

KENYA –TRANSFORMED THROUGH PRAYER

Then the Lord replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it” (Hab. 2:2)

Background

2006 was a special year for me as I wound up my graduate studies from Nairobi International School of Theology (NIST). In one of the classes, Theology of Social Transformation, we were introduced to transformation development. We got a chance to visualize how social, spiritual, economic and political transformation had happened in some communities and the role church leaders had played. We watched a video done by Youth With a Mission on the transformation of Olmolonga in Guatemala and other places including our own Kiambu town which had almost become a ghost town because of insecurity and how some Christians led by one pastor had engaged in prayers, breaking the strongholds and hence the now economically vibrant town Kiambu has become. By the end of the class, I visualized myself engaged in some kind of transformation of a town in Kenya.

One year later, while working at NIST as a Resource Mobilizer, I got a chance to listen to a talk hosted by Life Ministry, and a certain Dr. Kohl from Singapore shared the story of Singapore. Singapore had received its independence from Malaysia in 1964 at about the same time Kenya gained its independence. Most of the island at that time was owned by a few families and every other person was renting land or houses from them. The country had unique problems topped by the fact that it did not have any natural resources and no fresh water. There was also gangs mafia style that controlled business. Dr Kohl shared how visionary leadership had seen Singapore develop from a third world country into the first in only one generation. Today Singapore boasts one of the strongest economies in Asia and has one of the busiest ports in the world. The City State with a population of about 5 million and is one of the cleanest Cities in the World. As I listened to this story I was very impressed, but one question lingered in my mind. *Could transformation happen without the spiritual dimension?*


A few months later, I was headed to Singapore to attend an advanced leadership training from the much sought after, Haggai Institute of Leadership. I had a chance to stay for a month in this beautiful City State of Singapore.

From the 12th floor of the Language Centre (RELC), I had a nice balcony that gave me a good view of the City. I would sit on this balcony and meditate and pray and ask the Lord to show me what was behind this success story. I knew that visionary leadership was key, but was real transformation possible without the spiritual dimension?. I asked the Lord to reveal to me the spiritual dimension of Singapore.

On the first Sunday of our stay, the Institute asked all the 58 women leaders from 29 developing countries to visit the City Harvest Church near Changi International Airport.

We were greatly impressed to see a church which sees 17,000 youths attend the various services in any given Sunday. At this time the members were involved in a 21 day prayer and fasting for the country

The next Sunday all the ladies from other African countries minus Egypt visited the Fairfield Methodist Church in Singapore. The church had developed a devotional material which members were using during their 40 day prayer and fasting culminating in the National day celebration for Singapore.

For my last Sunday, a friend Dr. Jeannette Shubert visited me from Manila Philippines. She took to see  to Geyland Free Evangelical Church where her friends Betty and Pat Flynn worshipped. It was here that I learnt that the churches of Singapore had been involved in Unbroken Prayer Chain for at least one year for the Nation. It dawned on me that the prosperity of Singapore was being sustained by the church, and the church through prayer was totally united as they prayed for their nation.


If the Christians from this prosperous nation saw the need to persist in prayer for their nation, what about us in Kenya which had just come from almost a total collapse due to politically instigated ethnic violence? We have a much bigger population of Christians than Singapore, if we started a prayer chain, it could take up to three years before the first church gets another chance to hold the prayer baton for the nation.

A Transformed Kenya

What would it take to transform the nation through prayer?

Rationale: The Pathetic Condition of Our country.

How best can we describe our Kenyan society?

An article on Violence in Kenya said this of our Leadership. “The post-colonial generation was socialized into violence, They literally grew up with it. Both Jomr  Kenyatta’s and Daniel T. Arap Moi’s governments, used torture and paramilitary violence to maintain their hold on poor. Early this year 1200 people were killed in a most brutal manner and 350,000 were displaced by post- election violence”¹

The leaders of this nation continue to hit the world news by their greed. Recently , they blackmailed the then acting finance minister into removing the recommendation that they pay taxes on their then ridiculous bloated allowances. They threatened not to pass bills to secure for Government expenditure unless the minister shelves the recommendation. The minister obliged.

Kenya must be the only country in the world, where perennial war mongers and other people of dubious credentials are given ministerial positions. Those who previously stole

¹ Kevin Kelly. Foreign dons cite pattern of Violence. Daily Nation

from the treasury are charged with state regional responsibilities. Those who have supervised the destruction of farm lands and property are rewarded handsomely and given responsibilities. Some of our leaders through grabbing of public land own land the size of some of our provinces. These are the people we reward by giving them posh position in the government

As some of our leaders deliberate on their next plunder mission in posh city restaurants, thousand of people are being displaced by floods in the Western and Northern parts of this country. On the Eastern part of the country, thousands are facing starvation because of famine.

The bible is not silent concerning the situation in this country. What we desire is summed up well in the word of Isaiah the prophet , “ *In that day ungodly fools will not be heroes. Scoundrels will not be respected. For fools speak foolishness and make evil plans. They practice ungodliness and spread false teachings about the Lord: The smooth tricks of scoundrels are evil. They plot crooked schemes. They lie to convict the poor, even when the cause of the poor is just*” (Isaiah 32:5-7)

What about the shepherds of the People, the Bishops, Pastors and the Priests?

Hardly a day passes without a story of one of the above preying on their flock. Prophet Ezekiel had this to say of these kinds of shepherds whom we have in abundance in our country.

What sorrows awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn't' shepherds feed their sheep, You drink the milk, wear the wool and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them down with harshness and cruelty. So my sheep have scattered without a shepherd and they are easy prey for any wild animal. They have wandered through the mountains and the hills, across the face of the earth, yet no one has gone to search for them” (Ezek. 34: 2-6)

What about the people themselves?

A World Bank Report had this to say “Kenya’s poor will slide further into poverty as the year progresses due to soaring food prices and global economic crisis bites on their incomes”² On Justice, it has been said that in the Kenyan courts, we have over 800,000 pending cases and some of these cases date back to over thirty years. In Uganda we have about 150,000 pending cases and in Tanzania 40,000. The nation is reeling from years of bad governance and the exploitation of the poor.

² Wachira Kangaru. Daily Nation, 7th May 2009, pg, 28

Here's a sample of some of our dailies headlines 'Trail of death as gunmen run wild'³ 'Heads to roll'⁴, 'Guilty but Spared the Hangmans noose'⁵ "twelve victims of Mungiki Slaughter are laid to rest in Kirinyaga"⁶ Last year as I boarded a plane from Dubai to Changi Airport, an elderly Australian man, turned to me and asked me " where are you from?" I said Kenya, to which he retorted in Kiswahili, "pole" I choose to forgive him, for daily this is what others read of Kenya.

Vision

I envision a country saturated with prayers, where not a single minute passes by without intercession. The answers experienced will elicit thanksgiving to God and motivate more prayer. One psalmist said, "*make thankfulness your sacrifice to God, and keep the vows you made to the Most High. Then call on me when you are in trouble and I will rescue you and you will give me glory*" (Psalm 50:14-15).

I see a partial fulfillment in Kenya of Hab 2:14 " For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with the an awareness of the glory of the Lord"

Like Singapore which started a prayer chain, thinking it would last one year and now are now on their third cycle, The 52 week prayer chain could last till 2012.

Instead of the questions that have been asked after every calamity, "Where were the Christians?" The Christians will come to know that they can set the agenda for their nation. Not only will the Christians be mobilized to pray but to participate in bringing the kingdom of God ethics to their communities and to their market places, the education systems, political systems and to all sectors of the nations.

Kenya's borders will be secured as Christians take the burden of intercession for the nation. The walls and the gates will be repaired in 52 weeks as each burdened individual instead of complaining takes their position in intercession. Not only will Kenya's borders be secured even the insecurity will no longer threaten businesses, homes and lives. Within a year of national prayers, resources will start to flow back to our nation. Kenya will once again become a good place for business. The people and the land will experience healing and restoration according to promises of God in 2 Chr. 7:14

Our Vision is to see a transformed and restored Kenya through an unbroken prayer chain using the local church.

³ Dominic Wabala and Fred Mukinda , Alarm as 26 die in execution style killings over the last two months. Daily Nation. Pg 1

⁴ Lucas Barasa. Heads will roll in the Cabinet, Says Raila Daily Nation. Pg 2

⁵ Jilo Kadida. Lord Delamere kin escapes muder charges as judge convicts him for manslaughter. Daily Nation. Pg 1

⁶ John Ngirachu and George Munene. Somber mood as villagers gather to pay their last respect to those killed last week. Daily Nation. Pg. 2

Mission:

To mobilize and network the Church into an unbroken Chain of Prayer and action for the Transformation of the Communities and the Nation at large.

Strategy:

We are using the Nehemiah's strategy. When he heard that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates were burnt, he wept, repented, prayed and moved the people to join him in rebuilding the walls. (Neh. 1:3-7)

In our prayer and fasting we recommend individuals and churches to follow God's prescribed fasts as outlined in Isaiah 58.

Not to

- Do as we please during the fast
- Exploit workers
- Quarrel with one another
- Not to point fingers to one another

But to

- Loose the chains of injustice
- Untie the cords of every yoke of the oppressed
- Share food with the hungry
- Provide food and shelter to the poor wander
- Clothe the naked
- Take care of own flesh and blood.

God's Promises if we do the above:

- a) Our light will shine forth like dawn
- b) Healing for us and our land
- c) Our righteousness will go before us and God's glory will be our rear guard
- d) He will hear us when we call for his help
- e) He will give guidance to us always
- f) Our needs will be satisfied even in times of economic crisis

- g) The Lord will strengthen our frames and we will be like well watered gardens or springs whose waters never fail.
- h) Some will rebuild ancient foundations and be known as repairers of broken walls
- i) We will have the joy of the Lord and feast on the Lord's inheritance

The Work of the Secretariat which has now taken the name Christian Prayer Network Kenya (CPN) K will be to:

1. Mobilize individual congregations to act as the torch bearers for the Nation for one week and then pass the torch to the next congregation on the chain.
2. During the week that the congregation is keeping the watch, the leadership is to make sure that 24 hours 7 days a week, different people keep watch and pray for the nation. The leaders are to guide their members in repentance for individual sins as well as collective sins of the nation. (2 Chr. 7:14).
3. The congregations are to engage in prayer over at least major issue affecting the nation. i.e Governance, family life, education systems, insecurity, poverty etc. We would urge them to pray with faith holding on to the promises in Matt. 18:18 *"I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*
4. The work of the secretariat is facilitative and the church pastors and elders are to guide their congregations in these prayers. The secretariat will provide a prayer guide to those who may want to use one but as much as possible allow the Spirit of God to do as he pleases with this prayer movement.
5. The secretariat is not owned or fronting any church or individual or organizations nor is it affiliated to any political persuasions. We recognize this is the work of God and any Christian who is called by Christ's name is welcome to participate in the prayers organized by their local Church.

Current active members of the secretariat

Pst .Julius Wainaina- Chairman-
Pst .Simon Khaemba- Vice Chairman
Leonid Kadasia- Secretary
Carren Ikua – Vice secretary
Grace Mahinda- Treasurer
Rev. Grace Itegi- Mobilization
Ann Kiguru- Member

Lois Maina-Member

Esther Muthoni- Vision bearer

Prayer committee and mobilizing ICC Mombasa Rd-Pst
Rev. Grace Itegi-Chairperson Mobilising Committee
Carren Ikua-coordinator (Admin. Committee)
Ann Kiguru- Strategic Plan and Communication- Mamlaka Hill Chapel