



VISION MINISTRIES KENYA



2011 - 2021 | A DECADE OF HIS FAITHFULNESS



EQUIP ^{TO} FLOURISH

MORE, EFFECTIVE, FLOURISHING CHURCHES

Our Journey

Brother Ishmael met brother Gord Martin at an International Brethren Conference in Germany.

This meeting led to talks that pioneered the birth of VMK.

In 2011, Vision Ministries Kenya was officially registered in Kenya under the Kenyan Societies Act.

In the same year, brother Gord sent a delegation of leaders to oversee the official launch of the ministry in Kenya which was held at Jimlizer hotel, Nairobi. The delegation was led by Brother Simeon from Burundi.

VMK is a registered ministry by EAK (Evangelical Alliance of Kenya) and partners with AEA (Association of Evangelicals in Africa).



2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

2021



VMK delegates during the launch in 2011 at Jimlizer hotel, Nairobi.



‘To equip the saints for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ until we all attain the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the son of God, to mature to manhood to the measure of the stature...’ Ephesians 4:12



Group photo during Kajiado region conference

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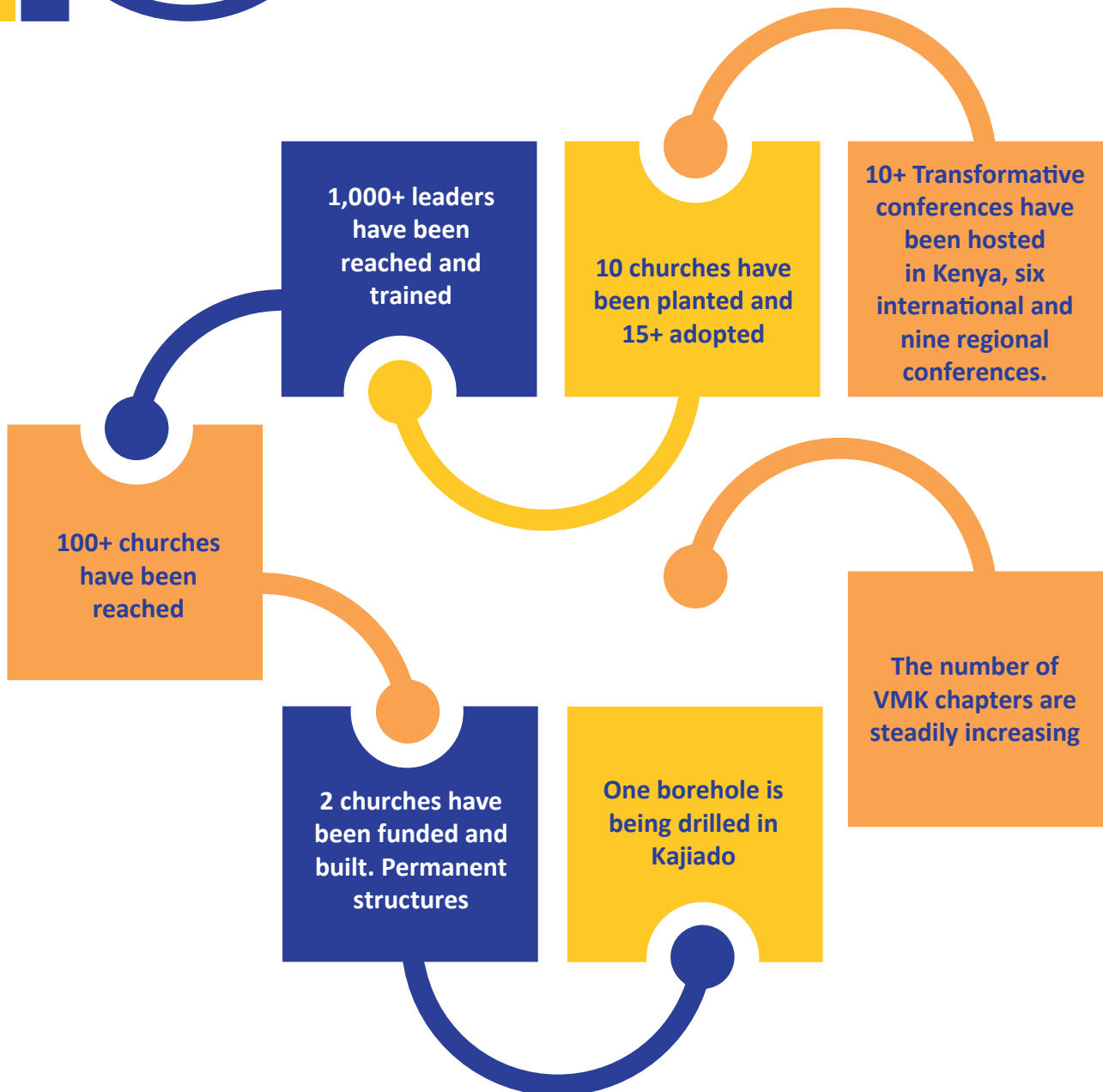
Materials and photos sent to us will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication.

Articles submitted for publication will however be subjected to the magazine's editorial policy.



A DECADE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

For the last ten years, the Lord God has been faithful to us.
See what He has done:



'God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.' 1 Corinthians 1:9

Our Identity

VMK (Vision Ministry Kenya) emerged from among the Brethren churches in Kenya. It has an interdenominational and collaborative ministry focus. Most of our churches are: smaller, independent and economically challenged. We are a registered non-profit organization under the society acts of Kenya and we are governed by a memorandum and articles of association

We launched in September 3rd /2011. Since inception, Vision Ministries Canada (VMC) has been of great support morally and financially.

Our Vision

To have a network of churches which are known for good Bible teaching, pastoral care and positive leadership

Our Priorities

- Provide training for church leaders
- Cultivate a network of partnering churches
- Facilitate evangelistic church planting
- Introduce our churches to social service agencies

Our Core Values

- Bible based
- Christ-Centred
- Collaborative
- Compassionate
- Evangelistic
- Organized
- Practical

Our Purpose

That there may be more, effective and flourishing churches

Whom do we target?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaders of independent churches • People ministering to pastors, church leaders, women and youth • People interested in church planting
Our Strategy	
Regional Bible Schools	a. For supporting churches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VMK member churches • Other interested churches
	b. Curriculum & classes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with Harvesters Bible College • Classes meet 4days a month. • Classes will be as flexible as possible
	c. Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastors & other church leaders.
	d. Teachers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mostly local trained lecturers • Supplemented by interested trainers from outside the country
	e. Regional Funding
Regional Conferences and Seminars	a. Leadership conferences and seminars to supplement the Bible Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastors and Church Leaders • Women's Ministry • Youth Ministry
	b. Regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nairobi • South-Rift Valley (Kajiado) • Nyanza • Western • North Rift Valley (Eldoret)
National Conferences & Seminars	VMK is celebrating 10 years of God's faithfulness since its inception.



Ishmael Ochieng'

Executive Director

that will be effective in reaching people for Christ. We are committed to the idea of teamwork because we believe that together we can achieve more for God if we combine our gifts and talents.

Local churches are strategic in our evangelism. We work with local pastors to help spread the good news.

We thank God for brother Gord Martin who has been of great help to this ministry. He has been a great mentor to us. Through him we have connected to great men of God and organizations that have helped this ministry become more effective.

How We Work?

A team of dedicated staff meet daily for devotion, to pray and plan for day to day work of the ministry.

They connect with regional representatives and with the board of directors to ensure the work is done smoothly and effectively.

God is indeed faithful. I marvel to witness the work of God flourish. The ministry has been very inclusive, giving opportunities to both men and women to advance the kingdom of God. Women's ministry in every region has been supportive of the work of God. The opportunity to organize annual women's conferences is indeed a motivation to women servants. So far we have had one national conference which has been a great encouragement to this work! We are looking forward to hosting more of such events at the regional level. I join my fellow co-workers to wish VMK success as it enjoys its first decade of ministry.

We all know prayer is an integral part of effective making. It is also a tremendous force in our lives as disciples of Christ. I'm amazed by the work Vision Ministries Kenya has done in our country Kenya. In spite of the challenges, I have seen struggling congregations revived. We have so far reached 100+ churches in our country. The need is however still overwhelming.

We use any appropriate method

Molline Ochieng' | Board Member

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Brother Gord Martin | Vision Ministries Canada

10 Years of VMK: Then and Now

We came to Kenya because the Lord had taught us valuable lessons that we wanted to share with others.

He taught us how to work together as church leaders, both within and among our very independent congregations. He taught us the value of faithful obedience, carrying the Good News to those who were scattered like sheep without a shepherd, winning them, gathering them, and mobilizing them for ministry so that we became like spiritual fathers to them. This was our joy!

Not only that, but He also taught us how to plant new churches, how to care for and encourage the leaders of existing churches and how to facilitate and cultivate collaboration among churches so that together they would have a vision for their nation to the glory of God. And this, not in an exclusive manner, He also taught us the value of knowing and cooperating with the leaders of other church networks, agencies, and denominations.

We wanted to pass on what He had been teaching us. That is why we came to Kenya, in response to the urging of Brother Ishmael Ochieng and the Holy Spirit.

Memories:

- Before ever coming to Kenya, Ishmael was calling me occasionally in Canada, reminding me that “we need you here”. After several years, I began to wonder, could it be true?
- An Ethiopian brother in Toronto, heard that I was going to go to Africa, he said,

“you know Gord, they say that if you go to Africa, you will go again!”

- In 2012, waiting with Ishmael and Brian Larmour in the conference room in the Jimlizer Hotel in Nairobi, wondering, would anyone show up for the leadership training?
- Traveling to Nyanza to speak and do leadership training, being honoured with the gift of a live goat, which in turn I gave to Sister Molline!
- Being asked at 1:30 a.m. by Ishmael, “Do you love me?”
- Enjoying the lively musical and dancing leadership of the Shelter of Hope band!
- Meeting with a group of farmers from Nyanza in the darkness outside of Ishmael’s house, telling me, “what a difference it would make, if only we had two sets of oxen.”
- Preaching in very humble churches in Nairobi, Nyanza and Kajiado, finding genuine brothers and sisters of great faith there.
- Lots of meetings with the board of VMK, asking ourselves, “What can we do in order to see more churches in Kenya, Effective and Flourishing?”
- Washing the feet of Brothers Ishmael and Vincent Aluoch at one of the conferences in Nairobi.
- Being present at a huge wedding in Maasai Land. On the way the van got stuck in the sand, pushing, digging, and encouraging each other with the favourite words of Ishmael, “We must go forward! There is no



turning back! The future is bright!!

- The truly grand openings of new church facilities in Namanga and at Homa Bay.

- Switching to regional conferences in order to broaden and deepen the ministry.

What I hope to see in VMK

1. Serving:

A consistent, committed, respected and growing core of VMK leaders, serving in and among the churches, regionally and nationally.

2. Consistency:

Continuity and development of Regional Bible schools and Regional Conferences/Seminars

3. Belonging:

The development of fraternal and supportive relationships with stronger non-VMK churches, ministries, networks and denominations within Kenya.

4. Flourishing:

More effective churches, flourishing in Kenya and beyond!



Brother Doug Loveday | Vision Ministries Canada

Celebrating 10 years of God's goodness to Vision Ministries Kenya

Greetings in the powerful Name of the LORD Jesus Christ! My name is Doug Loveday and I have been coming to Kenya for the last nine years. The LORD has richly blessed me through many interactions with my Kenyan brothers and sisters. In fact I can gladly say that Philippians 1: 3 is absolutely true when I think of you all. "I thank my God every time I remember you."

As I have returned to Canada and told stories to my Canadian friends, they have seen that the LORD has used you to inspire me, to strengthen me and encourage me to follow Jesus even more.

It has been most precious to celebrate communion together. I recall one time in Nyanza province, meeting at mid-day, under a tent in the blazing heat. We spoke about the suffering that Jesus endured as He went to the cross to pay for our sins. We wept together as we meditated on the Lamb that was slain for the sins of the world. His body was broken for us and His blood was poured out for our forgiveness. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

Then we ate the bread and drank the cup, and we all celebrated that now we are forgiven, washed clean, sins removed as far as the east is from the west. Last time I checked that distance is infinity. We are

children of the King of kings and the LORD of all lords, adopted into His family forever! With this in mind, we danced and sang and shouted to the LORD for His amazing love. What a JOY. This is the joy of the LORD.

Another time in Nairobi, after our conference, we all together, celebrated communion. There I was, holding the plate with the bread. Beside me stood my Kenyan sister, holding the cup. As each person came forward, I said, "The body of Christ was broken for you brother". Then my sister said, "The blood of Jesus was shed for you. " We were acting out the powerful truth expressed in Galatians 3:28. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Our great UNITY in Jesus is so precious. What a gift from God. It has been so wonderful to sing and dance together to the glory of God. Of course most Canadians cannot dance. I guess the LORD did not bless us with this gift. But still, it is a blessing to try to dance and offer it all up to the Saviour. And thank you for not laughing too hard as we

jump around to the LORD!

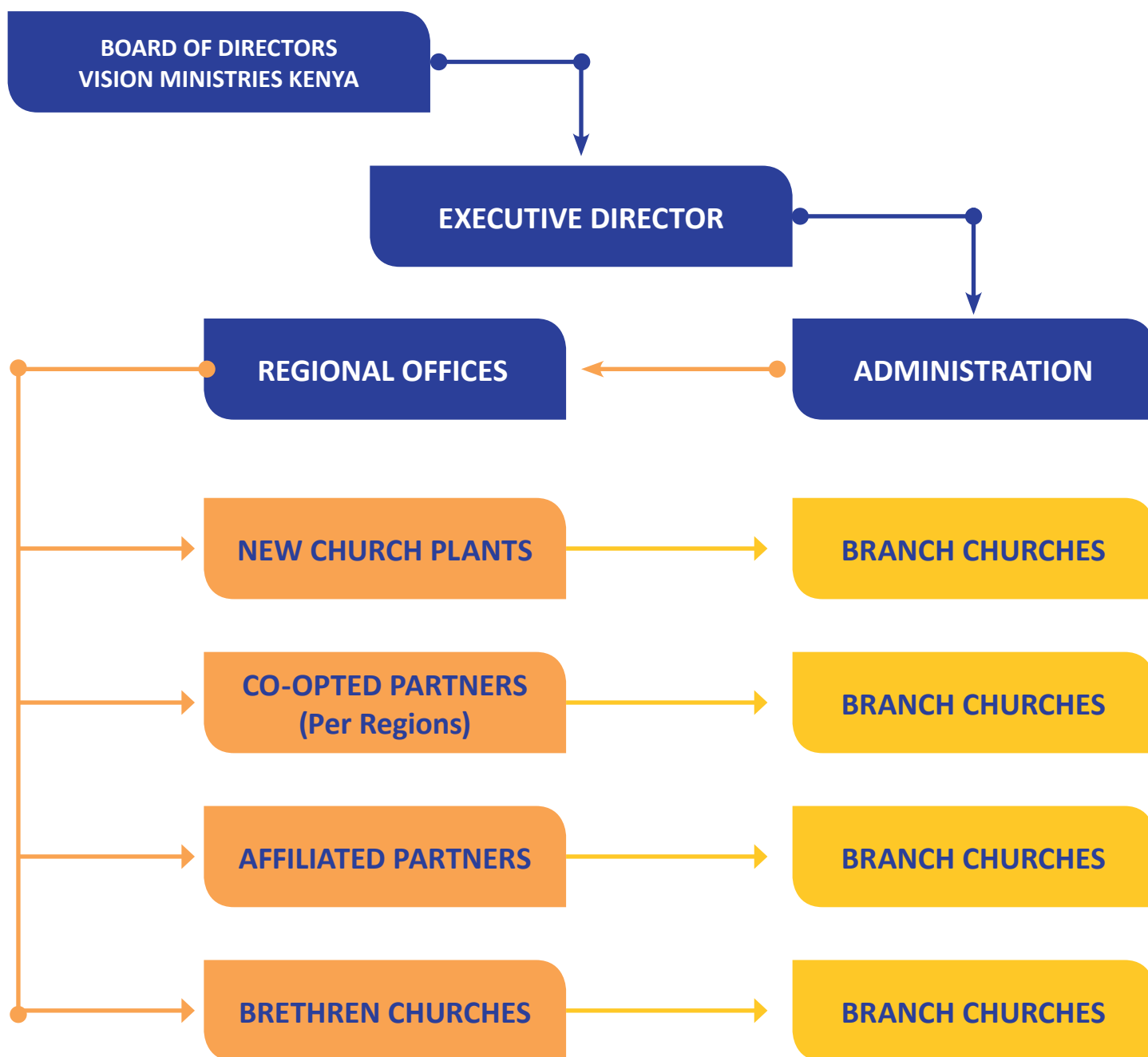
Oh and can I talk about Kenyan food!! Not the restaurant food at a hotel, but REAL Kenyan food. Ugali! Dark and light! The abundance of fruit. The variety. God has blessed you. And to eat Nile perch, cooked over an open fire beside Lake Victoria. This is a taste of heaven!

One last memory. In 2019, Ron Seabrooke, my good brother and teaching partner, suffered a heart attack and went to be with the LORD in October. Ron and I had just returned from a joy-filled ministry time in Kenya. With the VMK team, we travelled by boat to Sumba Island in Lake Victoria to encourage some Christians there who were planting a new church. We sang and preached on the shore to the fishermen. Ishmael proclaimed the Good News of Jesus with power and some of them came to us for prayer and counsel. What a joy. The angels in heaven rejoiced as these new souls trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of a new life. Who could think that Ron would join those angels in heaven just a few weeks later?

So maybe you can see why I thank my God every time I remember you. We are one in the LORD Jesus, and I thank Him for all I have learned and experienced with you. May the LORD bring abundant fruit, eternal fruit, lasting fruit as we all become stronger followers of Jesus, disciples who disciple others to follow Him.



Organization Structure



Task Force to Board of Directors

A task-force team was created in 2019. This was a strategy team whose mandate was to initiate ideas of how to advance our mission and help us move toward local sustainability of the ministry. The task force term expired in 2019. As the former board members were retiring in the same year, 95% of the task-force members were elected to the board of directors.

Bishop Luke Jakoywa | Nairobi Region

I came to know about VMK when I visited the office of the Director Ishmael Okuku, I think sometime in 2015. What impressed me was the vision of working with churches to make them better managed, flourishing and impacting their communities. One of the problems, particularly with the independent Pentecostal churches, has been lack of leadership structure and people not serving in their offices of call. This often leads to splits, especially when roles are not clearly defined.

Seeing the vision and mission of VMK, I joined, being convinced that the VMK training would reduce this kind of splitting since God's people mostly suffer because of lack of knowledge. In order to convince my leaders, we held a vision casting meeting with them in our church in 2016 where the VMK Director was in attendance. My leaders appreciated the vision and we all agreed that our church should become an active member of VMK. Since that time, we have played our role and the VMK management invited me to lead the Nairobi Region Chapter and after some time I became a board member.



Challenges

1. COVID-19 completely ruined our regional plans for 2020 even though the director's office organized a meeting towards end of last year.
2. Nairobi Region has not been as stable as we would like to see. People have different motives for belonging to an organization.
3. The vision and mission of VMK is valid and will be a sure way by which we can grow churches to fit with the demands of the 21st century.

Generally, the vision and mission of VMK is still and will be a sure way where we can grow churches to fit with the 21st century demands.



Nairobi region members during a conference



VMK Nairobi region meeting in VMK director's office

Fredrick | VMK Nyanza Chapter

I have two great passions when it comes to the Word of God. The first has always been that I would be able to teach God's plan of salvation as recorded in the whole of the Bible and the second is to teach Biblical leadership principles.

From where I come from, Nyanza region, churches continue to be planted but there is a great desire for trained pastors who are able to handle the word of God correctly. The majority of pastors are not trained therefore the flock are not fed well, leading to stagnation in the spread of the Gospel. Vision Ministries Kenya has been doing good work in training pastors and church leaders on how to be effective in their ministry.

Through Vision Ministries Kenya trainings, I have come to realize just how important it is for the local church to recruit and train leaders for the future. If any church does not take the time to look for, encourage and train future leaders, the church will suffer. I will even go as far as to say it may die. When any local congregation dies, it decreases the ability of the church to introduce people to the saving relationship with God only found through Jesus Christ.

Vision Ministries Kenya considers the church as the central place in the God's overall plan for the universe. As a youth leader, I have benefited from their teachings since The Power of Team Conference in 2016. I have come to realize a servant of God is no ordinary person. I should be light of to the world.

My marriage life should be an example to the rest of the world because God Himself instituted marriage. The teachings on Christian marriage have just been so amazing. I have come to know pastors from various parts of the country who are in the VMK network. This cross-cultural partnership of church leaders has enabled me to learn from other leaders how to organize the church well for the glory of God. As a delegate of VMK Nyanza, I have benefited from the church training resources such as the Jethro Manual and Sheep without Shepherd.

These materials assist us with wisdom and leadership skills for church management. Finally, the Bible school in Nyanza which is a product of VMK is doing a miracle. Many church leaders are now undergoing theological training that will see them graduate with certificate and diploma certificates.



Nyanza region partners registering in a past Nyanza conference



Nyanza leaders training at Obunga Church, Homa-bay

Matthias Otieno | Nyanza Chapter Partner

I am Mathias Dickens Otieno, married with 6 children, a pastor by the grace of God. Before being introduced to VMK, I was a full-time minister, serving as a pastor but I had my struggles then. The church wasn't working for me, we were not growing and the ability to minister to my congregation was not efficient. I always felt there was something wrong with the way I preached or something was wrong with the Gospel I preached. I was generally frustrated with ministry to the extent of wanting to give up.

I was introduced to brother Ishmael by Bishop Ogolla who was a great friend and a fellow minister. I have participated in most of VMK conferences. The teachings in these conferences became a big solution to my church problems. I remember the



transformative sermons that changed my life, eg. leadership, integrity, Bible interpretation, how to organize a church, how to be a team player and how to delegate.

Later, I was one of the VMK beneficiaries who was sponsored to join the Bible school. That became the turning point in my ministry. After my graduation, I began handling ministry with wisdom. Things that formerly looked impossible in ministry, became possible, the church began to grow and many people's lives began to change when I preached. I was able to plant churches and even lecture in one of the Bible movements in Kenya. VMK has remained to be my source of inspiration. I have loved all the wonderful teams who have been coming yearly to teach and train.

Pastor Wafula | Western Chapter Partner

I am Pastor Wafula from the western part of Kenya. I was introduced to VMK by a pastor friend. When I attended the leaders' training in my region I was really challenged.

Director Ishmael was teaching various principles that a pastor ought to emulate for the ministry to expand and grow effectively. In the middle of his teachings, he paused and asked whether leaders and pastors present in the training, have had a written vision for their churches, a mission and a structure guiding the body of Christ. It

was like he was addressing me in a way. My church had no well spelled out structure, a written mission or vision. It was all confusion! I am very grateful for Vision Ministries Kenya. It reintroduced me to myself. I applied all the principles taught and I can confidently testify that I am

currently doing great in my leadership. Through the step of faith I took after these teachings, we are currently building a mega permanent church to serve God. No one ever imagined that such a church could be built in a village. God bless VMK!



Bishop Gilbert, Western Chairperson, introducing Western Kenya region leaders during a past conference.

Pictorial | Local conferences



Western VMK team



Eldoret conference



Leaders in a past conference



Western conference

Theophillus Mokinyo | Kajiado Region - Chairperson

VMK was introduced in Kajiado in 2011 but it did not work for the Maasai community. The greater breakthrough has been seen from 2016. The Kajiado regional chapter office was officially launched on 26th May 2019 at Olkesumet, All Nations Prayer Centre.

On 5th June, 2019 at the Kajiado regional headquarters, a very successful regional meeting was held where the region set its working objectives and calendar to be followed. The region is so far growing. The churches involved have increased. Finally, I thank the Lord for giving me the opportunity to serve in VMK board as the chairperson. It is a great experience.



Pastor Patrisha | Kajiado Region



Sister Patrisha Mbaria is a pastor of Soul Winning church based in Namanga-Kajiado County. She joined VMK in 2016 and this is what she had to say.

'I joined VMK in the year 2016. At this particular time; my church was really struggling with leadership issues. My church had no leadership structure. I'm delighted that after joining VMK, things have been improving simultaneously. The leadership skills I have acquired from director Ishmael's

trainings and the conferences have fully empowered me.

My congregation has grown. I have come up with leadership structure that closely resembles the one in the VMK policy manual. Currently I have started a mentorship program for my upcoming leaders. I bless the Lord for making me connect with VMK.

It has been a wonderful time'.

A Call to Maasai Land

Maasai are a Nilotic ethnic group inhabiting northern, central and southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. They are among the best known local populations due to their residence near the many game parks of the African Great Lakes and their distinctive customs and dress. The Maasai speak the Maa language (Maa), a member of the Nilo-Saharan family that is related to Dinka, Kalenjin and Nuer languages.

Maasai Shelter

The Maasai, historically a nomadic people, have traditionally relied on readily available materials and indigenous technology to construct their unusual and

interesting housing. The traditional Maasai house was designed for people on the move and thus their houses were very impermanent in nature. The Inkajijik (houses) are either circular or loaf-shaped, and are made by women.

Their villages are enveloped in a circular Enkang (fence) built by the men and this protects their cattle at night from wild animals.

Maasai Culture

Maasai society is firmly patriarchal in nature, with elder Maasai men sometimes joined by retired elders, determining most major matters for the Maasai tribes.



A call to Maasai land.

The Maasai people are monotheistic, and their God is named Engai or Enkai.

For Maasai people living a traditional way of life, the end of life is virtually without a formal funeral ceremony, and the dead are left out in the fields for scavengers. In the past burial has been reserved for great chiefs only, since it is believed by the Maasai that burial is harmful to the soil.

Traditional Maasai people's lifestyles concentrate on their cattle which make up the primary source of food. Amongst the Maasai and several other African ethnic groups, the measure of a man's wealth is in terms of children and cattle. So the more the better.

A man who has plenty of cattle but not many children is considered to be poor and vice versa. A Maasai myth says that God afforded them all the cattle on earth, resulting in the belief that rustling from other tribes is

a matter of claiming what is rightfully theirs, a practice that has now become much less common.

Vision Ministries Kenya Involvement with Maasai churches

Vision Ministries Kenya has had a great opportunity to train Maasai leaders. Through the training they have managed to help construct a church in Namanga. VMK works closely with leaders over this area and still is committed in pursuing new connections with the community. By the grace of God, VMK has connected with further new partners in this land. These include Olkesumet-Prayer Centre and Soul Winning Church, led by Rev. Theophilus Mokinyo and Hon. Patrishia Mbaria.

These leaders have been a great blessing. They act as VMK'S ambassadors in the Maasai community. They occasionally give reports of how the believers in this region are doing, citing challenges they are facing.

“A Maasai myth says that God afforded them all the cattle on earth, resulting in the belief that rustling from other tribes is a matter of claiming what is rightfully theirs.”

Church Plant Reports

Planting a church is an adventure, a journey, a process, a series of steps one after another. Jesus encouraged us to count the cost of being His disciples (Luke 14:28). Surely this principle applies as well to the vision of planting a new church. The following is an attempt to outline the steps a church planter often encounters in the journey of planting a new church. God loves and uses a variety of personalities, gifts and ideas as He pleases. At the root of everything is total surrender to the will of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit. Without that continual surrender, nothing “works.”

May God guide as you “survey the terrain” and “count the cost” of planting a new church. May He fill you with hope, courage, vision and faith to dare and to do for His pleasure. May He wonderfully demonstrate through you His ability “...to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us” for His glory” (Eph. 3:20 ESV).

1. Begin with prayer and fasting and continue that throughout the process.
2. Talk to your church leaders (pastors, overseer, etc.) about your interest and vision. Solicit their advice and prayer. Recruit a mentor, coach and/or overseer for accountability. Recruit a network of encouragers.
3. Recruit prayer partners who will pray regularly for you and your vision of planting a church. Get their names; give them regular prayer requests.
4. Count the cost: move, job change, impact on your family, befriending and spending time with the unchurched, saying “no” to some activities with home/extended church and relatives.
5. Prayerfully determine which kind of church God is calling you to plant: This decision is absolutely crucial to make at the very beginning.
6. Consider prayerfully the approach you envision using (in consultation with your church leadership)

- “swarm” approach (get off to a good strong start by recruiting a number of church families);
- “Start from scratch” approach (recruits one or two other couples/singles, then win locals, with church planters being in the minority). This decision will significantly impact your strategy for planting the new church.

7. Clarify early the team size you envision, and then recruit co-workers accordingly.

We know that Paul sought out people like Timothy. Statistics show that the vast majority of those who come to faith do so before the age of 25. After that, career, marriage, children, materialism seem to settle people into a rut that hardens them to the gospel. Those who do come to Christ later on often have difficulty integrating the new habits necessary to become effective servants of the Gospel.

Kigoto Hope Chapel, church plant Report

We appreciate the brethren who worked tirelessly to support the awe-inspiring mission outreach that was held at Kigoto village in Gwasi sub-county-Homabay County in the year 2018. Glory to the Father for His faithfulness. It was incredible to see brethren gather together for leadership training, church plant/launch, community outreach crusade and witnessing the baptism of the new believers.

As Vision Ministries Kenya, our main mandate is to ensure more flourishing and effective churches. These churches must be planted in the right procedure as per the word of God.

After passing the test of time, Kigoto Hope Bible Chapel was now ready to be officially planted. The journey to Kigoto was however marred with challenges but the Lord was faithful. The mission vehicles managed to pass the impassable roads, though after a series of breakdowns. Some of the mission team members had to help pick building materials from a hardware store in Homa-bay town before leaving to Kigoto.

Outreach Crusade

From the outreach meeting a total of fifty souls received Christ. Sixteen of these were baptised on the last Sunday after the church dedication ceremony.

As it is written, “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that brings good tidings that publish peace; that brings good tidings of good that publishes salvation.” (Isaiah 52:7), it was beautiful to hear salvation, healing and deliverance testimonies.

The Kigoto residents marvelled at the work of God in their village. Every afternoon and night the tents were packed to capacity. The love for the Gospel in this region was amazing.



Prayers during the outreach



A sermon at the lake-shore



Outreach Photos



The marks of an effective church plant



Namanga church launch.

VISION	Get a clear, easy-to-understand, worthy vision that honours God and brings good to other people and for which people can get excited.
PEOPLE	Recruit people who love the vision as much as you do. If you can't find like-minded people, it will be very difficult to be successful in the new ministry. I always believe, and have witnessed it repeatedly, that if God is in this, He has already been shaping the vision in other people's minds. We just need to find them.
EQUIP AND ASSIGN	With people contributing, determine the tasks needed to accomplish the vision. Help people understand their unique role in accomplishing the vision and assign them to specific tasks. Give them the resources they need and make sure they are clear on their assigned role.
ENERGIZE	Keep people motivated towards the vision by continually reminding them of the overall purpose and their significant place in accomplishing it.
RELEASE	Let people do their part to accomplish the vision. Give real ownership. Delegate. Don't control.

EVANGELISM	<p>There was a group discussion every morning for the three days of mission. Leaders had time to ask questions about effective evangelism and give counsel to individuals. It was as well a moment for the leaders to testify to fellow brethren about faithfulness of God in their ministries and to highlight some of the ministry challenges they go through.</p>
CHURCH LAUNCH	<p>2 Samuel 7:5-7' "Go and tell my servant David, 'thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all the places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" As shown in the verses above, God did not instruct David to build Him a dwelling place. But he did give directions to his son Solomon to build a "house" for the Lord. 12</p> <p>When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. 2 Samuel 7:12-13</p> <p>Hope Bible Chapel and friends were fulfilling these verses in the 2 Samuel 7. The structure that was built was a great blessing to the body of Christ. The brethren over here had been fellowshiping under a tree, which was a great challenge during the rainy season. Brethren would at times stop the fellowship when the rains came. Building this structure was therefore an answered prayer.</p>
BAPTISM	<p>Sixteen new believers were baptised on the last day of the mission. These were individuals, whom after getting salvation, attended a class where they were taught about the principles of salvation and baptism. This act of baptism was fulfilling the word of Jesus Christ in John 3:5, "Most assuredly' I say to you, unless one is born of water and the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. "Ishmael in his new believers' class reminded the baptism students about the meaning of being born of water and spirit. That it means that sinners must repent, believe in baptism of Jesus and the blood of cross and thereby receive the remission of sin into their hearts and become righteous.</p> <p>This would mean being born from above. That it is not a change that comes from a human being, that it is a transformation that comes from God. After the baptism ceremony, the baptised brethren got a chance to participate in taking the Holy Communion.</p>

Kodera Hope Chapel Church Plant

The evangelism program took place for four days in 2018 at Kodera, Homa Bay. It was carried out during the mid-days, afternoons, evenings and nights. This provided ample time to preach and pray for those who came to seek medical attention and the other team of people that came specifically for the crusade.

As the Gospel was being preached, the church construction activity was also going on. Remember that the saints in this church had been fellowshiping under a tree for the last six months. Every day there was a great turn-up for the meetings. The night revival meetings were always full to capacity.

Main outreach activities were;

- One on one witnessing
- Door to door / home to home witnessing
- Revival crusade
- Christian film show
- VMK Leadership training for the church leaders
- Building of the church
- Breaking of the bread

Revival Crusade

The revival crusade attendance every night was breath taking and the response to the Gospel was incredible. Both the young and the old gave their lives to Christ. A total of ninety two people received salvation during this week are being followed-up.

The new converts currently are being followed- up by the God-Kwach resident pastor and a team of spiritual leaders in this church. A report from the church leadership on 16th/ 12/ 2018 revealed that a total of 32 new believers were committed in the church. These were the believers who were preached to during the church plant outreach.

Evangelistic crusade during one of the afternoons

Many whose spirits were oppressed by the evil one were delivered. This was a refreshing moment in the presence of the Almighty God.

Public evangelism has been a successful way of bringing converts to the church, and by using public address systems the church has been able to reach those who are afraid or too sceptical to come and sit in the meetings. Some have actually made a decision and have been baptised as a result of listening from a distance

One on one and home to home witnessing.

One-on-one evangelism is a strategy that can be used to bring many to faith in Jesus Christ. It is effective in that not only does it recruit new members, but nurturing and retention is also positively affected by this approach. The method is less expensive and it can be conducted throughout the year without having to worry about the need for good orators for public evangelism.

It was one of the major evangelism tools used during this mission. Brethren walked all over the region of God-Kwach witnessing to the residents one on one in their homes, market square and gardens about the goodness of Jesus Christ.

Vision Ministry, Leadership Training

Great leaders are secure in their role and in their ability to do their jobs. Leaders can only perform their roles perfectly if they are trained well. Brother Ishmael took this opportunity to train the leaders on proper church leadership and effective evangelism. In his training he outlined the importance of delegation and having proper structure of leadership in institutions.

Building of the Church

Putting up the church building for the brethren in God Kwach, Koderia is a great blessing. For over the last six months they had been fellowshiping under a tree where they faced several challenges.

We acknowledge all the brethren that contributed towards this church building. This was an answered prayer to saints in this place.

“Great leaders are secure in their role and in their ability to do their jobs. Leaders can only perform their roles perfectly if they are trained well.”



Grace chapel, church plant.



Mumbo Hope Chapel, Church plant



Nyora Chapel, church plant.



Kigoto Chapel, church plant.



Namanga church built by VMK.

VMK - Leadership Training Reports

A Leadership training program allows you to strengthen those skills that each leader needs to improve. It develops all leaders to a higher level so that they all have improved skills and knowledge.

This is a key tool that VMK uses to empower local leaders. The training is always facilitated by the VMK team of trainers led by Bro. Ishmael Okuku, VMK director. Many church leaders have testified of how helpful training facilitated by VMK has been to their church leadership.

VMK always focuses on the following in their training:

- Correct formula for Church plant
- Qualifications for church leadership
- Church administration

As VMK does the training, its main focus is to ensure more effective churches are raised. In the past ten years, VMK has managed to train about 100 churches or struggling congregations. The trainings are done in all the regions.

Some of particular trainings;

CIFAM, NAMANGA TRAINING IN 2016

The leadership of Vision Ministries Kenya, the Board and the staff organized a regional leaders training in Namanga. The training was hosted by Christ for All Ministries, (CFAM).

Having made the necessary preparations at the office level, the team set out for Namanga for the training. This is a core mandate of Vision Ministries Kenya (VMK) which is in line with our mission to facilitate training for Spiritual leadership, Church Leadership and Administration and Church Planting.

Our Vision is to have a network of churches known for good Bible teaching, pastoral care and positive leadership.

The leaders training started at 1025 hours after presentation by CFAM worship team in the local dialect. It was evident that the participants were ready

for the training even though the attendance then was low.

Brother John, one of the trainers took over to lead on Relationships and Spiritual growth. Areas covered included

- Importance of spiritual growth
- How to grow spiritually
- Disadvantages of lack of growth
- Growth from the perspective of taking example of Christ
- Depending on God as a leader for more growth and multiplication

Pastor Ishmael then took over to continue the training. He started by explaining the work of VMK and how it came to partner with Vision Ministries Canada. He went ahead to explain the Vision, Mission, Purpose and Objectives of Vision Ministries Kenya. He compared the work of VMK to a doctor attending to a patient.

The Jethro Manual

While introducing the Jethro principle, he invited one of the Maasai leaders present to read the Bible verse recommended by the manual in the local mother tongue (Maasai). Ex.18:13-26. Brother Ishmael explained the importance of delegation of duties. It is about recognizing the gifts and abilities of other individuals and giving them responsibilities that are defined and specific. Delegation contributes to unity and teamwork and eases pressure on the vision bearer. He gave an example of Moses and the advice he received from Jethro the father in law. Delegation is leadership that is positive as opposed to rulership as we see in Moses before he received advice from Jethro.

In VMK, God has called us to off-load pastors so they can enjoy serving God in their Ministries, never to rule but to lead. In serving God, there is no ruling, it is about positive leadership.

Giving a cultural example of the Maasai herders, he said that the leader should be a friend to those he is leading, that he should know and understand his flock.



VMK task force team

Administration

A good leader welcomes others to enjoy and serve freely giving freedom to differing opinions and new ideas. As a human being, a pastor may reach a time when they are tired and overloaded to a point that is not healthy even for their families. Many pastors have neglected their families and this makes some pastors' wives reluctant to support their ministries.



VMK director and Treasurer

During the last session of the training, Pastor Ishmael took the leaders through the church planting manual. Here the principles for church planting were discussed in detail. Areas addressed included:

- Why new churches should be planted?
- Who should do it?
- How should it be done?

He stressed that the gospel today depends on walking and living the word rather than mere words, that the preaching of the word should flow out of compassion and that the love of God compels us to do so.

Findings during this training:

1. There is need for further training of leaders
2. Generally the leadership consists of people of whom the majority are illiterate
3. The administrative structure of Christ for All Ministries needs to harmonize with that of Vision Ministries Kenya

Training at Outreach Community Church in Nairobi Region in 2018

Vision Ministries Kenya Nairobi chapter planned a vision casting meeting that was hosted by Outreach Community Church –Soweto in April 2018. There were four major goals that VMK wanted to achieve. These were:

1. Give a briefing on the Vision and mission of VMK
2. Train the leaders on responsible leadership
3. Enlighten leaders on Investment
4. Mobilize leaders for the annual VMK leadership conference 2018

The trainer explained the Vision and Mission of VMK. This was to help the pastors who were hearing Vision Ministries for the first time and understand what this ministry stands for. He also briefly explained to the audience some of the material that VMK use during their leadership trainings. These were:

- Jethro Manual booklet
- Sheep Without a Shepherd booklet
- VMK, Policy manual
- VMK, statement of faith

Responsible Leadership

Dir. Ishmael, the team leader, elucidated to the leaders the meaning of responsible leadership. According to him, responsible leadership is that which is about making sustainable decisions which take into account the interests of everybody including the future generation.

He further outlined some of the soft skills and personality traits possessed by successful responsible leaders which included:

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Long-term perspective
- Open-minded
- Empathy
- Respectful of others
- Service to others

In emphasizing leadership ability, he borrowed from the Jethro Manual booklet. The Jethro Manual booklet outlines the procedure of choosing or electing the church leaders and the qualifications needed.



Church leaders during a past VMK regional conference training.



Bro. Ishmael facilitating leaders training.

Olkesumet Training - Kajiado In October 2018

The Maasai leaders who gathered at Olkesumet had heard about Vision Ministries Kenya though they hadn't interacted with VMK director directly.

This was therefore an awesome opportunity for the director to speak to them. Bro. Ishmael explained to the Kajiado team, the vision, purpose and mandate of VMK. The leaders marvelled by the clear explanation presented to them by the director.

Training Leaders Using Jethro Manual

The Jethro Manual training was introduced to the leaders. The Director just did the introduction part for the leaders.

The 'Jethro Manual' is used to teach leaders, leading skills. This training is the more effective for church leaders in general. It is at the core of the Biblical method for expanding the Kingdom. Both the Old and New Testaments focus on training and multiplying leaders who will change the world.

Jethro challenged Moses to create a leadership structure and leadership development system. In the New Testament, we see that Jesus spent three years training His disciples closely, and then sent them out to change the world!

The leader of any team, department, or organization has great impact on the results and effectiveness of the people they lead. The leader sets the example that everyone follows. As the leader goes, so the followers go.

The leader needs to be properly trained in order to model good leadership. If the leader is not effective, then the followers and their results will most likely be hindered.



Brothers Ishmael and Mokinyo in a past leaders training.



Brothers Gord and Mokinyo during a past leaders training.



Leaders in a past training.

Annual VMK - Leadership Conferences

For the past four years, VMK has been holding annual leadership conferences in Nairobi. The conferences have been of great impact to partners in the Entire Eastern Africa. Leaders from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, South-Sudan, Rwanda and Congo have attended these conferences.

We sincerely appreciate a team of facilitators from Canada led by our Bro. Gord Martin. The topics being handled in these conferences have been of great impact to our leaders and churches.

The most recent topics that have been handled in the past are;

- Trusting God and trusting each other 2015
- Serving God and serving people 2016
- Power of team in 2017
- One body One God 2018

These topics are well designed such that they build on each other, each year addressing emerging problems in African church leadership.

The results of these conferences have been exponential. Today most of the struggling congregations are rising again.

They are slowly mastering the rules of the game. Application of the training results in gives incredible feedback. Currently:

- Assemblies are growing
- Leaders are trained and are training other leaders
- The leaders are becoming more excellent in the way they select various leaders to handle various church departments.
- Assemblies are creating clearly spelled out structures as per the Biblical perspective.

VMK has been a blessing. It has hosted this conference for the past four years. The numbers of the conference attendees have been growing each year. For sure this is an indicator of how interesting the conference has always been, therefore attracting more people.

A major challenge in African churches is conflict. Conflict resolution strategy in most churches has been proven to be very poor. The topics that have been factored out in the conferences have always been addressing this.

We thank the Lord that many pastors have benefited directly from these topics. Their congregations have been direct beneficiaries.



2012 national conference



2013 national conference



2015 national conference

2015 Conference Held at KAG University, Nairobi

This conference was held in the month of August 2015. There were a total of 113 delegates out of whom 41 women were represented while 72 were men. This represented about 75.33% of the expected number of the delegates.

The delegates were drawn from;

- Kenya
- Uganda
- Burundi
- Tanzania
- Rwanda
- Zambia
- South Sudan
- Canada

Teachers during this conference were;

- Doug Loveday - 'Trusting those with gifts that differ'
- Gary Goodkey - 'Trusting Christian relationships'
- Dianne Goodkey - 'Trusting your identity in Christ'
- Brian Larmour - 'Trusting God's word'
- Doug Martin - 'Trusting God's wisdom and goodness in suffering'

It was a one week conference that really empowered the leaders!



KAG National Conference.

2016 Annual Conference Report



This conference kicked off on the 15th of August 2016 at the KAG East University in Buru Buru-Nairobi. The planning committee had put in place the necessary arrangements to ensure the success of the conference

The big day came with lots of expectations and the delegates started arriving as early as 6am, some having travelled overnight from the upcountry to attend the conference. The conference was themed “The Power of Team” and surely this teamwork was seen in the conference from the very start.

Speakers and topics they taught:

- Gord Martin – Power of team
- Jean Paul – Holistic Ministry
- Doug Loveday – Christian Marriage
- Michael Bells – Leadership and Community
- Diane Goodkey – Humble women who change the world



On Thursday 19th August, Vision Ministries Kenya Board members met various pastors representing churches that were participating. This meeting was meant to help pastors understand the work of VMK and especially the new partners. It was also a time of interaction and fellowship.

The VMK Secretary took the leaders through the VMK statement of faith as the leaders gave their comments and contributions. There was an agreement that the statement of faith is acceptable. There was a request that the training manuals be translated in other languages, especially in Maasai and Kinyarwanda.

Vision Ministries Kenya values the empowerment of leaders, therefore lots of books and different kinds of Christian literature were made available for the conference participants.



Highlights of the 2017 conference

The conference started on a very high note with delegates from different parts of Africa and also brethren within Kenya arriving at the conference venue in numbers. Each delegate was supposed to register with two thousand Kenyan shillings (USD 20).

Countries represented in the conference were;

- i. Kenya
- ii. Canada
- iii. Rwanda
- iv. Burundi
- v. Tanzania
- vi. Zambia
- vii. Uganda

The following topics of concern were discussed

- The things that makes for peace
- Teams that serve with diversity and peace
- Forgiveness the practice that leads to peace
- Overcoming barriers to peace
- Making disciples who makes disciples

The conference left a great impact.

From the conference:

- Regional unity was evident. At least all the partnering regions within Kenya and outside Kenya had a representative. This translated to a great turn out for the conference. One hundred and eighty participants attended the conference.
- Countries within Eastern Africa are showing positive interest in working together with Vision Ministries Kenya. This was witnessed when five churches from Tanzania registered with Vision Ministries Kenya as partners. The number of other countries that attended the conference has as well increased. This is a positive indication.
- Concerning the theme, 'The things that make for peace', it was a topic of the season. For Kenyans, they needed this more. It was a time when the nation of Kenya was divided along tribal lines because of the national elections.



Transition

After hosting six consecutive annual national conferences, the VMK leadership after a consultation with the partners resolved to transit to regional conferences was because;

- In the locality, more leaders would be easily reached
- Regional events would be cost effective
- Community participation would be maximized
- Regional chapters/offices would be strengthened



Nairobi region training group photo



2014 maasai leaders with Bro.Gord



Nyanza region



National Conference 2016



VMC team and VMK leaders in a past conference



Leaders pose for a photo in a past leaders meeting

VMK - Bible School

The Concept of the Bible School

As the Christian Church is reaching out to many people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, it is important to prepare the believers and church leaders to continue to deepen their knowledge of Jesus Christ and walk in life-long experience of Biblical Principles.

The Bible School is designed to provide a unique learning environment with guidelines in line with the Scriptures.

The VMK BIBLE School provides training for church leaders and other believers in basic certificate and diploma theological studies which will be credited by the set standards. Through the Bible School, the student gets involved in academic studies and real ministry practices which lead to wholesome ministry preparation.

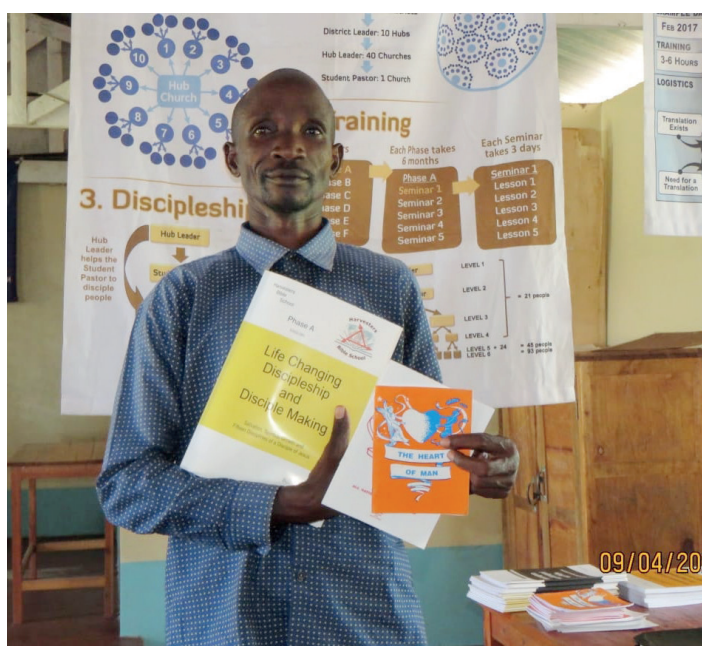
This means the Bible School will be a resource centre and we trust it will be fully equipped

with learning facilities e.g. fully equipped library for both faculty and students. The Bible shall be the sole authority in all manner of instructions and teaching. The curriculum course materials and learning facilities will be part and parcel of the provisions at the school.

In the long term, the Bible School will host facilities like offices, staffroom, classrooms, dormitories, kitchen and dining hall, and fully equipped library with books. In a small way, the Bible school training has already been rolled out in Nyanza.

The students meet every month for physical class training. Biblical principles are practiced in all school curriculum and the learning tools being developed include:-

- (i) Course curriculum
- (ii) Learning program schedules
- (iii) Admission conditions and procedures
- (iv) Graduation and placements



Harvesters, Training resources



VMK, Training resources



Prayers in a past women's conference

Role Of Women In VMK



Sister Molline teaching women in a past women's conference

Vision Ministries Kenya strongly believes in recognizing, supporting and empowering the contribution of women in the ministry of the church. We believe in the value of women in all aspects of ministry with the exception of those areas that exercise governmental authority within the church.

Furthermore, we believe God has ordained the family unit to serve as a model for the entire church with the father as the head of the home and functioning as a servant-leader as described in Ephesians 5.

We do affirm the tremendous contribution women have made in the early days of the church and must continue to make as we move forward in the ministry of VMK.

We therefore believe that both men and women can reach their fullest potential in ministry within the structure of the Biblical family model. Ladies activities:

- Annual ladies conference
- Queens' Sundays in their various churches
- Dorcas ministry in our affiliated churches

Role of Youth in VMK



Teaching young people in the church to grow in their relationship with the Lord prepares them to serve Christ in all they do. Young people who learn to serve, not only prepares them to become future leaders, but also allows them to contribute to the church and ministry in the present. Vision Ministries Kenya values young men and women. In most of VMK activities young people have been always involved.

VMK Youth activities:

- Annual Youth camps
- Youth mentorship programs
- Youth weekend challenge
- Youth music groups in our affiliated churches
- Teens and youth talent shows in the local churches



Music department.

VMK - Finances

The ministry avails its financial report quarterly to the board. It's fully depending on donations from well-wishers. VMC supports about 90% of the organizations' budget line while local churches contribute about 10%.

The auditing of the finance of the organization is done by Warren and Associates CPA (K) Company.

VISION MINISTRIES KENYA END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIODS 2017 AND 2018				
DETAILED NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS				
			2018	2017
`1.00.	INCOME		KSH	KSH
	Support from VMC			
	Conference Support - Year 2017 / 2018		1,545,890	1,670,865
	General Fund		1,349,760	1,774,022
	Support for allowances		480,500	0
	TOTAL SUPPORT FROM VMC	KSH	3,376,150	3,444,887
`2.00.	CONFERENCE 2018/2017 COST			
	• Pre - Conference		230,310	421,551
	• Conference		1,256,690	1,345,863
	• Post Conference		30,080	15,723
	TOTAL CONFERENCE 2018/17 COSTS	KSH	1,517,080	1,783,137
`4.00.	CASH & BANK BALANCES			
	• Bank Account No. 00		76,509	3,446
	• Bank Account No. 01		154,090	164,362
	• Cash at Hand		2,378	1,350
	TOTAL CASH & BANK BALANCES	KSH	232,977	169,158

VISION MINISTRIES KENYA, END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT DETAILED NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

VISION MINISTRIES KENYA MAY 2019 - OCT 2020 - FINANCIAL REPORT

INCOME	KSH	USD
Support from Partners	4,028,594	36,960
Local Contribution	245,602	2,253
Total Income	4,274,196	39,213
EXPENDITURE		
Human Resources Costs	1,649,127	15,130
Program Travel Costs	388,700	3,566
Office Related Cost	697,297	6,397
Annual Regional Conferences Cost	1,003,254	9,204
Other Projects Costs	527,919	4,843
Total Income	4,266,297	39,140
Balance for the Period	7,899	72

NB: 1USD = Ksh. 109

Challenges

Many challenges inhibit tangible growth. This ministry has grown and is reaching several leaders in and throughout the country of Kenya.

The following challenges are a threat to this noble work.

- Inability of local member churches to make local contribution charges in accordance with partnership arrangements.
- VMC intention to reduce its contribution
- Lack of income generating activity to boost the local contribution
- Lack of basic infrastructure e.g. ministry to own its office.

Would you pray with us?

Are you a like-minded organization, brother, sister, church leader(s)? You are welcome to partner with us. Jesus encouraged us to pray in private but also to our Father with others. He gave a special promise to disciples who agree to pray together. Fellowship in prayer is seen in Acts where the apostles, the church and the missionaries are all seen praying together. Paul reaches out in prayer to distant churches and asks for their prayer support for his ministry. We can pray for God's work in the world with confidence, as effectiveness of prayer is not limited by distance.

The frequent appeal of the New Testament is on how to relate to 'one another', it reminds us to share each other's burdens. We are to love, encourage, serve and forgive one another through times of decision, trial and failure.

You can play a part in so many ways:

- Pray for the work of VMK
- Financially support the work e.g. contribute to our general fund through:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/vision-ministries-canada/>
or <https://chimp.net/send/to/charity/visionministries-canada/gift/new>
- If there is a VMK affiliated church or church plant around you, consider helping out
- Become an ambassador of the work
- Join our training team





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