



2021 Volume I



A publication of The Navigators Kenya

Eneza

To Know Christ And To Make Him Known



MINISTRY IN UNFAMILIAR CIRCUMSTANCES...

Two Sundays ago, I was asked two questions: “How is ministry today at the Navigators Kenya during this pandemic? Are you fully online or are you back to physical meetings?” These questions came from the following prevailing reality:

On 9 March, 2020, we were all thrown into a space that was unfamiliar to many of us. The first Covid -19 case was reported in Kenya. Though as a ministry we had been used to meeting one-on-one and in small groups, the realization that we were being asked by health authorities to keep social distance, avoid crowded places and work from home/online was disorienting to say the least. We came to accept the fact that it may be a long time until we could do ministry the way we were used to. Sunday mornings have been awkward. Waking up and switching on your TV or connecting online to follow a sermon has become the order of the day. And many of us seem to be enjoying it!

As I pondered on the questions, I realized that the correct answer would have to be that we are fully online and fully in person. Why? Because we have continued to meet as much as possible in small groups of discipleship and one-on-one as before, despite the initial jolts of the first few months. It

is also true that we have moved some of our large and small group events, and one-on-one meetings online. And this has worked quite well. Praise God!

I have come to realize that the Pandemic, though a distressing time, does offer us an opportunity to minister deeply to one another. I am reminded of how the apostle Paul used all means available to him to continue to minister to those God had brought his way. He visited people in their homes, he wrote letters to different individuals and congregations, and where possible he sent people to check on the disciples whom he, Paul, could not reach due to the different circumstances of his life at any given moment. When he could not travel, he wrote letters and send them with his companions. He wrote letters to encourage, teach and correct churches. We can confidently say that using ‘online’ and in-person meetings helped the early church to grow.

And so, I believe that we can still minister effectively using the diverse means of communication that God has given us. What we cannot afford to do is fold up our hands and “wait for the country to open up” before we can resume ministering. We can call, we can meet virtually, we can write texts and use social media, and we can still physically meet, with protocols observed. In whichever mode of meeting God affords us, let us remember the exhortation:

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25.

May His grace for you abound during this season.

Your brother,

Chris Amulo.





PERSEVERING IN PRAYER AND IN HIS PROMISES

The scriptures urge us to pray without ceasing (1Thes 5:17). Our Lord Jesus in Luke 18 gives a parable of the persistent widow, to teach us that we ought to always pray and not cease.

As a ministry, we see prayer as the key in pursuing the vision that God has laid on our hearts... *'We see a vital movement of the Gospel, fueled by prevailing prayer...'*

But how do we keep on going in prayer when the pressure of prevailing times seems to weigh heavily on our hearts? Habakkuk served God's people in a time when the prevailing conditions were harsh. Justice had essentially disappeared from the land; violence and wickedness were pervasive. The prophet wondered why God did nothing about it. He wrestled with God, and through that experience he achieved a deeper understanding of God's sovereign character and a firmer faith in Him.

Two things stand out for us from Habakkuk:

1. God calls us to trust Him and rest in His sovereignty as we wait patiently in faith for His purposes to be fulfilled.

2. Wrestling with God in prayer should be done in a spirit of surrender – with the assurance that God is both powerful and good, Holy and merciful.

The past several months have been hard for many people. For those who are in the ministry of reaching out to others, it can be a challenge to effectively serve others when we come weighed down by our own burdens of pain and weariness.

The Lord understands our burdens, and extends His invitation for us to come to Him:

In Isaiah 55, He invites us to come and drink, regardless of the situation or the condition we are in.

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Isaiah 55:1 (NIV)

In Matthew 11:28-30, He invites us to come and lay our burdens down and find rest in Him, and reminds us that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest (I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls). Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me, for I am gentle (meek) and humble (lowly) in heart, and you will find rest (relief and ease and refreshment and recreation and blessed quiet) for your souls. For My yoke is wholesome (useful, good—not harsh, hard, sharp, or pressing, but comfortable, gracious, and pleasant), and My burden is light and easy to be borne.

Matthew 11:28-30 (AMP)

Henry Nouwen, in his book, 'Prayer Embraces the World', says, 'to pray is to unite ourselves with Jesus and lift up the whole world through Him to God in a cry for forgiveness, reconciliation, healing and mercy. To pray, therefore, is to connect whatever human struggle or pain we encounter – with the gentle and humble heart of Jesus... prayer is leading every sorrow to the source of all healing.'

So, in these difficult times, let us come boldly to the throne of grace and bring every sorrow and pain to the source of all healing.

Cornelius and Ruth Muatha





LET NOTHING MOVE YOU

‘Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.’
1 Cor 15:58

I first memorized this verse while in Core group, and many years later, Covid presents an opportunity to live it out. Let nothing move you-the uncertainties brought about by Covid-19 moved me in many ways. The 3rd portion of that verse in NLT says always work enthusiastically... that was not my initial feeling, but it caught up later.

We had welcomed a new lot of High School graduates (Core groupers) in January 2020 and were delighted to get to know them; then March happened! How do we work from home, for us who depend a lot on the physical interactions? Our relationships are strengthened in Camps, sleepovers, picnics



Core Group Nairobi at a recent meeting

and other random activities. How do we continue developing friendships, especially with the newcomers?

It started by individual and conference calls to hear how they were doing, then progressively moved to weekly Zoom meetings. We had two other continuing groups meet with Lynn and Augustine (Team members is Nairobi) and once a month combined all the groups. This was not devoid of challenges and inconsistencies. Despite the challenges, we had to be creative and make our fellowship online fun, now that food was in the kitchen! The content varied from people sharing their testimonies, mental wellness, games and our usual Bible studies. It was evident that being at home didn't prevent negative influence and for some of them, our meetings were the only fellowship they had.

By the end of the year, the newcomers had warmed up and desired for physical meetings. When the country partially reopened, we resumed gathering in person.

In May this year we had Expo online: Expo is a program that targets high school graduates with the aim of recruiting them for Core group. God made it possible. Some joined us and are inviting their friends!

As we continued hearing the impact of our fellowship, we are persuaded that Jesus is the answer to all of life. The uncertainties grew my dependence on God. My eyes were opened to the workings of God and I have been encouraged by the truth that truly our labor is not in vain.

Testimony from Charlotte Oyella

When the Corona Virus crisis broke out, we had no choice but to settle for virtual meetups. For me, having an online Bible study was a completely new concept, but I had a wonderful experience. The Core group leaders were indispensable in assisting us in adjusting to the new normal and carrying on with business as usual. The few drawbacks I ran across were network troubles and a general lack of the human touch that comes with face-to-face meetings. The ability to communicate with other Navigators who live thousands of miles away was one of the key advantages I gained from the virtual meetups. Making new acquaintances and interacting on a spiritual level was an unforgettable experience for me.

Lilian Rulemo





Elijah & Sylvia on their wedding day

SEIZING THE MOMENT

Sylvia and I got married on 10th April, 2021. She is a great blessing to our ministry and myself. Shortly after we came back to Kakamega from our honeymoon, students from Masinde Muliro University started visiting us. Surprisingly, this time they were ladies, unlike previous times when only men would frequently visit. As we continued to interact with them, we realized they had all finished their exams : Florence was to resume her studies in September; Joy had a month to go before going back to Moi University; and Winnie was available until July, when she would be going for her attachment.

We were on a ministry break since we had just gotten married. But as we prayed and talked about it, God impressed on our hearts the need to give more time to pour our lives into these students. It was clear to us that we had them for a limited time and they were available to us at this particular time. Soon they would commence their studies, go on attachment, graduate and transition out of campus.

So we scheduled for a 12 days meeting with them for what we call Core Combat. It's a time we spent in the Word : reading, studying, memorizing, praying and evangelizing. Core Combat is also a time that we get to engage and bond deeply. Our theme was from the book of Philippians 3:10 dubbed "*Knowing God*." From 17th to 28th May, 2021, we met daily from 9am to 5 pm, except from Sundays. After the 12 days, we invited Florence and Paul Mulama, who had been part of a previous core combat to commit themselves again to a three months program, Roots. The theme for Roots was from Colossians 2:6-7. Since Roots runs for a longer period, involves hosting and other logistics, we requested the Navs Team in Eldoret to do it. Florence and Paul were exposed to the wider Navigators family and Ministry in Eldoret. They continued to do what we were doing in Core combat. They also read and reflected on a book called **Choices**. It focuses on dating, sex, courtship and marriage in a biblical way.

Looking back, we rejoice at the time we spent together. God is at work in the lives of these students .we continue to keep in touch with them by calling and visiting. We are praying that this three and the other students we reach out to will grow in their faith and become fruitful laborers just as apostle Paul was.



From left to right: Joy, Winnie, my wife Sylvia, Florence at the back and myself in front

Elijah & Sylvia Khamala





SERVING IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

When I think about the gospel advancing in this times, I am reminded of the disciples of Jesus during the drought in Acts 11: 27-30. During those times, each of the disciples according to their ability decided to provide help for the brothers living in Judea. This they did sending their gifts to the elders by Barnabas and Saul. Caring for their brothers and sisters in that difficult period spoke volumes, not only to the ones who were being cared for but also to the rest of the world.

The conventional way of doing ministry has been greatly affected; this calls for adapting to new and creative ways of ministry. The restrictions due to the pandemic have affected the methods of advancing the gospel but the principle remains intact. We are called to spread the gospel whether in good or in bad times.

Reaching out to team members has been key during this time. We are working out on ways to become more involved in their lives and provide help where we can. The

national office has also played a crucial role by setting aside some funds, which have really helped in providing for some of our team members in one way or the other. This has brought a lot of cohesion into our team in Eldoret.

There has been a lot of effort dedicated to following up key people in various bible studies, such as those who were in campus. We had some students stay with staff members for about a month so as to learn from them and be discipled. As the saying goes, more is caught rather than taught. These students had the opportunity to observe and be taught by the staff members.

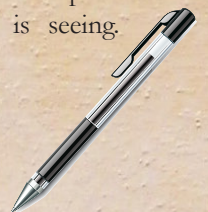
Since many people were forced to stay at home, they became available, including children, to be engaged with the message of the gospel. Many people have become more receptive to the message of Jesus Christ, as a result, ministry opportunities have opened up in the neighborhood.

Spending extended time with family has been one of the key benefits of staying at home. As for me, I have had time to know my daughter who is now two, and more so, my wife has become more involved in ministry. This has enabled us to even work on our marriage.

Taking my daughter for regular walks has become a habit for both of us. Other men in the neighborhood have started doing the same and because of this, we find ourselves outside our homes interacting with our neighbors, something that was unheard of. We hope to get to know more of one another, and share the message of Jesus with them.

Even though the conventional way of doing ministry has been greatly affected, God has opened many more doors and opportunities to advance the gospel in this times, all we need is to pray that God opens our eyes and that we may see what He is seeing.

Kenneth and Yvonne Njoroge



Visit our
Website
Today

www.navigatorskenya.org

Do you find it difficult to find or remember
staff support details?

find it on our website

FROM THE NAVS KENYA BOOKSHOP

DANCING IN NO MAN'S LAND

By Brian Jennings.
NAV PRESS

It happens over and over again. A political argument with a friend, a fight about racial issues on the internet, a disagreement with a coworker –at the first sight of conflict, we flee to a bunker with people who think like us...and we attack everyone else. We feel safe there, but it's killing us: killing families, friendships, civility, and discourse.

Our fractured world desperately needs a different way: people who will speak gently, value truth, and think clearly. *Dancing in No Man's Land* is a rallying cry, a life-giving and practical journey into the way of Jesus that will revolutionize how you view conflict. You can choose to speak both truth and peace in the midst of war. You can step out of your bunker and into no man's land, where only brave souls tread. It may look like you are dodging cultural land mines. But you might just be learning how to dance.

I DON'T GET YOU

By Sherry Graf.
NAV PRESS.

I*Don't Get You* is a practical booklet full of easy-to-apply relational guidelines that promote healthy opposite-sex interactions. Helping young men and women maintain emotional purity as they relate with each other at different levels. A must-read for today's young men and women.

Offer : Buy one and get a free **Topical Memory System** (TMS) pack. TMS is a pack of 60 cards with topical scriptures to help stay on course or begin the wonderful journey of scripture memory.

Here's How To
Reach Us



www.facebook.com/Navigatorskenya |
Twitter: @NavigatorsKenya
Email: communications@navigatorskenya.org |
www.navigatorskenya.org
Tel: +254 723 969 644 / 738 573 868
Kindaruma road, off Ngong road |
P. O Box 47300—00100| Nairobi, Kenya

