



# Tuombe - Let Us Pray

*Jn 15:7 "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you."*



## CHURCH of GOD MINISTRIES



*And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving the utterance. Now there were in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the crowds came together, and were bewildered because each of them was hearing them speak his own language. They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ... And they continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" - Acts 2:3-7, 12 (NASB)*

All of us are familiar with this story from Acts 2. It is a part of the larger story of the birth of the Church as the Holy Spirit came to empower and make manifest God's presence among His people. The story began there, but it continues to this day.

The Day of Pentecost story is multifaceted and there are many important aspects. As you can guess, we are going to focus on the miracle of the languages. Over the years, there has been volume upon volume written upon the exact nature of the miracle that took place. Some say that the languages were heavenly (i.e. not human), interpreted by the Holy Spirit for each individual hearer. Others, among whom my opinion rests, believe that the languages spoken by the apostles were actual human languages that the Holy Spirit empowered the apostles to speak. The argument regarding these issues continues to this day and we will not resolve it here.

In contrast, I would like to focus on the



The B aylors: Bonnie, David, Joshua, Michael

response of the hearers. First, let's look at the hearers - who were they? According to v. 5, they were "devout men from every nation under heaven." Not just Jews, not just Greeks, but Parthians, Medes, Elamites, etc. - literally, people from everywhere. Second, what was their response? Luke uses words like astonished, amazed, and perplexed. Why were they astonished? They were astonished because they heard the testimonies in their own language - their heart language. Why did God do it this way? Now, I certainly do not claim to fathom all of God's intentions, but I believe that God used their heart languages because that is what would have the greatest impact.

For those of you who have traveled outside the US for any significant period of time, you know how comforting and how it grabs your attention to hear someone speaking English. It gets your attention immediately and you gravitate to the speaker. This was true 2000 years ago and it is true now. I believe that God did it this way to demonstrate that the Gospel and the Church were for everyone - not just the Jews, not just for Greeks, but for everyone, everywhere. Even today, people who have just recently received the Bible in their own heart language testify that they now understand

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### Prayer Requests

- 🌿 Pray that God will raise up the partners needed to provide the finances for us to get to Kenya.
- 🌿 Pray that God will be preparing us to learn Kiswahili.
- 🌿 Pray that God will make our departure timing very clear and give us patience as we wait on Him.
- 🌿 Pray that God will lead us to the right person to be our language helper.

### Praises

- 🌿 Praise God for funds that He has provided and continues to provide.
- 🌿 Praise God that He knows how to reach our hearts and that he speaks to us just as we need.
- 🌿 Praise God that He has raised up Rod Dormer (and wife, Jan) to be the new principal at KIST.



the Gospel to be for them because it is in their language.

Now you may ask, "What does all of this have to do with anything?" Well, this brings us to our commitment to not only teach, equip leaders, and minister to students, but to do it in their own chosen language as much as possible. In our case, that means Kiswahili. As you can imagine, we will have a lot of work to do. Therefore, we ask your prayers as we seek to become fluent in this new language. Pray that God will give us strength and perseverance to stick with language study. We will be studying on our own with a native speaker language helper. Pray that God will be preparing and lead us to the language helper that is just right for us. Pray especially for Bonnie and I, but the boys as well even though Joshua and Michael will probably pick it up more quickly. Language learning for kids is generally easier than for adults.

Another question that some may ask is, "Don't they speak English in Kenya?" The answer is yes; in fact they have two national languages - English and Kiswahili. So, in the strictest sense, in Kenya, we could survive with English. However, to truly understand a culture, understanding their language is essential. Language provides insights into how people think and helps us to understand the underlying assumptions of their worldview. This alone is sufficient reason for the effort.

Additionally, Kiswahili will be an essential ministry tool for David, since he will

be ministering in many locations outside of Kenya - Uganda, Zambia, and Tanzania. Kiswahili is spoken to some extent in all of these places and it is the official language of Tanzania. English is spoken in many places in Africa, but there are many more places where it is not. Pray for David as he moves out into these places where Kiswahili will be essential.

Kwaherini. (see you later)

For God's Church in Africa,

David, Bonnie, Joshua, & Michael Baylor

### Learn Kiswahili

During the first two weeks of October 2009, our family attended the PILAT program (Program in Language Acquisition Techniques) in Colorado Springs. One of the primary emphases of this training is that anyone can learn a foreign language. So here are few words and phrases to help get you started in Kiswahili:

- Hujambō or Jambō - Hello
- Habari gani? - How are you?
- Mzuri sana. - Very Well.
- Hōdi, hōdi? - May I come in?
- Kwaheri - Good Bye
- Asante - Thank You
- Tafadahli - Please
- Ndiyo - Yes
- Hapana - No

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