

# Standing in the Gap

Steve & Rachel Good

April 2012

## Surprise Trips and Opportunities

In mid January I received an invitation to travel with a WR team to Turkana, Kenya. This is one of the regions affected by the drought in the Horn of Africa since Oct. 2011. When the WR Kenya director traveled there last year, he found a serious food crisis and began to mobilize food aid through the WR disaster relief team. Part of the response effort was to provide agricultural assistance when the next seasonal rains came to this area.

This northwestern area of Kenya is home to the Turkana people group, who are even more unique than the more famous Masai. They are traditionally a pastoral people. The men wear blankets, and carry a one-legged sitting

stool and a staff. The women wear heavy neck beading and have their heads shaved on both sides, with short braids in the middle.

This region is arid to semi-arid, windy and extremely

rugged. It had been the safe haven/training ground for the Sudanese Liberation Army. Security is still an issue with frequent cattle raiding and cross border movements of the raiders from South Sudan, Ethiopia, and

Uganda. Not only is the terrain rugged, so was the trip. We bounced along pot-hole filled roads (where they existed), dirt and gravel roads and where there were no roads, we used dry river beds. It was one of the most intense off-road experiences I have had in Africa.

One of my highlights at the end of the trip was to meet Dr Mwangi, one of the world's leading experts on grain amaranth. Because this grain is drought resistant and highly nutritious, it is one of the crops we are promoting amongst the Turkana farmers.



Turkana people

rough road in Turkana



## Rwanda and Burundi

It has been a special privilege for Rachel to visit some of the places that Steve travels to quarterly for micro-finance board meetings and agricultural consulting. There are many similarities in the cultures to Mozambique, but also some differences. These countries are beautiful with many mountains and lakes.

April 6-8 Rwanda remembered the genocide which occurred in 1994. They are determined not to forget and not to let it happen again. We also celebrated our 34<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary which fell on Easter, in Rwanda.

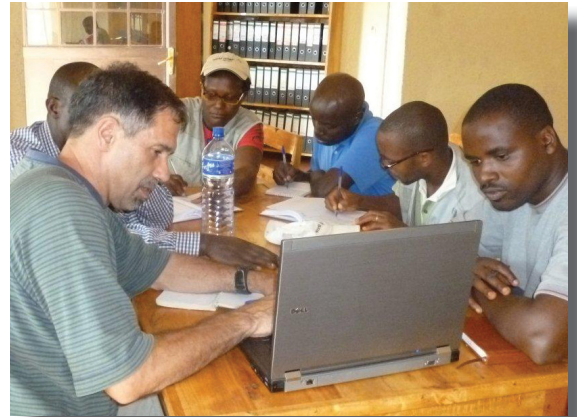


34th Anniversary

## Sabbatical Focus

We are planning an 8-month sabbatical starting this May. As we thought about different aspects of our ministry and what we would like to do to build up our own capacity, we identified things we want to learn/study that could not be done in our normal two month leave. We also realized that we have been on the field for 7 years, and in the US for only one Christmas. We will be based in Elkhart, but traveling, researching and investigating specific agricultural issues, reconnecting and resting as well.

We will start with a week-long debrief in Geneva through an organization that relates to WR and plan to share some of the Ancient Paths ministry with them. Our second stop will be in Washington DC for our son-in-law David's graduation from Georgetown University after 5 years of hard work getting his PhD in Development Economics. After spending a couple of days at the WR office in Baltimore we will head to Elkhart.



**Steve training at a Burundi WR office**

## Ancient Paths



January 10–27 we held an AP training with three Bibles schools in Maputo. We did two seminars and Training for Ministry. We are praying that these participants will be able to bring the seminars to the Bible school students and that they will be trained to take it with them when they return to their homes throughout Mozambique. We also held a seminar with a local church and will return there in May for the advanced seminar.

Some participant's testimonies:

- "The most beneficial part of the teaching was on communication levels – topical and relational. Also the concept of blessing my children. It was so logical but I never knew it. It all made so much sense."
- "God worked in me during the seminar. I always had problems with anger and rage against my parents and aunts for not allowing me to know my natural father when I was a child. This also caused problems of lack of communication and anger against my husband when he did something I didn't like and I took offense. I asked God to forgive me and He did. The blessing of God's forgiveness that I received is the same one that I gave to those who offended me, including my parents, aunts and husband. I forgave them. I feel that God dealt with the main areas and roots of my problems – anger, rage and fear. I recognize that healing is a process. I believe that God, by His Holy Spirit and by the prayers of His faithful ones will complete the cure."
- "God worked in my life in my marriage relationship. After the first years of marriage I never talked to my wife. I occupied my time with the newspaper, and friends and never told her that she was the person God gave especially to me. I didn't help her, even when she was pregnant. I confessed this and repented during the seminar. I went to ask my wife's forgiveness and I was surprised for her response was to accept me and forgive me. She wept bitterly and finally blessed me with a prayer. I also confessed with tears and expressed that I had dishonored the wife God gave me. Now I am happy, with peace and harmony and am certain that God with His presence will continue blessing and protecting our marriage until death do us part."

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