

# Mission to Kenya

By Celeste Martin

## ***Kenya Team***

*Peter Thompson,  
Country Coordinator*

*Kevin Ferros  
Patrick Kester  
Celeste Martin*

*George Ngedwa  
John Njoroge*

YESU NI BWANA!! Yes, Jesus is Lord in the hearts of the beautiful people of Kenya. It was a great grace granted to me to take part in this mission trip, and I will hold all those I met in my heart and in my prayers.

We began with prison ministry. The women at the Langata women's prison stole my heart. Many had their young children with them. Their situation is desperate, yet they were so happy to lift their hearts with joyful songs of praise to the Lord. I don't know what moved me so, but I left with many new daughters and grandchildren to lift in prayer.

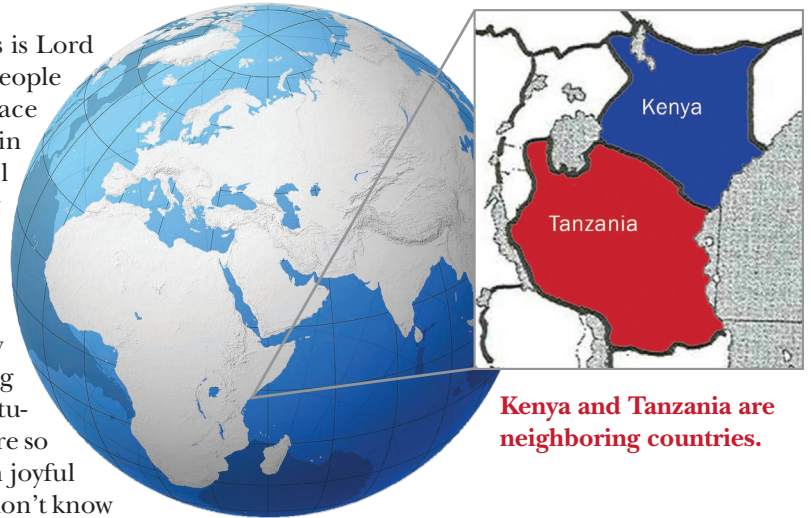
Then we were off to Embulbul to share God's plan with the parish youth following the Holyday Mass. Kevin Ferros gave a rousing talk and answered many questions. Their thirst for the truth was clearly in evidence as many returned after the Sunday Masses to hear more. There is one word to describe Mass in Africa: Joyful! As Fr David explained, once these people start singing, there's no stopping them. Their love for the Lord, enthusiasm for praise, and joy in His presence is contagious. Amina!



**The beautiful people of Kenya.**



**In contrast to the apathy often found in our western civilization, the people of Africa hunger for God's word.**



**Kenya and Tanzania are neighboring countries.**

## **The week in Kilgoris**

Who could anticipate visiting parish out stations, and having the Catechists so happy, so grateful to hear God's word, God's plan, God's way for their lives. Everywhere we went the people came forward with such humility, and such great faith, to ask for prayers for their families. They face challenges in their Catholicism we have never imagined. Many requested prayers for perseverance in faith as their mothers or grandmothers are witch doctors and give them constant grief. They asked for prayers to draw their families back to God and His Church; prayers to know God more and to continue to serve Him all their lives. They asked that we pray with them

for a spirit of forgiveness in their own hearts, for the years of hurt and pain and suffering they have endured. What an honor to pray with them. My prayers were lifted through tears of joy in God's great love for them and in His will for us all.

The daily Q&A became the primer on defending the faith. The same questions came up wherever we were. They were trying to write it all down, asking for more answers, more help, and more ways to bring God's word back to their out stations. We may have thought we went to bring God's word — and His love and mercy flooded the Church — but we were the ones touched by this beautiful people. +