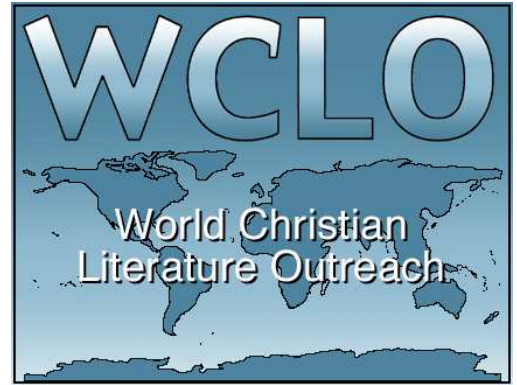


World Christian Literature Outreach

Going where missionaries cannot go and staying when missionaries cannot stay.

Web Site: <http://www.wclo.net>

A Ministry of the Livonia Church of Christ



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FULL DISCLOSURE?

Russ Lawson In this political season, one of the things we hear repeatedly is that the candidates need to make full disclosure of their lives, their backgrounds and their dealings in general. In Africa they refer to this as “transparency”. How does that play out in our personal lives? What if we each had to make a “full disclosure” and expose our “dirty laundry” so to speak, how would we feel?

One of the very serious considerations to those involved in mission efforts is how they or their ministry will be perceived if something negative happens in their ministry. Some things that are considered are, “How much do you share”, “how many details do you make available” and of course “how will this effect the way people perceive the effectiveness of your ministry?” These are questions with which I have been struggling for the past several weeks.

Now you may wonder why I have been struggling with these questions, so here is the disclosure...

I received a letter from one of the three men who work for us in Kisumu, Kenya asking me to look into how the money was being used. It seems there was a problem. Upon checking, I found that Daniel Makaya, who has been in charge of the Kisumu WCLO office had been taking the money we have been sending for printing, postage and office expenses and using it himself for the past few months. We don't believe that he could have

Printing makes Ideas real!

taken over \$600, but that is a lot of money in Africa. He had been sending reports telling me how many books they had printed and sent to students, but it was a lie. Upon investigation we found that he had even tried to convince the printer to lie and say that the books were being printed, but were delayed because of printing problems.

Thankfully, the money we have been sending for food relief and the teaching of seminars has been going directly to George Obonyo for distribution, so he did not have access to that.

There are two other men who work out of that same office, men who have proven to be men who love the Lord and to be trustworthy. I asked them to work with the local church leaders there at the Ring Road congregation (where the office for WCLO is located) and come up with a solution. I was ready to dismiss Daniel, but wanted them to be involved in any solution. They are there and I am not, they are godly men who want to do the right thing. I told them I trusted them to make the best decision and I would try and follow their suggestions.

They met with Daniel Makaya and came up with the following solution. Daniel would not be dismissed, but rather demoted and kept on at a lower salary with no contact with the money or accounts at all. Tom Ogotu will now manage the WCLO office assisted by George Obonyo. We closed down the old money transfer account and opened another. Each month when money is transferred a detailed account of how it is to be disbursed will be sent to both Tom and George (for transparency).

I was somewhat surprised by the solution, especially that they requested to keep Daniel on in the work. I am pleased that they have a spirit of forgiveness and that Daniel has repented.

Mission work is not just all good and inspiring stories of success. It is not all happiness and joy, it is struggles, with Satan fighting you every step of the way.

Wonderful things are still being done and we are in the process of recovery and moving forward with this great work! We are still receiving letters from all over the world asking us to continue sending printed material to help churches grow. We are trying our best to do just that, even with a few stumbles along the way.

Please pray that we might continue to win the battle over Satan, even if on occasion we have to make a painful full disclosure.

We received a wonderful report last month from Dave Palk an elder from Texas. His congregation is very active in the work in Ghana. He was on a mission trip this summer to see the work. One day as they were driving down the road in a van with the Church of Christ sign on the side, a man ran out and stopped them. He said, "wait here" and ran back to his home and got a book to show them. He told them he had been studying the book and wanted more books. It was one of our books on "*The Church we read about in the Bible*".

Russ Lawson

FOOD RELIEF ***And*** ***SEMINARS***

By George Obonyo

Food situation is still as grim a problem as always and there is need for help. If there is funds available that can assist in the alleviation of starvation then many needy people are going to benefit.

The other update, there are two seminar trips coming up. One will be in Ochol in the South Nyanza district. Three churches will meet - these are Ochol, Kodada and Nyapalo churches of Christ. This will be August, 31, 2008. On Sept 14, 2008 we are schedule for Got Ogwang' In Siaya District in Gem Division. Here we target four churches- Malele, Mirieri, Got Ogwang' and Kanyadet churches of Christ. If God willing, we shall have seminar after survey. This will depend if they accept.

We thank you for your support for the work of God that have enabled us to move around in preaching the love of

Christ. We also thank those who assist you in support of this wonderful work to be successful. It is my sincere hope that you will send the funds to assist the needy.

Blessings In Christ.
George.

Adventures in African Missions

By Melody & Russ Lawson

One question we receive everywhere we go is, "What is it like to be a missionary". That is a very difficult question to answer. In trying to answer that question, for the past year or so Melody and I have been putting together a new book on missions. We compiled old reports, personal letters, daily journals and personal memories into a book that details daily life starting with our survey trip and going through the six years we spent in Kenya. It has lots of insights into the culture and lots and lots of pictures.

This book is now available and can be ordered directly from our personal book website at:

<http://www.lulu.com/russlawson>

Support our mission when you travel this Summer!

Don't forget to check prices at our travel site at: <http://Wclotravel.com>. We get a percentage of the profits are contributed to WCLO when you use this link for hotels, travel, car rental, etc.

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