

Light  
MINISTRIES INC.



IS THE SUN RISING  
OR SETTING ON  
MINISTRY IN AFRICA?

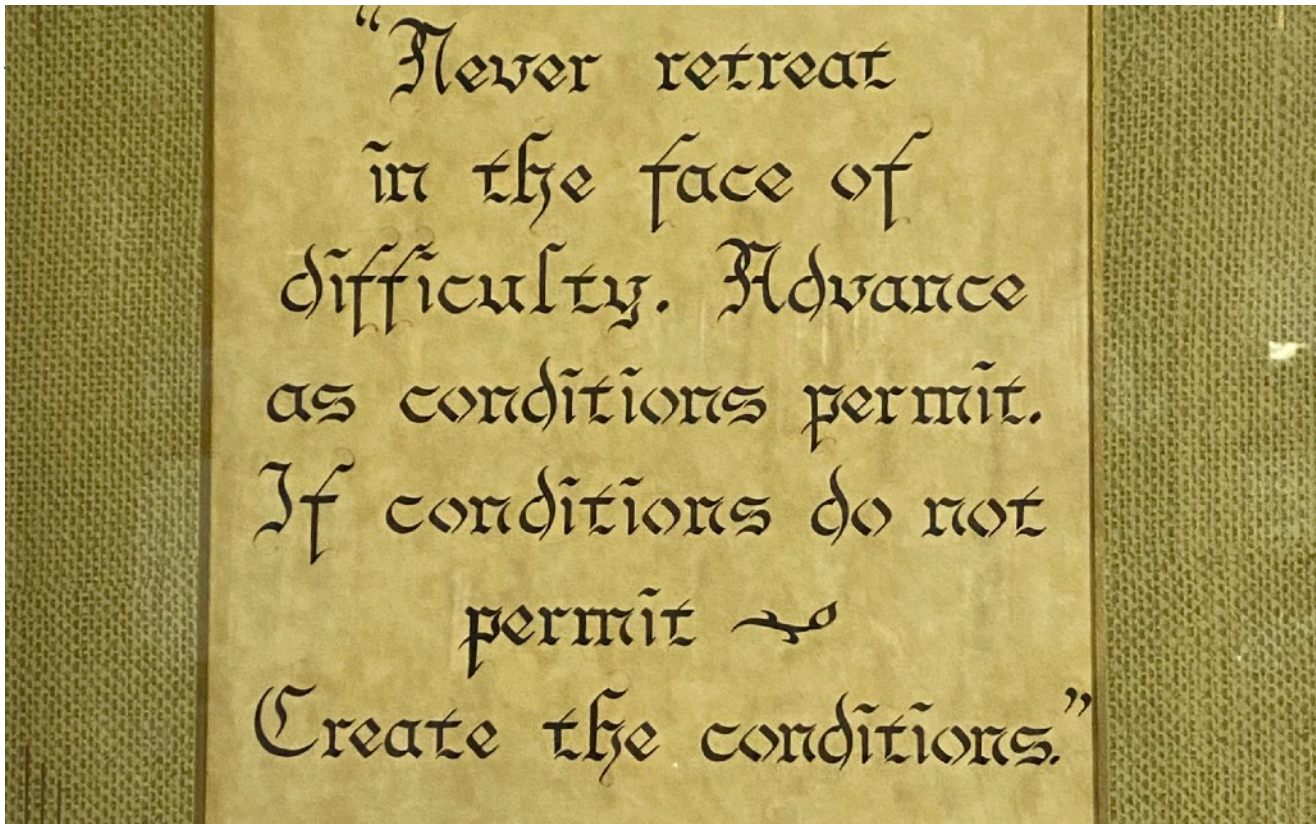


PASTOR RICHARD &  
HELLEN  
GREAT PARTNERS



OVER 150 AWAIT  
BAPTISM  
IN AFRICA

## RE-VALUE



### I wonder...

When the quarantine is lifted and the virus has been banished...

all of those things we could not do—all of the things we wanted to do so badly...

### Will we do them?

Do they really deserve a day of our life? Are we really willing to spend today,

Maybe it's *not* time to reevaluate. Maybe it is time to "re-value" what is truly valuable.

doing what we have always done...if, we knew tomorrow everything would change? **I value your friendship and partnership.**

***I don't know where these difficult days have taken you (emotionally, physically, spiritually, financially).***

***But, if you are reading these words, please know that I have prayed that God would show you...and me, who—what—when— and, where is truly, eternally valuable.***

## **So what does all of this mean to our work in East Africa?**

Following is a very abbreviated report of conditions on the ground in our ministries in Kenya and Tanzania:

***In order to understand, process, and know how to pray for our leaders and their work in East Africa, you must divorce yourself from all Western (American) thinking.***

- \* *Social distancing is impossible in most settings in Africa (especially in our orphanages and feeding stations). The density of the population makes life “elbow-to-elbow” on a daily basis.*
- \* *Hand sanitizer is long gone from the stores. But, our staff and children have been trained in basic hygiene and understand the importance of hand washing.*
- \* *Medical options only exist for those living in larger metropolitan areas, and those options will be limited.*
- \* *Live-streaming and other media methods to broadcast worship services are not available. Many church members do not have access to internet or individual computers.*
- \* *But, most Africans do have cell phones. Our pastors/leaders can communicate with church members through various apps used there. All small group leaders already have their membership on their phone apps and the pastors communicate with the small group leaders in like manner. In short, as long as there is phone service, there can be strategic communication among leaders and church members.*
- \* *The best news is, none of the above constitutes any truly dramatic life-style changes for our African brothers and sisters (as it has for us Americans).*

## *Find a way*



God has entrusted the lives of 1,750 street children and orphans to us.

These children are the future of Kenya.

We believe that if God will change Africa, he will do it through this generation.

- \* *There is a possibility for panic that could lead to very real issues in the towns and villages.*
- \* *Prices will soar on all goods. Supplies are already becoming limited. Inflation will begin to take effect quickly. Hopefully the dollar will remain strong helping us offset the inflation issues.*

### **Orphans:**

Due to the fact that all of our orphans live in their own housing with resident staff and on the grounds cooking facilities, orphan care is going on as normal. This means the orphans have great emotional stability due to the presence of the resident staff. Bible studies, prayer, and some modified education will continue in the orphanages even though all schools are closed. I am sure there will be some challenges to address in the next few days regarding food supplies.

### **Feeding Stations:**

Our feeding station in the cities (*Tasia & Mathare in the Nairobi area and Kitale, upcountry*) are closed to normal daily operations at this time.

The feeding station in Kitale (Pastor Richard & Hellen) has a significant number who are also residents of the Seeds Orphanage. That means that over half of the children we normally feed daily in Kitale are already being cared for in the orphanage. We are working on a plan to feed the other children from the nearby Kipsongo slum. **Pray for Wisdom!** We can't send food into the slum as it will cause a riot. We are working on a plan to bring the students in small groups for feeding. The good news is the feeding station in Kitale is within easy walking distance to the slum. No transportation issues.

The feeding stations in Tasia and Mathare (Nairobi slums) are tougher situations. We are working on strategies to get food to the children in small groups. There is no way to take food out into the slums. It would put the workers delivering the food at risk of life due to thieves on the street. We cannot gather all of the children at one time at the feeding station without violating government regulations and potentially putting their health at risk. ***If the worst happens*** and we begin to see sickness among the children in our slum schools, we can use our classrooms at the schools/feeding stations to house them for treatment. I am working to find partnerships with medical ministries located in these Nairobi areas to help if this happens.

The other three feeding stations are in remote areas and will continue to operate on a limited basis (food only). This is the only nutrition source for these children. It will likely also be the only place

for emotional stabilization and encouragement.

### **Church/preaching/discipleship ministry.**

Last Sunday, March 22, was the last day for Kenyan churches to be open.

For traditional Kenyan churches this will be a terrible, unthinkable blow. Church is the hub of social life in Africa. Church is the only relief from a very difficult life =>



Last full house for a while.

in a third-world setting.

We have “lay-leaders” who are trained and already in place in their neighborhoods doing small group ministry.

These “neighborhood pastors” will be in charge of ministry to their members and the surrounding neighborhood. ***All of these leaders know how to share the Gospel and will be doing so, as well as, meeting physical and emotional needs of their unchurched neighbors as God allows.***

**Now I know why** God allowed me, many years ago, to spend time with the leaders and pastors of the underground church in communist Romania. I realized then that a church dependent on public gatherings and one central leader (pastor) could be disrupted or closed by the enemy with a simple upheaval of the government, removal of the central leader, or in this case, *with a pandemic.*

**I determined then** that the Acts 2 model of discipleship was the only trustworthy model for an enduring, effective local ministry. God knew what He was doing when He planted the early church and set up the house church model!

**It is tempting** to say in times like these that none of us have been trained for this. ***Nonsense!!***

***Everything we have experienced in life and ministry to this point, God wants and intends to use for our (ministry) good and His ultimate glory.***

**I could not be more confident** of the team we have on the ground in Africa.

I pray that the team we have here at home in America (you and me) will equal our African partners in responding to this amazing ministry opportunity.

**The level of openness to the Gospel in Africa TODAY is the greatest it has ever been.**

**THINK ABOUT THAT!**

We are at the ***right place*** at the ***right time*** with the ***right Gospel.***

***I can't wait to see how this God-adventure plays out!***

## **JOIN ME?**

**“...you should always pray and never give up.”—Jesus, Luke 18:1**

***Do What you can  
With what you have  
Where you are***