

# Kenya Update: Ministering After the Riots



Photo by Jackson Compean

*Hands raised, Pastor Ed Compean baptizes believers from Calvary International Fellowship in Githurai, near Nairobi, after post-election violence eased in Kenya.*

While post-election violence in Kenya has dwindled in recent weeks, Calvary Chapel missionaries there report that believers are still busy ministering and sharing Jesus as the only real peace amidst the tense calm in the East African country.

Disputed election polls last December triggered widespread ethnic violence. Reports estimate more than 1,500 people were killed and nearly 500,000 were displaced during the tribal conflicts that made international headlines. Violence declined rapidly in April after the opposing political parties formed a coalition government.

“Everything is different since the violence,” said Roger Chesebro of Disciple Support Ministries. With Bible institute campuses in the hard-hit Mathare and Kibera slums, many questioned the safety of holding classes. Leaders decided that God had placed the ministry there “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14b), allowing them to minister to the more than 200 pastors and church leaders at the slums.

Because his ministry includes church leaders from different tribes, Roger occasionally stopped classes to allow students to worship and pray. “They would get on their faces

and cry out to God,” Roger said. “It was difficult to get back to a learning environment, but it is needed.”

Ministering north of Nairobi in Githurai, Pastor Ed Compean said, “Kenya’s economy is trashed. We are seeing desperation like never before.” Believers from his church, Calvary International Fellowship, are reaching out to the hurting community. He added, “The crisis has left the people with no work, no school, and no food; but the good news is that Jesus is drawing people to Himself in this crisis.” God has added many who are being saved, necessitating a second church service.

A smaller, temporary uprising from the Mungiki tribe brought more violence in April. Many are still displaced from their homes. Pastor Ed said that people have been falling ill to typhoid, malaria, and other illnesses because they lack clean water and simple medicine.

More elections—this time for parliamentary and civic seats in Kenya—are slated for June. Local newspapers speculate that the elections could erupt in more violence between competing parties. ↻

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