

December 20, 1985

To all our brethren and sisters of Nairobi ecclesia;

One year has come and gone since our visit to Kenya in December of 1984. Sister Delma and myself would like to take this opportunity to greet all of you in the name of our Saviour, and to encourage all of you to continue steadfast in the hope of our precious calling in Christ.

The past year has been a very busy one for us, both physically and spiritually. After our return to Canada last December we set to work almost immediately in preparation of a report to the brethren and sisters of Canada, United States, England, and Australia for the purpose of informing them concerning our trip, and the situation as we found it regarding our Kenyan brethren and sisters. This report was well received by everyone as brethren and sisters responded with many questions and donations to the fund.

We are also continuing to travel quite extensively throughout Canada and the United States giving slide presentations of the photographs that we took while in Kenya. This is the only way that most of the brethren and sisters have to meet and get to know each of you. As we show each photograph we are able to tell the brethren and sisters where each of you live, the kind of house that you have, what your hobbies and interests are, when you were baptized, etc. This kind of information has allowed brethren and sisters to get to know you in a way that is the next best thing to being there.

We have also been busy in the process of organizing programs and projects that should ultimately benefit each and every one of you in some way or another. These things do take time, however, and if you feel that you may not have yet seen many benefits, we ask you to be patient with us. It is most difficult trying to organize things when such a distance separates us. Simply dealing with the organization of one small item such as tape recorders sometimes takes many letters. Each letter requires two weeks on the average to travel the distance from here to there. Sometimes many months are required before actual results are seen. Do not EVER think that we have forgotten any one of you.

We are very sorry that there was some misunderstanding about the "forms". We never intended to convey the idea that we could guarantee that you would receive from the fund the amount that was put down on the form. It was intended for our information only, to assist us in planning for future projects, as well as helping us to fairly distribute what we have available to send to you. In general, brethren and sisters here in Canada, the United States, England, and Australia have responded very liberally. Many have given much who really do not have much to give; like the poor widow in the time of Jesus who gave her two mites, they have in many cases sacrificed much to give the generous amount that they have given. Even with such liberality of giving, we do not have large sums of money. What we have we must be very careful with, and distribute effectively so that all may benefit somewhat, and that it may be used as effectively as

possible. We must always remember that it has been given in love; therefore it must be handled with extreme care, and received in love.

We must also take this opportunity to express our thanks to brother Philip and brother Epaphras Wekati for all the work that they have done throughout the past year. They are our representatives in Kenya, and therefore we sometimes expect more of them than is humanly possible, yet they do get the work done, and usually done well. This system we now have (of working with you through them) seems to be operating as well as any that we can think of, but it does require co-operation and patience on the part of all concerned.

All welfare matters and material considerations aside, we feel we cannot impress upon you enough the importance of steadfastness and determination in the things concerning our faith. There are always those around us who attempt to ridicule and condemn; there are always those who try to make things difficult for believers of the ONE TRUE GOSPEL. Do not give in. Do not lose your grasp and foothold on ETERNAL LIFE. It is more precious than anything we can possibly imagine in our wildest dreams. To serve God and receive His gracious gift is worth any sacrifice. Whenever we may doubt, just think of the terrible sufferings our Saviour endured - the shame, the torture - and then resolve to do for him the very utmost of what is in our power and ability to do.

There is no doubt in our mind but that the greatest potential for increase and spreading of the Gospel is in Kenya. Each of you have a great work ahead of you to do. Be persistent and determined, but do not pressure people too much when it is obvious that they do not want the Truth. We witnessed the fact that there are so many places in Kenya where people are hungry for God's message.

Finally, brethren and sisters, we encourage you to continue to be aware of all the signs of the times that are taking place in various parts of the globe - particularly in the Middle East. When we regard these things in the light of Bible prophecy we see without any doubt that ALL THINGS ARE PROGRESSING STRICTLY ACCORDING TO GOD'S PURPOSE - just as He has declared. The terrible events of unrest in the Middle East, the steady development of the "peace cry" among the nations, the earthquake and volcano disasters of Mexico and Columbia are all signals of an incredibly rapid progression toward the fulfillment of those events concerning which Jesus advised his followers, "When ye see these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." (Luke 21:28)

Your brother and sister in the Hope of our Calling,

Ed and Delma Truelove