

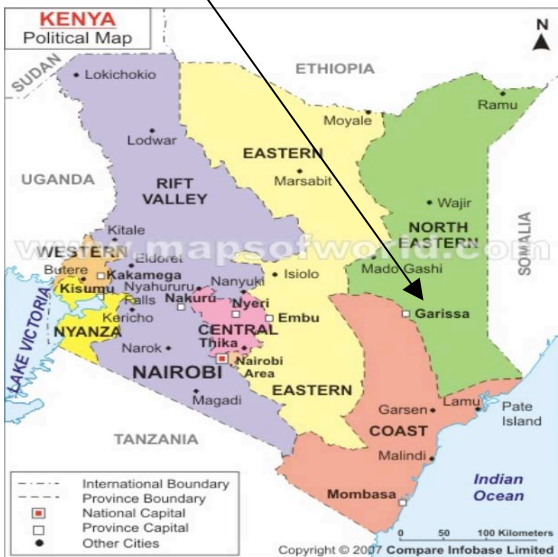
Dearest friends,

I hope this letter finds you in good cheer. I wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity I have to travel to Kenya this summer with our first ever team from BayLight.

Allow me to give some background first: almost one year ago, I met a native Kenyan ministry leader named, Ken. Ken had befriended one of our ministry leaders at a young leaders' mission conference halfway across the world, and this BayLight leader (Hideyo) invited Ken to come and tell us about his ministry initiatives. He spent a few nights at our home, and there was an immediate connection between us. Part of it had to do with the fact that, like Manny Ramirez of the Boston Red Sox, Ken shares the exact same birth date as me; but more than that, Ken and I share similar ministry heart and values.

Ken's foundation for ministry is prayer [he even wrote a book on it :)]. He said something that gripped me: we must fight the battle in the spiritual realm through prayer before we can even enter it in the physical realm. I knew when I heard him say this that I was in the presence of a man who didn't just talk about prayer but really did it.

Another area that really drew me to Ken was his approach towards holistic ministry: that you have to earn the right to be heard by local people before you could formally share the gospel with them. So Ken does a variety of community-developing/humanitarian ministries like digging wells (which apparently is so difficult that he doesn't recommend us short-term folks doing it), creating and teaching people to use solar-ovens, teaching farmers modern agricultural methods, and flood relief among others. Ken also started an academically rigorous Christian boarding school that has a large contingency of Muslims students. All this from his home base in Garissa.



So when Ken and I talked about disciple-making and church multiplication

one year ago, we were very much on the same page. I knew back then that I would soon be coming to visit him and take our relationship to the next level.

Well, that time has come! Together with five other BayLight friends, I will be going to Kenya from July 11 to the 20th. I'm eager to go see how Ken ministers. I'm eager to learn from him. And I'm eager to help out in any way I can in the work God has been doing in Kenya. We'll have a chance to build relationships with and equip his 40 plus ministry leaders, school teachers, boarding students and medical students. We'll get a chance to meet some of the villagers in remote areas he's been ministering to and fish with them. And we'll get a chance to help with a Jesus film showing in a nearby village.



And with recent flooding there in Garissa, I imagine we may be recruited to help with some post-flood activity in Ken's boarding school.



I want to be open to being used in any way that Ken and the Holy Spirit deem fitting. While I would love to continue my conversation with Ken regarding

simple church planting, I have no personal agenda at all and am asking the Spirit to posture me more as a learner than a teacher. At the end of the day, I just want to learn more of what it means to be a disciple and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

We're excited to be the first sent-out BayLight team, and we're eager to bless you and the BayLight community with stories, renewed perspective and our own transformed lives. I am also personally looking forward to this trip as a "mulligan" to my last overseas trip. I feel that God wants me to experience some healing from my last overseas trip to Uzbekistan in the summer of 1997. I have not been outside of the States since then.

So I would love to recruit your help in sending us off. Would you ask Jesus if He would have you partner with us? I'm looking for 20 intercessory partners who will commit to praying regularly for us before and during our trip in July. In addition, I am hoping to defray some of the financial costs of the trip. If the Lord leads you to financially invest in us and our efforts in Kenya, we'd be happy to be an outlet of your Kingdom generosity. As of this letter, I have about \$2,100 to come up with.

If you're interested in either, please fire me back an email, and I'll give further instructions. Thanks and please drop us a quick update on how you're doing.

Warmly for Christ,
Mike

PS – Some more personal updates: here are some highlights over the last four months:

1.) Dr. Kim?

- a. After years of resisting further graduate studies, I started a Doctor of Ministry program at Bakke Graduate School of Ministry in Seattle. I will be looking specifically at/writing about the topic of disciple-making with the hopes of putting on paper some of the things the Lord has been showing me over the last two years.

2.) A Lukan endeavor

- a. The Lord has moved Leslie and me to pursue a similar project as the one Dr. Luke did long ago: to record stories and acts of the Holy

Spirit in growing the Kingdom. Our eye has specifically been turned toward the Bay Area. We've interviewed three church planters, and have begun to put into writing some of these stories of ordinary people whom God has used to sow or reap in God's harvest fields. We hope to add a chapter or two or three from BayLight people as well.

3.) Kissing our mortgage good-bye

- a. The Lord moved Leslie and I to sell our house, and three weeks after slaving away to get everything ready, the Lord gave us seven offers and went well above our asking price! We closed in early May and moved in early June. Our new address is now **684 Danforth Dr., Sunnyvale, CA 94087**. We're looking forward to simplifying our lifestyle, not having to fix things ourselves anymore and also looking forward to the greater freedom and portability it will add to our lives.

Some things around the corner over the next 6 months:

1.) Indian food, anyone?

- a. I will be flying to India this November for a class on Urban International Mission. I'm excited for this class as the instructor is a YWAM leader in San Francisco who has extensive experience with replicating house churches in India and is seeking to do the same in San Francisco among the Urban poor. I think the Lord will show me much there.