



Central District News: A Message from Rick Eshbaugh An Opportunity for Outreach to Muslims & Train Pastors

We are excited to support Pastor Claude Tambatamba and Aaron Myers as they prepare for their joint trip to Kenya! They will have an opportunity to train pastors hungry for training. I've included Aaron's newsletter below.

Training in Kenya

Over the last year Aaron Myers, serving with MB Mission's Midwest team, has been building relationships with various immigrant pastors in Sioux Falls. One of those pastor is an amazing man named Claude who leads New Jerusalem Temple, which recently joined the Central District. Pastor Claude is 44 years old, loves Jesus and wants desperately to see Muslims come to faith in Christ.

Pastor Claude came to the U.S. as a refugee. He survived a genocide, survived an attempted murder and survived being held captive for nearly a month while being beaten daily. He lead three of his captors to Christ during that time and shares his story with a joy that defies logic. He helped plant three churches in Kenya and Uganda and planted New Jerusalem Temple in Sioux Falls. Pastor Claude recently introduced Aaron to a new term: Spiritual genocide. He uses it to describe the church's failure to share the gospel with Muslims; as in - if we are not sharing the truth of Jesus with Muslims we are complicit with the devil in spiritual genocide. That one is challenging to chew on.

When they first met, Claude immediately began thinking about getting Aaron to Kenya to help train the churches there. His experience was that, while the churches he helped plant are pretty good about reaching their own people, they have done very little to reach the hundreds of thousands of Muslims who have found themselves in Kenya as refugees. He wants to see that change and so as he heard more about Aaron's work with Crescent Project - to train and inspire the church to share the love of Jesus with Muslims - he asked him to consider a trip to Kenya.

Through many conversations with the MB Conference and MB Mission and Crescent Project and with much prayer, they discerned the call to go together to Kenya. They will fly to Nairobi on February 23th. Aaron will be there for ten days and Pastor Claude will stay for another ten days to encourage the churches in the region and follow up with pastors.

The Purpose of the trip is twofold: The primary purpose will be to challenge and equip believers in Kenya to more effectively share the love of Jesus with Muslims. This will happen through a three-day missions conference, through equipping of pastors and through outreach events. A secondary purpose will be to explore partnership opportunities for MB Mission and/or Crescent Project to serve the churches of East Africa around the vision of seeing Muslims come to faith in Christ. They are excited for this opportunity.

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How can you help:

1. PRAY. Please pray for this trip. The planning, the preparation, the travel, that God would move mightily through us, that many Muslims would hear the gospel because of the trip, for their families who stay behind - all of these items and more need to be covered in prayer.

2. JOIN the Journey. If you want to receive regular updates on the trip, there is a Kenya Trip Newsletter you can subscribe to. Aaron will send out weekly updates, keep you posted on how to pray and share photos and videos from Africa. Email Joni at office@hendersonmbchurch.com to be sent the link to the blog.

3. Support the Trip. A ministry trip to Africa costs money. To help cover the costs of the three-day missions conference, helping bring two Ugandan pastors to Kenya for the conference and to help cover the costs of transportation and lodging in Nairobi, they still need to raise \$4,000. Would you consider giving a special gift to help make this trip possible? <https://christcommunitysf.ccbchurch.com/goto/giving> Select "Foreign Missions" to designate the gift for our trip.

Our heart's desire is to be used by God to see many Muslims in Kenya and Uganda have an opportunity to respond to the Gospel and be connected with true followers of Christ. Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can partner with Pastor Claude and Aaron as they step out in faith to serve in Africa.

USMB Upcoming Events:

USMB Lead One Event - Wichita: April 13 at First MB Church in Wichita, KS. Topic: Evangelism and Intentional Disciple-making. LEAD One events are regional, one-day interactive leadership training events presented by USMB for church leaders or teams of leaders. Each participant is simply asked to contribute a small amount to the host church to offset the cost of snacks and the lunch meal. Contact Lori@usmb.org to register.

USMB & MB Missions Vision for Mission Celebration Event: Sunday, April 15 at Lincoln Hills Church in Sioux Falls from 7-9pm Stories from Randy Friesen, General Director of MB Mission, from restricted areas of Europe, Asia and Africa. Dessert served.

USMB Lead One Event – Sioux Falls: Monday, April 16 at Lincoln Hills Church in Sioux Falls from 8:30am – 3:00pm with the Topic: One Mission: Local, National, Global. Contact Lori@usmb.org to register.

USMB National Convention: July 26-28 in Salt Lake City "Celebrating Our Diversity & Unity". Join together with Mennonite Brethren from across the United States as we gather this summer to celebrate our diversity and the mission that unites us. Our diversity, seen in the various ministry styles of our 200-plus congregations, our many ethnicities and the languages in which we worship, can offer fresh ideas, perspectives and relationships. Our commitment to One Mission—local, national and global unites us as we plant churches and evangelize our neighborhoods, pursue intentional disciple-making and prepare leaders to serve our churches and communities.

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