



July/August 2023

We first met John Njoroge in 1994 on our survey trip to Kenya during our time of deputation. He was a 7-year-old Kenyan boy attending the Thomson Falls Bible Baptist Church in the town of Nyahururu. John and his family attended this new church planted by fellow missionaries Marc and Tina Deloach. This was our first exposure to Africa, so this church and town holds a special place in our hearts. This was the first church that we worked with when we arrived permanently on the field in 1995. It was here that the Deloach family welcomed us to Africa and helped us to acclimate to the Kenyan culture. It was here where we met Peter Chege and Peter Kiarie. Both of these men helped us to plant our first church in the town of Nakuru in 1997. Both of these men continue to pastor churches and faithfully serve our Lord, and they remain very good friends of ours even to this day. It was here in Nyahururu where I preached my first sermon in Africa and where I had the joy of baptizing my first African convert.

Now fast forward almost 30 years to August of 2023 when our church in Nairobi hosted our annual preaching conference for pastors and church leaders. Hundreds of pastors attended this conference from all across the African continent. It is not only a wonderful conference of inspiring preaching and helpful workshops, it is also a tremendous blessing to meet



new friends in the ministry and to reconnect with old friends. In past conferences we had the joy of seeing folks from Nakuru where we ministered for several years before transitioning to Mwanza, Tanzania. Now, this brings us back to that little 7-year-old Kenyan boy that we met on our survey trip. That little boy is now 36 years old and was attending this pastors' conference. After having been away from Nyahururu for so many years, we have not had much contact with the church there. So, when this man at the conference introduced himself as John Njoroge, I didn't recognize him, nor did I connect the dots back to Nyahururu. He told me that God had called him to preach years ago as a young man. After having received his Bible college training, he returned to Kenya to serve the Lord in the ministry. A few years ago, the Bible Baptist Church in Nyahururu called him to be their pastor, and he has been faithfully serving there ever since.

This brings to mind Galatians 6:9 which says, *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* Lasting fruit in the ministry seldom comes quickly. There may be times where we don't see any evident results from our teaching and preaching. However, God's Word will not return unto Him void. Thank you to our many supporting churches who have faithfully given to support the work here in East Africa. By God's grace, let us remain faithful, and remember, it will be worth it all when we see Jesus!