

VISION MINISTRY KENYA MARCH AND APRIL MINISTRY REPORT 2020



V I S I O N
M I N I S T R I E S K E N Y A

MORE, EFFECTIVE, FLOURISHING CHURCHES

REGIONS

- (i) NAIROBI**
- (ii) KAJIADO**
- (iii) NYANZA**
- (iv) WESTERN**

Report date of submission 26th/May/2020

INTRODUCTIONS

It is already well documented that Covid-19 pandemic is the most dangerous health/social/economic crisis to face the world since World War II and the worst crisis to face Kenya since independence. Although the Kenyan ministry Of Health is undertaking mass testing on average (2,000 tests daily in May), the number tested so far by the date of drafting this report (46,984) is still very low which is only 0.1% of Kenya's 47 million people. The number of infections is growing as Kenya gets more cases and has reached the landmark 1,000 mark with 50 deaths.

On 15th, March, 2020, the government of Kenya suspended all religion and public gatherings as a measure to help contain this disease. This measure has indeed affected physical meetings in VMK national and regional levels.

Below is a brief report from our regions highlighting March and April activities.

NAIROBI REGION MARCH REPORT

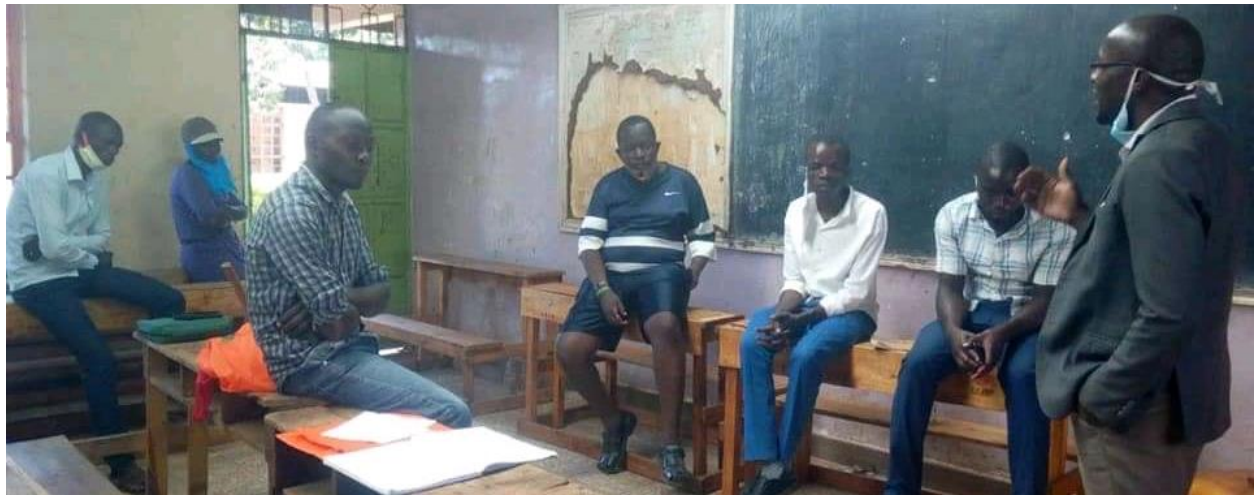
Nairobi, being the epicenter of Corona virus in Kenya, it was very risky for members to physically meet for regional consultation meetings and any other activity. This first month of Corona in Kenya came with fear of unknown. Shutting down of churches on 15th, March came as a surprise. Many of our pastors could not really believe this unusual move.

Our office has been in touch with the partners via mails, WhatsApp and phone calls. A briefings meeting for the region in this month was done via Nairobi WhatsApp group. In the meeting the members were giving reports of how their churches were doing and adapting with the lockdowns, curfews and cessation of movements restrictions imposed by the government. Listed churches below attended the WhatsApp group meeting held on 23rd /March/2020 and tabled are what they had to say.

	Church	Estate	Leader in Charge	Method used to reach believers in March
1.	Hope Bible Church	Kiambiu	George Omamo	(a) House to House meetings on Sunday (b) Calling via telephone
2.	Outreach Community Church	Kayole	Luke Jakoywa	(a) Preaching is done via church Facebook to help reach the members. (b) Believers are called through the phone
3.	God's Everlasting Hope	Kibera	John Omeno	(a) Calling believers via phone to pray with them
4.	Kayole Chapel	Kayole	Elisha Aduma	(a) Door to door reaching to believers
5.	Huruma Chapel	Huruma	Pius Otieno Ndege	(a) phone call to believers
6.	Grace Conservative Brethren Assembly	Mathare	Meshack Okoth	(a) Pastor's house was the place for all believers to gather every Sunday.
7.	Outreach Community Church Kware	Pipeline	Rev. Mbiku	(a) phone call (b) Weekly Facebook preaching.

NAIROBI APRIL REPORT

Nairobi region leaders planned a virtual meeting via zoom that did not materialize. Many of the leaders were not familiar with this method. Bishop Luke therefore gave them time to seek for technological knowhow. Brother Calvin (VMK office admin) was given a task to train the leaders through the WhatsApp on how zoom works and a later meeting to be schedule in June when all members feel have acquired the necessary knowledge. WhatsApp group meeting for Nairobi leaders has been very effective for members. The leaders have been consistent in giving update on how the churches are doing.



Conservative Grace Brethren Assembly leaders meet in church for fellowship

Outreach Community Church, Conservative Grace Brethren Assembly and Hope Bible Chapel provided some gifts as below to their believers to help cushion them during this pandemic.

Name of the church	Need met	Gift to believers
Outreach Community Church	Social	One week free water to believers
Hope Bible Chapel	Social	Wheat flour, sugar and Cooking oil
Grace Conservative Brethren Assembly	Social	Wheat flour and Cooking oil
Huruma Chapel	Social	Ugali flour
Kamulu Chapel	Social	Ugali flour, milk and cooking oil



Outreach Community church offering water for free to the community for a week help them in sanitizing

NYANZA REGION MARCH REPORT

During this month it happen that brother Ishmael had just travelled to Homa-bay and was on board to help the Nyanza regional chairperson organize themselves. Ishmael managed to talk to all the partnering leaders. He encouraged them to call their congregation and organize house to house meeting whenever possible. During this month leaders at Grace met to chat way forward and as well to help dig a trench to safeguard Grace Bible Chapel from flooding. The raining season had just started.



Grace Chapel elders meet to dig a trench to protect the church from flood.

News reached us that the church at Nyora, Migori County had just flooded and most of our believers were victims. The church building was flooded and pastor's house had just been vandalized by the flood. Pastoral leaders were requested to stand in prayer on behalf of the members of Nyora Chapel



The flooded Nyora Chapel, Migori County



Nyora chapel pastor's house destroyed by water. The chapel still flooded and church members forced to relocate from their homes.



Nyora brethren relocate to a nearby school for safety.

The following churches were presented in a prayer meeting organized at Grace on 25th, March, 2020;

- Onjinyo Hope Chapel
- Grace Bible Chapel
- Homa-Bay Hope Chapel
- Mumbo Chapel
- Koderia Chapel

APRIL

Nyanza leaders were able to achieve the listed below activities within this month. They were able to;

- Organize couples meeting for pastors held at Grace Bible Chapel

- Deliver relief food to Nyora Assembly brethren who were affected by flood
- Organize home to home fellowship done by various pastors and leaders at churches
- Conduct prayers for October conference meeting



Nyanza leaders' couples retreat at Brother Ishmael's home.

KAJIADO REGION MARCH REPORT

Kajiado was safe from Covid-19 in the month of March. Churches were meeting as usual as explained by Rev. Mokinyo on a phone call report to VMK-Office administrator on **19th, March, 2020.**

At Alkesumet Prayer Mountain, the chairperson organized prayer meetings on 20th and 28th that was attended by members. In the meeting they were praying for all partners (local and international) for safety amidst the Corona-Virus pandemic. They as well had opportunity to discuss on how they would continue with fellowships during the pandemic in any case the government become serious in monitoring the public gathering suspension rule. In their meeting they resolved to use door to door means to reach the believers. They as well resolved to be using the phone calls to hear from pastors whenever possible



Kajiado leaders meeting for prayers on the mountain

APRIL

This region reported their first Covid-19 case on 15th, April, 2020, a case being linked to Tanzanian truck driver at Namanga-Tanzania boarder.

Rev.Theophilus through a WhatsApp video call made to give April report to VMK national office reported that few restrictions of movement were being observed by the county government. Despite government banning social gatherings, we were told that the leaders here still gathered at Alkesumet Prayer Mountain for April prayer meeting while observing social distance regulations.

Sisters department led by sister Sheila as well reached to the vulnerable widows from *Soul Winning Nalala* church by supplying maize floor and cooking oil to help cushion them from the effect of pandemic. Since the closure of all Maasai markets, these ladies who entirely depended on small scale cabbage and kale selling at the nearby market had been adversely affected.



Kajiado Nalala church ladies gather to receive donation of food from Sister Sheila.

Rev.Mokinyo also reported that most leaders in the region still embraced door to door evangelism in reaching their congregation however it is an extremely challenging task since most Maasais live far from each other. In a day, a pastor would end up just reaching two or three believers.

Family Counselling

The coronavirus pandemic has brought with it another epidemic- an increase in mental health issues. The level of stress and anxiety has gone high because of the circumstance of Covid-19. The Kajiado team organized counselling sessions on 27th, April for families. This was done from house to house in Nalala area.

WESTERN REGION MARCH REPORT

This region was privileged during the month of March being that it had not reported any Covid-19 case. The pastors in this region carried on with their meetings as usual and could meet their congregation through door to door visit without any fear. The regional leaders had one follow-up meeting for October conference.



Western leaders october conference follow-ups meeting held in March.

APRIL

The regional leaders have continued meeting for prayers and consultative meetings regarding the upcoming October conference. While meeting they have been adhering to the government regulations for social distancing. At least one is to keep about 2 metres distance from the other person. In the whole of April most pastors and elders reached their congregation through house to house visit. Most families were organizing house church services that we are told the pastors and elders are facilitating.

The current rains being witnessed in Kenya has caused havoc to some of the Vision Ministry Kenya members in this region. We are told pastor Peter's house (VMK Western Region Secretary) was destroyed by the rains and heavy wind and he is currently living in a tent he erected in his compound after the damage.



Pastor Peter's house destroyed by heavy rain and wind being witnessed in western Kenya



Pastor Peter's current place of resident after destruction of his house

VMK-NATIONAL OFFICE

The office remains open however the office reporting and leaving time for the office administrator has been adjusted to help comply with the curfew regulations.

Activities are;

- Reaching pastors via phone calls, emails, WhatsApp
- Convening daily devotional prayers to pray for partners
- Updating of the organization's Facebook
- Updating of organization's website
- Drafting of ministry reports
- Daily Consultation communication to director via phone call
- Consulting with regional leaders
- Book keeping
- Corresponding
- Receiving of visitors in the office whenever there is

TAKING A DIGITAL LANE AS WORLD GO ONLINE

The corona virus crisis is showing the world how to live online. As long as it remains unwise to gather in physical spaces, we will need to create virtual spaces that can sustain some of our activities as an organization for example leadership trainings. The following are the spaces we are currently exploring and the future spaces to be explored whenever possible;

Current

- Facebook live (for covering services and posting ministry's activities online)
- WhatsApp group meetings for regions
- Phone calls through pastors and key church leaders for follow-ups and giving regional reports to national office.

Future

- Zoom meetings
- Webcast
- Microsoft teams
- Skype
- Teleconference

Limitations

- Most of the pastors we are reaching, especially the ones in the village, lack computers or tablets or Android phones enabled to carry out some of these online activities.
- Slow internet networks/connections in some places e.g. western and Kajiado regions.
- Technical knowhow is a challenge with a good number of our pastors
- Cost of internet

CONCLUSION

With social distancing protocols in place amid the Covid-19 pandemic, and hours of isolation taking a toll into our sanity, Facebooks, WhatsApp and phones are becoming popular amongst our church leaders. In April these social media platforms played a greater role in reaching out to the leaders and as well leaders reaching out to their congregation.

Going forward, the ministry should consider;

- Virtual meetings
- Developing an ICT curricular to be instrumental in training partner leaders.
- Online leadership trainings.
- Prioritize IT proficiency when recruiting church leaders.