



By Peter Thompson
COUNTRY COORDINATOR
for KENYA

Peter Thompson is Renewal Ministries' country coordinator to Kenya. Originally from England, he and his wife now live in Canada, where they raised their three children. Peter serves the Church in many areas of the world, through a dynamic teaching apostolate that includes parish missions and teaching the Catholic faith, especially in the areas of Catholic apologetics, Church history, the New Evangelization and the New Pentecost.

Spreading the GOSPEL in Kenya



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the LORD, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. JEREMIAH 29:11-14

☉ NGONG DIOCESE

We began our mission with a one-day presentation for the annual priests' retreat on The New Evangelization and New Pentecost. Fifty priests attended and heard input from each team member, including short testimonies about the dramatic changes they experienced in their faith through Life in the Spirit Seminars, and the graces received through baptism in the Spirit. **Bishop John Oballa Owa** thanked us for these concise and effective testimonies.

Fr. James Burasa gave an excellent teaching on the theology of baptism in the Spirit, quoting extensively from early Church writings and bearing witness to the profound grace he received through the baptism in the Spirit at a critical period in his priesthood.

We were unable to pray with priests individually; however, Bishop John expressed his desire for us to return and allow an additional day for individual prayer ministry.

Within days of our presentations, the diocese received requests for Life in the Spirit Seminars from six priests, and the requests continue to come in!

This was the first opportunity we have had to speak to a group of priests in Kenya, and it bodes well for the future! It is vital to address priests with the call to a New Pentecost and New Evangelization.

☉ NAKURU DIOCESE

Forty-five lay leaders attended sessions that covered major areas of our Catholic faith, an intensive session using Unbound and time for ministering to each individual.

Unbound is a Biblical model of deliverance that helps people discover freedom from sin using the Five Keys:

- » Repentance & Faith
- » Forgiveness
- » Renunciation
- » Authority of the Lord
- » The Father's Blessing

Our final day included a condensed version of the Life in the Spirit Seminar and individual prayer for baptism in the Spirit.

The weekend was very effective, as we covered many areas and were able to respond to a multitude of questions. Team members Celeste Martin and Nancy Hurst also had the joy of speaking to 600 young women from the girls' senior school. They shared on the Theology of the Body, using the unborn models. Nancy's expert NFP knowledge was well received by both the students and staff.

☉ LOITOKTOK

We think of Africa as having a surplus of priests; however, the parishes can be vast, stretching over many square miles, with outstations that are difficult to reach and extremely rough roads that are often impassable in the rainy seasons. St. Luke's, where we held a five-day event, is a large parish, with twenty-six outstations, schools, and the main parish compound that has a pastoral centre, convent, and other facilities.

I find the teaching sessions we undertake in Kenya to be of great advantage and influence in these regions, as people are hungry to understand their faith and grow both in knowledge and in their experience of God's healing love and mercy. Many people, including youth and young adults, had already gathered when we arrived for this event.

We always like to allow extended periods for questions and answers, by having participants write down their questions. This enables them to ask questions about matters concerning marriage, sexuality, abortion, sterilization, and contraception. There are many situations with polygamous marriages, and a whole host of other subjects. **With so little access to good catechesis, many continue in ignorance of the basic teachings of the Catholic faith.**

☉ PRISON OUTREACH

We have had the great joy of visiting a number of prisons over the last few years. On our last day, we visited a compound of the Langata women's prison that housed around 200-300 women awaiting trial.

We recognized some prisoners, as they can wait months, or even years, for trial. They must welcome the break in the monotony of prison life, as singing is a joyful expression of their lives, and they enter in with great enthusiasm. People in these situations need a message of hope and God's love and mercy. **Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we also were able to buy them soap and toilet tissue—both of which are only available to the inmates if family or friends supply these needs.**



We also visited the Athi River mens' prison. When we arrived, the choir greeted us by singing a cappella in excellent harmony.

Many gathered in the hot sun to hear the message of God's mercy and His love and plan for each of us. We had two whole hours to minister to the men, and again, through the generosity of Renewal Ministries' supporters, we were able to distribute soap and toilet paper for over 800 men.

I believe this very intensive mission to Kenya has produced good fruit and sowed seeds that we may only learn of after we enter our true and lasting home, heaven. ✠



We were blessed to have Deacon John & Nancy Hurst lead a time of Unbound healing.

hear from us. Many have a nearly two hour walk to school; they leave their homes in the dark in order to be there by 8 a.m. School continues until 5 p.m., when the children walk home. Then they do chores, homework, and get to bed, in order to start early again the next day.

Forty to fifty people would be at each session in the early morning, but the numbers then grew to several hundred, as many walked each day to attend. We concluded with Mass at 3 p.m., and they would disperse to walk home. A number, including the youth, stayed in the compound, so we were able to give some evening sessions as well.

Unbound was a time of great healing, led by Deacon John and Nancy. In the general session and at the senior schools, Celeste and Nancy spoke of our sexuality as a gift from God, used the models of the unborn, and bore witness to the truth that life begins at conception.

We also taught and prayed for baptism in the Spirit, as this was new to many. Over 500 attended our final Sunday Mass for youth. Following Mass, we shared with them from Jeremiah 29:11-14 and prayed with them for God's plan to unfold in their lives, focusing on the particular vocation and way in which God would develop their gifts and talents. This resulted in a profound moment of grace for many.

