

inside africa:
kenya's rule of law
p. 2

north america:
forgotten mission field
p. 14

by His stripes I was
healed - julie wisdom
p. 16

GO Magazine

A ministry of
Christ's Church of the Valley

www.globaloutreachmagazine.com

Vol. 5



**We've Come This far
By faith**
Chuck Dickie's update from
Kenya p. 6

**Where God Has
led Me**
Sharlene Allen's Interview with
Tracey Castorena p. 5

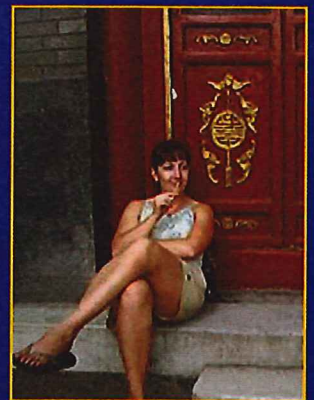


Things you never knew
about one of the world's
most populated cities
Page 9

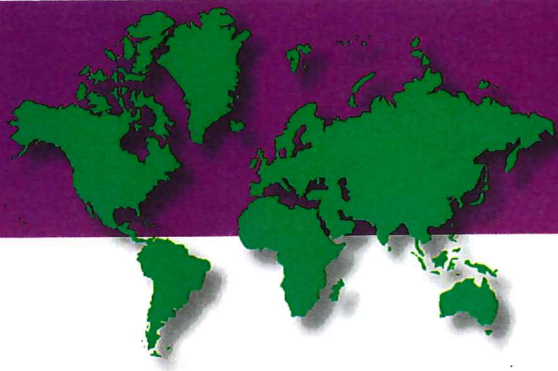
HE IS NOT HERE -
FOR HE IS RISEN™



The Journeys of
an insignificant man
by Jake Standerfer
Page 18



Read all about
China Short-Term
Missions
Page 10



g l o b a l

insideafrica

The Rule of Law

by Mike Bazzo

the battle rages on as Kenyans are bombarded from all sides. A military attack on Kenya? We know what happened in Rwanda. We know what's happening in the Sudan. What kind of attack are Kenyans facing and what does it mean for our missionaries there?

The latest attack comes from two fronts: religious and political...and maybe a mixture of both. For decades Kenyans have had to endure the political corruption that has gripped their country. Now a wave of moral upheavals threatens to weaken the fragile Christian nation.

Historically, Kenyan religious affiliations are the outcome of early missionary activities, which assisted in the political structuring and administration of the country during colonial times. Largely influenced by British missionaries and other white colonizers such as the Portugese, Christian religions are dominant, though many in Kenya still cling to traditional beliefs despite claiming to be Christian. While it is true that in Kenya, one can literally find a church on every corner, it is the Christian population's relationship with the Lord that will surely be tested in the coming years as western liberal views begin to influence the weak.

Kenya has no state religion. However, the majority of the population are members of the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and other Protestant churches. Amid this stronghold of Christianity,

Islam is carving out significant inroads. As Islam adds to its numbers, its influence in Kenya's government is growing and cannot be ignored. Last year, several thousand Muslims demonstrated peacefully on the eve of a conference to draft Kenya's new constitution to demand that Islamic religious courts be retained. The proposed constitution does not mention any other religious group and Christian groups, understandably, objected to the mention of Muslim courts in the constitution. Provision for Islamic "Khadhi" courts, or Family Law Courts, was included in Kenya's original constitution, drafted before independence from Britain in 1963.

Christian churches opposed the proposal, arguing that it would give Islam undue influence over other religions in the country. Though presumably only members of Islam could be held accountable to the Khadhi courts, a more nebulous issue concerns accountability in mixed marriages. The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCKK) called for deleting all religious issues from the constitution, and placing them under specific parliamentary legislation. Secretary general Mutava Musyimi said Kenya, as a secular state, already had provisions guaranteeing freedom of religion in the current constitution, and therefore it was not necessary to add provisions that seemed to favor one religion.

On another front, Church and business leaders are up in arms over legal abortion, proclaiming loudly that abortion is murder and

community

that government funds are better spent on abstinence education.

After President Kibaki took office in December 2002, the candidate who became the Health Minister of Kenya advocated legalized abortion during a speech to International Planned Parenthood of Africa. An acknowledged feminist, the Health Minister emphatically told a gathering that a woman has a right to control her own fertility. In Kenya, abortion is illegal, except where the mother's life is in danger. Not surprising, in a country where 80% of the population are Christian and at least half are evangelical, the reception was less than warm. In fact, within days, nearly every congregation and denomination in Kenya had something to say about the idea and all were critical. Opposition was so great that even non-religious women's groups said they would never support the proposed legislation. These are only some of the tough issues facing Christian Kenyans. These are also examples of Christians remaining steadfast in their faith. They will need to put on the whole armor of God in order to successfully

fend off inevitable future attacks.

As evangelical Christianity continues to grow in Kenya and becomes increasingly involved politically, scenes like this are likely to become commonplace. Though some may argue that Kenya's overwhelming Christian population is evidence that they are hardly an "unreached people group," the same statistics do not reflect the strength of commitment to the Lord. Whether reached or unreached, our missionaries are in Kenya because there is a need and God has called them to fulfill that need. Besides ministering to the hundreds of thousands of unfortunate children in Nairobi, our missionaries are there to support those who already know the Lord and help them to achieve a more meaningful relationship with Him. In that way, they will become not only followers of Christ but soldiers standing up for their faith and reaching out to others to do likewise. We need only look to the present climate of our country's moral condition to see the future of a third world nation whose citizenry has succumbed to the thinking and influences of this world.

One of a Million

By Charity Nichols

last year I went on a mission trip to Peru. It was one of the most memorable and precious experiences of my life. As you know, in Peru there are Peruvians and with me being American and black, I stood out quite a bit! The joke with my team was that I was "one in a million", one person who stood out in a sea of sameness.

Jumping forward to Kenya, June 16, 2004; it never dawned on me that I was in a country with millions of people who looked just like me! I mean I'm black;

I "bubble-in" African American whenever anybody brings up the question of race. My family is black, (ok technically we're Irish, Seminole, Portuguese, and Cherokee.) and a lot of my friends are black, but there are still so many more people who are involved in my life who aren't. From the beginning of our trip to the end, the saying seemed to be the same: "You look just like a Kenyan, as long as you don't talk." I found that hilarious that in a way I had always considered myself an "African American," but as soon as I opened my "African" mouth I was now "American." For a while I was perplexed. I was thrown into a culture that looked identical to me; yet I was as different to them as the blonde hair, blue-

Continued on p.19