains that each district and village exhibits varying levels of tolerance towards Christianity. Now, as he prepares to evangelize and

plant his third church in a remote and unreached village, he knows the price it could cost him.

PRESSING ON IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

Yet local believers like Lun and Seng continue sharing the Gospel because they are emboldened by the Holy Spirit and motivated by a deep love for their neighbors. The Great Commission to “go and make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) fuels their determination to bring hope and salvation to those who need it most, even at the risk of their own lives. The vision of local leaders to reach over 7 million souls for Christ in this hostile environment is a testament to their unyielding spirit.

While the nation remains unnamed, it is evident that the need for the Gospel in this closed country is urgent. Pray with us for the safety and protection of leaders like Brother Lun as they bravely evangelize the lost, plant churches and disciple believers in spiritually shadowed corners of the globe. 🙏



From Street to Sanctuary



In Zambia, Pastor Loveness showcases the pivotal role local churches play in uplifting overlooked individuals. Found on the street, 83-year-old Benson Chondela was childless, alone and near death. Through Pastor Loveness' devoted care, Benson was introduced to Christ and embraced faith, gaining purpose and a sense of belonging. Soon after he was overjoyed to receive his own Bible from Harvesters through our "First Church, First Bible" project in partnership with Biblica.

Since becoming part of the church, Benson has flourished in the nurturing community that he has longed for. His testimony underscores the profound impact a local church brings to a community, which is why Harvesters is determined to see a church planted in every neighborhood worldwide. 🌍

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Disciple Makers

We launched a new version of our successful Disciple Makers Course, designed to support churches with discipleship and growth. We praise God for this success. Drawing on twenty-five years of experience and success with our evangelism, church planting, pastoral training, and discipleship strategies in over 87 countries, this course gets back to the biblical basics. The focus is on the message and methodology of Jesus for reaching the world with the gospel.

If you want to learn more about the Disciple Makers Course or invite us to come and present it at your church, get in touch today!



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