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TPI Africa Trip Report 2

1 message

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John and Paul Swets are now in Tanga, Tanzania, conducting the 2nd of 6 institutes this summer. The email below chronicles their first week in Eldoret and Lumakanda, Kenya. They had over 250 pastors attending, and had a great response. Paul's suitcase and notebooks arrived by Wednesday, which is earlier than previous reports I'd been given. They taught outside, which is unusual, and John got sunburned (yes, I did pack sun block and a hat, if he'd just wear them). If that's the worst of their problems they were doing pretty well.

This weekend, please pray for Paul as he makes his way back to Memphis, Tennessee. Scott Girard of Charlotte, North Carolina, leaves Friday morning to meet John in Bujumbura, Burundi. Thanks for standing with us as we seek to advance the kingdom, Jennifer Balmer

Dear Friends,

We have completed our first TPI Pastoral Training Institute in Lumakanda, Kenya, which is a small town due west of Eldoret, Kenya, a one of the bigger cities in this area with a population of 300,000 people. I met Pastor Martin Shikuku, the local Eldoret, Kenya TPI Coordinator, in Lynchburg, Virginia, when I was introduced to him in 2009 by Dr. Gordon Henry, the President of J. Gordon Henry Ministries, which is a ministry devoted to Prayer Seminars around the world. When Pastor Martin came back to Kenya, he met with our TPI National Director, Zachary Wanjohi, in Nairobi, Kenya. After meeting with him, Zachary encouraged him to conduct a TPI Institute this year in Eldoret, Kenya, but Pastor Martin felt the need to conduct our first TPI Institute in this area in a smaller city, where many rural pastors could come to get the training since most if not all of the pastors in this area have no access to get pastoral training for their ministries.

The next day, [Monday, July 5th](#), I woke up very early in the morning in my Room 407 on the fourth floor at the Cicada Hotel near the city centre of town. I was wide awake at 1:30 AM and got up and began typing on my email report. I also spent some time looking at a passage in 1 John 1:5-2:2 and continued typing on my email report. Eventually around 5 AM, I took a lukewarm shower with a nozzle overhead and enjoyed a long and refreshing shower in a room with a queen-sized bed, a desk, and a bathroom with a shower curtain covering a portion of the bathroom area so that the water goes onto the floor all around. After the shower, I got dressed and continued typing some more on my email report. At 6:15 AM, I met Paul Swets, and we went downstairs and had breakfast at a table in the restaurant called The Bazaar, right next to the hotel lobby. We ate a good breakfast which consisted of wheat bars of cereal mixed with corn flakes, a Spanish omelet, ham, sausage, tomato, wheat toast and jelly, several glasses of Mango Juice, and African Chi (tea). Pastor Martin Shikuku came to the hotel and joined us at the restaurant at the end of our breakfast. He had a cup of Mango Juice with us. Then we went back upstairs to our rooms and finished getting ready for the day, and brought our small bags downstairs to the lobby and loaded them into Pastor Martin's four-

door sedan Toyota Sprinter.

Pastor Martin Shikuku drove Paul Swets and me out of Eldoret into the rural area of Kenya about one hour due West on the road that leads eventually to Uganda to a small town called Lumakanda (about 45 kilos or 40 miles from Eldoret, Kenya), which is half way toward the Uganda border, which is a total of two hours drive west of Eldoret. The last portion of the drive was on a dirt road, which can get quite muddy during the rainy season such as right now. The road was a little muddy at first, but Pastor Martin negotiated the roads quite easily, and we arrived at the Lumakanda Baptist Church in Lumakanda, which is where our venue will be this week for the TPI Pastoral Training Institute. We are meeting in five white tents that were erected outside the church on the church property because the TPI Local Committee felt the church building could not handle 300 people, which is the projected number of pastors attending this week. When we got there about 8:30 AM, there were only a few pastors there and several of the coordinating team working on last minute details for the first day of the institute. The Registration Committee began work on registering the pastors for the institute, but we eventually decided to call off the registration so we could get the institute started in due time. We are beginning the institute without the TPI notebooks since the three boxes of notebooks have not yet arrived from the flights that Paul Swets made the day before from Memphis, Tennessee to Nairobi, Kenya. Pastor Martin made contact with the representative for Virgin Atlantic office, Nancy, but so far, there is no sign of when the boxes will arrive in Eldoret. We started the TPI Lumakanda Institute around 9:30 AM with 213 pastors, evangelists, and national missionaries for the morning session.

Pastor Martin Shikuku introduced the Chairman of the Local TPI Committee, Pastor Julius Olindo, who greeted the pastors and opened the TPI Lumakanda Institute with a short devotion. Then Pastor Martin came forward and introduced me to begin the first session on Expository Preaching. I took a little time to introduce the TPI philosophy and share the three pillars of our TPI training program, which is preaching the Word of God, leading the Church of God, and reaching the world for God. I also introduce Pastor Paul Swets from Memphis, Tennessee, who will be joining me this week as a Pastoral Trainer to preach through the book of Philippians and teach a series on Leadership Development. I will also teach Expository Preaching, Sanctification of the Believer in a Christian Life Convention, and do an overview of the Old Testament. Then I began teaching the first session on Expository Preaching. I began by introducing the need for Expository Preaching since most preachers in Africa do not study the Bible before preaching from it only because they have not been taught how to study the text before preaching it. Many also take verses out of context and impose their own meanings on them and preach messages which do not reflect the original intended meaning of the text. I then went to several passages and sought to show what is meant by expository preaching. In order to preach an expository message from the Word of God, it is imperative that they spend at least one hour a day studying the passage that they will preach from on Sunday morning. I also used many different illustrations to help them see the need for presenting a good exposition of the text during the worship service, which is like their wives preparing a meal to eat for dinner. We spent some time looking at the main verse of the week, which is 2 Tim. 2:15. Then we closed out the first session of the day with a challenge to prepare the text before you preach the text.

After a few preliminary announcements and directives, we took a tea break by going into the main building of Lumakanda Baptist Church and being served African Chi (tea) with small wafers. We had a short break and met at a table inside and talked with some of the key leaders of the TPI Local

Committee. Then we went back outside to the tents and resumed the institute. Julius Olindo, the Local TPI Chairman, had me come up again, and I introduced Paul Swets to come up and begin his session on an exposition of Philippians. He came up and introduced the book of Philippians and the main theme verse, Phil. 4:4, gave a little background of the apostle Paul, an overview of the truths of the book, and an outline of the week. Then Paul began his first message on "Joy in Partnership" from Phil. 1:1-11. He began by preparing people's heart for the preaching of this passage. He then focused on three main points of this passage. The first is an introduction to Paul as a servant leader, who is writing to saints in Philippi, and then giving a common greeting. Then he mentions Paul's prayer (vs. 3-5) and why he thanks God for the Philippians. Finally, he mentions what Paul prays for: love, knowledge, discernment, purity, and fruits of righteousness in their lives (vs. 6-11). Paul then closed out the session by applying this passage to the pastors with actions to take and other verses to think about. We then had a short time of worship led by the singing team and keyboard players.

Then Pastor Martin made a few comments before Julius Olindo came up and invited me to come up for my first session on the Sanctification of the Believer. I started the session by introducing the concept of holding a Christian Life Convention much like the Keswick Christian Life Convention held every year in Keswick, England. Therefore, I spent some time developing some of the history of the Keswick convention, the purpose for it, the ideas involved in consecration or sanctification in relation to our salvation in Christ, and the main outline of the week. We opened with a word of prayer asking the Lord to speak to us and that we were waiting to do business with Him. The first session is on "Dealing with Sins in the Believer's Life." The tendency is to ignore our sins, conceal them, or even forget about them, which produces a lack of fellowship with the Lord and resulting in a carnal life rather than a sanctified Christian life. The first passage that I utilized to show the need to deal with sin as a believer is 1 John 1:1-10 through 2:1-2. We then looked at the difference between the carnal life and the spiritual life from 1 Cor. 3:1-3. We looked at the experience of Paul's life as he cried out to God for deliverance from sin in Rom. 7:24 and God answered him in deliverance from sin in Rom. 7:25. I then challenged the pastors to confess sin rather than to conceal sin and that all believers must deal with sin in a Biblical way, which involves: (1) confess sin – tell God about it, (2) repentance – turn from a particular sin, and (3) thanksgiving – trust God for the victory over sin. **We then had a time of invitation to the pastors to come forward and deal with the sin in their lives, and much to my amazement, almost all of the 200 pastors, evangelists, and church leaders came forward and knelt down on their knees on the grass and began praying to the Lord for about 10 to 15 minutes. It was quite a sight to see these pastors crying out to God for specific sins in their lives. After spending time in personal prayer, I led them in a corporate time of confessing sins, repenting from sins, and trusting God for the victory and thanking Him for that victory, forgiveness, and cleansing. Then the worship leaders led the whole group in singing and thanking God for working in our lives. It was truly a great time of breakthrough in this first meeting of our Christian Life Convention. Afterwards, Pastor Julius Olindo came up and make a few announcements and dismissed the group for lunch after a pastor led in prayer.**

We broke for lunch and all the pastors got into a queue and went around the back of the sanctuary to pick up their meal to eat it inside the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the leaders, including Paul and me, went inside the sanctuary to a table, where the ladies brought our meal to us. We ate rice and meat, sauce, and a green vegetable and African Chi (tea) and water. We had a great time of enjoying fellowship around the table and eating a good African meal together. Then we went back outside to resume our institute. **We had 223 pastors, evangelists, and church leaders for the afternoon session for our first day of the TPI Institute.**

After lunch, we went again to the tents outside the sanctuary and the worship team led us in a song. Then Julius Olindo invited Paul Swets to come up and lead his afternoon session on "The Art of Leading Successfully." Paul began by giving an overview of the outline of study for these five afternoon sessions on Leadership. Then he proceeded to deal with his first session on "What is our mission?" Paul dealt with God's calling, a definition of leadership, and five essential questions we need to ask in determining our mission. He then defined what is meant by mission and looked at some characteristics of mission in the Scriptures. He asked what is the pastor's mission in life, and how they are doing in fulfilling their mission. He asked them to identify any Biblical characters that they identify with concerning their mission in life. Paul concluded his session by asking what unique opportunities they face in their mission and what changes they need to make to fulfill their mission.

There was a short time of worship as the team of singers led the group in a couple of songs. Then Julius Olindo invited me to come and teach the last session on the overview of the Old Testament. I began by teaching an overview of the structure of the Old Testament with 17 Historical Books, 5 Poetical Books, and 17 Prophetical Books. Then I started the overview with the first four events of the book of Genesis (creation, fall, flood, nations) and the call of Abraham to leave Ur to go to the Promised Land, and settling in Haran until his father, Terah, died there. Then we reviewed over the signs of the Old Testament up to that point of the story. This completed the first day of the TPI Institute in Lumakanda, Kenya. Pastor Julius Olindo came and made a few announcements and directives for the coming days. Then Pastor Martin Shikuku also came up and concluded the first day of the TPI Institute and one of the pastors closed the day in prayer.

After the institute was over, we said our goodbyes to the pastors as many of them got onto their bicycles, motorbikes, or walked on foot back to their homes. Meanwhile, Paul Swets and I got into Pastor Martin Shikuku's four-door sedan Toyota Sprinter with our small bags, and he drove us from Lumakanda Baptist Church in the small town of Lumakanda back across the dirt and muddy roads out to the road that leads to Eldoret, Kenya, about 40 miles east across the rural part of the country. The approximately one-hour trip took us back to the city centre of Eldoret, where we came to the Cicada Hotel, our home for the week. Then Matthew Limo helped us with our bags up to our rooms and I went to my Room 407 on the fourth floor. We met with Pastor Martin Shikuku briefly about a few things regarding the institute and made a few adjustments, and then we said goodbye to him as he left to go home. Then Paul Swets and I went down to the restaurant called The Bazaar, where we had our dinner meal for the night. There was a buffet tonight, so we had rice and beef stew, vegetables, tomato soup, Mango juice, and Coke Light (Diet Coke). We had a good day and talked a little about our first day at the institute. Then we went back up to our rooms and stayed in for the night. I spent some time typing on my Email Report for awhile and then went to bed after a great first day at the TPI Lumakanda Institute near Eldoret, Kenya.

The next day, [Tuesday, July 6th](#), I woke up early in the morning in my Room 407 on the fourth floor at the Cicada Hotel near the city centre of town. I was wide awake at 3 AM and got up and began typing on my email report. Eventually around 6 AM, I took a lukewarm shower with a nozzle overhead and enjoyed a long and refreshing shower in a room with a queen-sized bed, a desk, and a bathroom with a shower curtain covering a portion of the bathroom area so that the water goes onto the floor all around. After the shower, I got dressed and continued typing some more on my email report. At 6:30 AM, I met Paul Swets, and we went downstairs and had breakfast at a table in

the restaurant called The Bazaar, right next to the hotel lobby. We ate a good breakfast which consisted of wheat bars of cereal mixed with corn flakes, two fried eggs, ham, sausage, tomato, wheat toast and jelly, several glasses of Mango Juice, and African Chi (tea). Pastor Martin Shikuku came to the hotel and joined us at the restaurant at the end of our breakfast. He had a cup of Mango Juice with us. Then we went back upstairs to our rooms and finished getting ready for the day, and brought our small bags downstairs to the lobby and loaded them into Pastor Martin's four-door sedan Toyota Sprinter.

Pastor Martin Shikuku drove Paul Swets and me to Lumakanda. We arrived a little late today because the drive took a little longer than usual since we had a slower more leisurely drive to our venue. When we got there about 8:50 AM, there were more pastors there than yesterday and we got started with all things in place better today. We are beginning the second day of the institute without the TPI notebooks since the three boxes of notebooks have not yet arrived from the flights that Paul Swets made the day before from Memphis, Tennessee to Nairobi, Kenya. Pastor Martin again made contact with the representative for Virgin Atlantic office, Nancy, but still so far, there is no sign of when the boxes will arrive in Eldoret. [We started the TPI Lumakanda Institute around 9:15 AM with 238 pastors, evangelists, and national missionaries for the morning session.](#)

Pastor Julius Olindo introduced the Vice Chairman of the Local TPI Committee, Pastor Peter Mwilitsa, who greeted the pastors and opened the TPI Lumakanda Institute for the second day with a short devotion. Then he introduced me to begin the second session on Expository Preaching, which deals with the study of a whole book and making a chart of the book to see the big picture and understand the context of that book. [The local committee had brought two white boards so I could write on them for the pastors to see certain things that I am teaching them, but the boards did not work with the markers that we stopped to buy on the way here this morning. So they went and fetched two chalk boards and I used them for this morning's session.](#) I reviewed over the definitions of expository preaching and went back over the need to study the text from 2 Timothy 2:15. I also set the context of the first step of studying the text, which is observation. Then we delved into the steps of developing an expository message, which involves looking at the historical background of the book they are preaching. I encouraged the pastors to preach through whole books because God has given us His revelation in 66 books in the Bible and He wants us to preach all of His revelation, not just offer verses here and there in a piecemeal fashion. We need to systematically preach through whole books of the Bible in our preaching ministry. So I encouraged them to get a good study Bible with a good concordance to help them in their study of the Bible. Then they need to look at the author, when the book was written, the recipients of the book, and the historical circumstances or personal situations or issues that gave rise to the writing of the book. They also need to look at the historical purpose of the book that led to the author's writing of the book.

Second, they need to look at the literary content of the book. They need to look at the author's purpose in writing the book to his audience. They also need to look at the author's main arguments of how he presents his ideas to his audience. We are looking at the book of Ephesians this week, so I explained to the pastors how to develop a chart of the book by showing the literary context of the book by revealing the main divisions and minor divisions of the whole book, which is how the author structures his ideas in major and minor units within the book. Therefore, I drew a chart of the book of Ephesians on one of the two blackboards that the committee set up right in front of the podium outside the tent. I divided the book of Ephesians into 14 major divisions, which I observed and put them into a chart to see the whole book at a glance. This helps the pastor to see how the

whole book fits together so he can preach through each of these major divisions in 14 weeks, and thereby, preach through the whole book of Ephesians and teach all of the content of God's revelation to his people. I concluded this session with the need for the pastors to study the text every day to prepare their messages much like their wives prepare their meals for them with much diligence. Then Pastor Peter Mwilitsa came up and highlighted the importance of expository preaching for the pastors with a special emphasis on studying the text.

After a few preliminary announcements and directives, we took a tea break by going into the main building of Lumakanda Baptist Church and being served African Chi (tea) with small wafers. We had a short break and met at a table inside and talked with some of the key leaders of the TPI Local Committee. Then we went back outside to the tents and resumed the institute. I put on some sun block that Jennifer had given me because I am teaching all day in the direct sunlight outside, and yesterday I got a little too much sun, so today I decided to bring the sun block 30 and use it. I applied it mainly to my face during Pastor Paul's session. Pastor Peter Mwilitsa, the Local TPI Vice Chairman, had Paul Swets come up and begin his session on an exposition of Philippians. He came up and reviewed over the book of Philippians and the main theme verse, Phil. 4:4, gave a little background of the apostle Paul, an overview of the truths of the book, and an outline of the week. Then Paul began his second message on "Joy in Difficulty" from Phil. 1:12-30. He shared about Paul's trials and especially his suffering in prison as a result of sharing the gospel message and his faith in Christ. Paul Swets made the first point that difficulty can advance the gospel. Second, he made the point that Christ can be glorified in life or death. Third, he made the point that we should live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, which involves standing firm, striving side by side, acting with courage against opponents of the gospel, facing suffering with honor for the sake of Christ, and living life under the viewpoint of eternity. Paul then closed out the session by applying this passage to the pastors with actions to take and other verses to think about. We then had a short time of worship led by the singing team and keyboard players.

Then Pastor Martin Shikuku made a few comments before Pastor Peter Mwilitsa came up and invited me to come up for my second session on the Christian Life Convention: The Sanctification of the Believer. Today we resumed the sequence of teaching on the progress of sanctification by dealing with the topic of "God's Provision for the Believer." I reviewed over the first step of living the sanctified life, which is to keep short accounts with our God, and deal with the sin in the believer's life, by confessing it, repenting and turning from this sin, and trusting God for the victory. Today we looked at the need for the believer to believe God's promises and thereby receive God's provision for living the Christian life. We looked at several of God's promises for the believer like 1 Cor. 15:57, which states God's gift of continual victory over sin and death. This is coupled with the promise of Rom. 8:2, which promises the deliverance of the Spirit to give us victory over the law of sin and death in our members. I also went to 2 Peter 1:3-4, which shows that the promises of God enable the believer to participate in the divine nature, which means to live out of our new nature created in Christ instead of our old nature in the flesh, and to escape the corruption in the world caused by lust. I went to a few other passages like Gal. 2:20, which shows that our old self has been crucified with Christ, and we Christians do not have to serve the law of sin in our members, and when we do, we have the means to receive God's forgiveness and cleansing. So we need to ensure that as Christians we must not rely on our own strength, whereby we will fall every time and succumb to temptation and sin against God, but if we study and believe the promises of God and receive God's provision, we will walk in newness of life and gain the victory over sin in our lives. [I challenged the pastors to believe and receive God's provision for their lives by trusting God with one of His promises that we looked at this morning. We then had a time of invitation to the pastors to come forward and deal with the sin in their lives, and once again, most all of the 200 pastors, evangelists,](#)

and church leaders came forward and kneeled down on their knees on the grass and began praying to the Lord for about 10 to 15 minutes. It was quite a sight to see these pastors asking God for specific promises in their own lives . After spending time in personal prayer, I led them in a corporate time of making God's promises personal by claiming that promise and asking God to bring it to pass in our lives. Then the worship leaders led the whole group in singing and thanking God for working in our lives. It was truly a great time of breakthrough in this second meeting of our Christian Life Convention. Afterwards, Pastor Peter Mwilitsa came up and make a few announcements and dismissed the group for lunch after a pastor led in prayer.

We broke for lunch and all the pastors got into a queue and went around the back of the sanctuary to pick up their meal to eat it inside the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the leaders, including Paul and me, went inside the sanctuary to a table, where the ladies brought our meal to us. We ate rice and meat, sauce, and a green vegetable and African Chi (tea) and water. We had a great time of enjoying fellowship around the table and eating a good African meal together. Then we went back outside to resume our institute. [We had 256 pastors, evangelists, and church leaders for the afternoon session for our second day of the TPI Institute.](#)

After lunch, we went again to the tents outside the sanctuary and the worship team led us in a song. Then Pastor Peter Mwilitsa invited Paul Swets to come up and lead his afternoon session on "The Art of Leading Successfully." Paul began by reviewing over the overview of the outline of study for these five afternoon sessions on Leadership. Then he proceeded to deal with his second session on "Who are we trying to influence?" Paul looked at first who did Jesus influence and then listed many different social groups of people that Jesus influenced. He then showed how Jesus sought to attract highly devoted followers by preparing, preaching, praying, teaching, healing, investing, proving, and inviting them to a deeper relationship to Christ. Paul then asked the pastors how they would describe the people that they minister in their culture. Furthermore, he asked them to rate themselves in terms of serving their people. Finally, he asked how they would compare their leadership style to that of Jesus. He then concluded this session on leadership influence in pastoral ministry.

There was a short time of worship as the team of singers led the group in a couple of songs. Then Pastor Peter Mwilitsa invited me to come and teach the last session on the overview of the Old Testament. I reviewed over how the Old Testament was organized in 39 books which is divided into 17 historical books, 5 poetical books, and 17 prophetical books. We reviewed over the signs by going all the way back to the beginning of Genesis with the creation, fall, flood, and nations. We reviewed over the call of Abraham and the death of Terah. Then I began teaching the rest of Genesis beginning with the possession of the land of Israel by Abraham, Sarah, and Lot. I also taught the part of the story of Abraham and Sarah receiving their two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, and Isaac's sons, Esau and Jacob, and Jacob's favorite son Joseph. Finally, we concluded by having the pastors play as actors in the story of Joseph being sold as a slave to Egypt, and then being used by God to bring all the sons of Jacob to Egypt to deliver them from the famine in the land and settle them in Goshen. I then had the pastors stand up and review over the signs of Genesis that I had taught them, and then Pastor Peter Mwilitsa came and closed out the second day of the institute with some comments and necessary directives for tomorrow. After the day of teaching was over, Paul Swets told me that I still had gotten a lot of sun despite the sun block that I had applied earlier in the day. I could feel the heat on my face and so I would try to attempt to get the sun block on earlier tomorrow because I did not get it on my face until after the first session today. Then

Pastor Martin Shikuku also made some concluding remarks to prepare the pastors for tomorrow by coming early to the devotion at 8 AM. He had one of the pastors close in a word of prayer and dismissed the institute for the second day.

After the institute was over, we said our goodbyes to the pastors as many of them got onto their bicycles, motorbikes, or walked on foot back to their homes. There was a torrential downpour of rain as soon as the institute ended, so we had to go to the car immediately. So Paul Swets and I got into Pastor Martin Shikuku's four-door sedan Toyota Sprinter with our small bags, and he drove us back to Eldoret and the Cicada Hotel, our home for the week. Then Matthew Limo helped us with our bags up to our rooms and I went to my Room 407 on the fourth floor. We met with Pastor Martin Shikuku briefly about a few things regarding the institute and made a few adjustments, and then we said goodbye to him as he left to go home. Then Paul Swets and I went down to the restaurant called The Bazaar, where we had our dinner meal for the night. We had a good meal which consisted of rice and beef, vegetables, tomato soup, Mango juice, and Coke Light (Diet Coke). We had a good day and talked a little about our second day at the institute. Then we went back up to our rooms and stayed in for the night. I spent some time typing on my Email Report for awhile and then went to bed after a great second day at the TPI Lumakanda Institute near Eldoret, Kenya.

The next day, [Wednesday, July 7th](#), I woke up early in the morning in my Room 407 on the fourth floor at the Cicada Hotel near the city centre of town. I was wide awake at 3 AM and got up and began typing on my email report. Eventually around 6 AM, I took a lukewarm shower with a nozzle overhead and enjoyed a long and refreshing shower in a room with a queen-sized bed, a desk, and a bathroom with a shower curtain covering a portion of the bathroom area so that the water goes onto the floor all around. After the shower, I got dressed and continued typing some more on my email report. At 6:30 AM, I met Paul Swets, and we went downstairs and had breakfast at a table in the restaurant called The Bazaar, right next to the hotel lobby. We ate a good breakfast which consisted of wheat bars of cereal mixed with corn flakes, French toast (which was a piece of fried bread and I put jelly on it since there was no syrup), ham, sausage, several glasses of Mango Juice, and African Chi (tea). Charles Karuru, the Associate Pastor to Pastor Martin Shikuku, came to the hotel and joined us at the restaurant at the end of our breakfast. Then we went back upstairs to our rooms and finished getting ready for the day. We got started a little later today because I needed to send my email report to Jennifer so she could send it out to our email list and I was also trying to get in touch with Rev. Ayubu Mgweno in Tanga, Tanzania by email so we could figure out how to send our three boxes of Tanzania notebooks by bus to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania ahead of us so we would not have to pay excess baggage fees on our three flights to Tanga, Tanzania this weekend. I finally heard from Rev. Mgweno this morning when I sent the email report to Jennifer at the row of desktop computers in the lobby. Rev. Mgweno sent me Pastor Manasse Martin's address details so we could send the boxes to him since he will be the one who will pick us up in Dar Es Salaam on Saturday afternoon and get us on another plane to Tanga, Tanzania. After all the delays, we brought our small bags downstairs to the lobby and loaded them into Pastor Charles Karuru's SUV Toyota Voltz.

Pastor Charles Karuru us to Lumakanda. Charles made much better time because he has a much faster vehicle for driving, but we still arrived late around 9:20 AM due to all the details that we had to do before coming this morning. When we got there, Pastor Martin Shikuku was leading a devotion message and was preaching the Word with great passion, and there were more pastors than yesterday there and we got started with all things in place better today. We are beginning the third

day of the institute and soon after we got there, we got news that the three boxes of TPI notebooks have finally arrived from the flights that Paul Swets made this past weekend from Memphis, Tennessee to Nairobi, Kenya. Pastor Martin Shikuku was contacted by Nancy at the Virgin Atlantic Office and was told to go to the G4S Office, a security office in Eldoret on the main road in town (Uganda Road), which had already retrieved the three TPI Notebook boxes at the Eldoret International Airport from the Virgin Atlantic Airlines that sent them there from Nairobi, Kenya, and brought them back to their office. He then went to the G4S Office and picked up the three boxes that Paul Swets had brought with him and packed them in his trunk at no charge. Then he drove to Lumakanda Baptist Church in Lumakanda, and the boxes of notebooks are in the trunk of his car. We plan to give them out after lunch today so we don't have to consume time now since we are already late starting our TPI Institute today. I quickly put on my sun block before I started teaching this morning because I am teaching in the direct sunlight without any covering and it is hot today. We started the TPI Lumakanda Institute around 8:45 AM with 234 pastors, evangelists, and national missionaries for the morning session.

Pastor Julius Olindo greeted the pastors and opened the TPI Lumakanda Institute for the third day. Then he introduced me to begin the third session on Expository Preaching, which deals with the study of a particular passage of a book, and doing a grammatical analysis of that passage. The local committee had brought the two chalk boards and I used them for this morning's session. While Pastor Martin was speaking earlier and the worship team was singing to open the day, I copied the entire passage of Ephesians 2:1-10 on the two boards. It took me some time to copy the text on the two boards, but it was the only way for me to show them how to study every word of the text. Then I began by reviewing over the definitions of expository preaching and went back over the need to study the text from 2 Timothy 2:15. I also set the context of the first step of studying the text, which is observation. We also reviewed over the process of studying the whole book and making a chart of the book. Today I taught them the process of looking at the details of the text by studying the grammatical specifics of a particular passage such as the one we chose in Ephesians 2:1-10. I then showed them how to write out the passage word for word on a piece of paper and how to observe every detail of the text. We looked at the passage on the board and identified every subject and verb in the text. We also looked at every tense of the verbs and the voice of the verbs, whether they were active or passive. We also looked at other parts of speech like adverbs, adjectives, direct and indirect objects, pronouns, relative pronouns, participles, and other details to see how the whole text fits together. It took some time to go through this passage since these pastors had never been exposed to a study of the details of the text like this before. I concluded my session by stressing the importance of studying grammar by using the grammar notes in the notebook. Then Pastor Julius Olindo came up and highlighted the importance of expository preaching for the pastors with a special emphasis on studying the text. After the session was over, Paul Swets made the comment to me that I was still getting a lot of sun on my face, and that I should either teach under the tent or get a hat. This was mentioned to the pastors and one of the pastors had a cowboy-looking hat that he gave up so I could use it while in the sun. I put the hat on my head and all the pastors really enjoyed that quite a bit.

After a few preliminary announcements and directives, we took a tea break by going into the main building of Lumakanda Baptist Church and being served African Chi (tea) with small wafers. We had a short break and met at a table inside and talked with some of the key leaders of the TPI Local Committee. Then we went back outside to the tents and resumed the institute. Pastor Julius Olindo, the Local TPI Chairman, had Paul Swets come up and begin his session on an exposition of Philippians. He came up and reviewed over the book of Philippians and the main theme verse, Phil. 4:4, an overview of the truths of the book so far covered, and an outline of the week. Then Paul

began his second message from the passage of Phil. 2:1-30 on “Joy in Learning Christ.” This message will be about our experience with Christ. It will involve taking three action steps toward learning Christ, remembering Him, and regaining that first love with fresh excitement. When we take these three steps, we experience joy in the Christian life. The first step is to adopt the mind of Christ by remembering your experience of Christ and then adopting the mindset of Christ, that is, having the same attitude, the same love, the same service, the same outlook, and the same conclusion as that of Christ (Phil 2:1-11). The second step is to work out your salvation with the mood of fear and trembling and with the motive that God is working in us. This speaks of our sanctification in Christ, and we must avoid being too passive and too active. The third step is to hold fast to the Word of Life, which is faithfulness to the gospel message as it is preached to the world. We are to do it without complaining and with joy and rejoicing. Paul then closed out the session by applying this passage to the pastors with actions to take and other verses to think about. We then had a short time of worship led by the singing team and keyboard players.

Then Pastor Martin Shikuku made a few comments before Pastor Julius Olindo came up and invited me to come up for my third session on the Christian Life Convention: The Sanctification of the Believer. I taught this session from inside the tent rather than wearing my cowboy hat when I was preaching. Today we resumed the sequence of teaching on the progress of sanctification by dealing with the topic of the surrendered life. The sanctified life involves trust and surrender, the two key words of the Christian Life Convention. I spent some time differentiating between salvation and sanctification, which many times is confused in the church today. This has caused problems in the church because sometimes people think someone can lose their salvation rather than losing their sanctification. I also went to Isa. 6:1-8, where we dealt with Isaiah’s surrender of himself totally to God upon his encounter of the holiness of God in the temple. One of the key passages that deals with the sanctified life is Rom. 12:1-2, where Paul urges believers to “present your bodies a living sacrifice,” which involves offering or surrendering your lives unequivocally to the Lord much as the Old Testament saint did in offering a burnt offering to the Lord. This total surrender is critical to living the sanctified life because what Christ possesses, the Spirit fills, and the power of the Spirit is absolutely necessary to live a life pleasing to God that is victorious over sin, self, the world, flesh, and the devil. This type of life is impossible in our own strength, but fully possible in God’s strength and fullness when the believer is fully surrendered to Him.

So the first step in living the sanctified or victorious life is the dedication of the believer fully to God or surrendering one’s life fully to the Lordship of Christ. The second step is the elimination of the world’s influence in one’s life, which is stated in verse 2, “do not be conformed to this world.” The elimination of worldly influences, the desires of the flesh, and sinful pride is critical to experiencing God’s victorious life, which is the sanctified life. The third step is the transformation of the believer by the “renewing of the mind,” which refers to the Word of God and by the Spirit of God (2 Cor. 3:18). The believer’s submission to God’s Word by faith and obedience and submission to the work of the Holy Spirit is the means by which God seeks to accomplish the sanctified life in the believer. On the contrary, many times we try to do the best we can to obey God in our own strength, and this usually falls well short of the life God wants us to live unto Him. That is why surrender is a key word in the Christian Life Convention because without total surrender of our lives to Christ, there is no sanctification or setting our lives apart to God and becoming holy. Therefore, [I challenged the pastors to surrender their lives completely to Christ in total submission to Him, giving the proverbial keys of their lives over to Christ, and invited them to come forward to solidify this decision in their hearts. Once again, most all of the 250 pastors, evangelists, and church leaders came forward and kneeled down on their knees on the grass and began praying to the Lord for about 10 to 15 minutes.](#) It was quite a sight to see these pastors surrendering their lives completely to Christ . After

spending time in personal prayer, I led them in a corporate time of surrendering our lives to Christ and sensing His sweet presence in that place. Pastor Martin Shikuku led the whole group in a rendition of "I surrender All" in Swahili. Then the worship leaders led the whole group in singing and thanking God for working in our lives. It was truly a great time of breakthrough in this third meeting of our Christian Life Convention. Afterwards, Pastor Julius Olindo came up and made a few announcements and dismissed the group for lunch after a pastor led in prayer.

We broke for lunch and all the pastors got into a queue and went around the back of the sanctuary to pick up their meal to eat it inside the sanctuary. Meanwhile, the leaders, including Paul and me, went inside the sanctuary to a table, where the ladies brought our meal to us. We ate rice and meat, sauce, and a green vegetable and African Chi (tea) and water. We had a great time of enjoying fellowship around the table and eating a good African meal together. Each pastor received their TPI Notebooks during the lunch break, and many of them were reading them after lunch and very excited to get them. I saw many pastors just reading the notebooks and thankful to get this wealth of information. Then we went back outside to resume our institute. We had 305 pastors, evangelists, and church leaders for the afternoon session for our third day of the TPI Institute.

After lunch, we went again to the tents outside the sanctuary and the worship team led us in a song. Then Pastor Julius Olindo invited Paul Swets to come up and lead his afternoon session on "The Art of Leading Successfully." Paul began by reviewing over the overview of the outline of study for these five afternoon sessions on Leadership. Then he proceeded to deal with his third session on "What values do we want our people to have?" Paul looked at first what does God value most according to the Scripture? He then answered this by giving four responses: (1) A loving response by His people out of gratitude for His relationship to them, (2) Obeying God's commandments, (3) Loving God (first four commands of the 10 Commandments), and (4) Loving your neighbor (next six commands of the 10 Commandments). He next looked at how do your people respond to what God values most? He asked the people to respond to this question in relation to their people. Finally, Paul looked at what do your people need in order to love God completely and their neighbor as themselves. He then asked them some questions to look for answers to the questions concerning the help of the Holy Spirit and His teaching ministry with the believer. He then asked in what ways can you help your people be receptive to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and if so, what is your vision for what could happen in your church in the next year? He then concluded this session on leadership influence in pastoral ministry.

There was a short time of worship as the team of singers led the group in a couple of songs. Then Pastor Julius Olindo invited me to come and teach the last session on the overview of the Old Testament. We then reviewed over the book of Genesis and did all the signs of the first part of the overview of the Old Testament seminar. I then taught the rest of the Pentateuch by teaching the bondage of the Jewish people in Egypt, God offering Moses as the deliverer of Israel to bring salvation to the Jews, God bringing them to Sinai to receive the Law and the Tabernacle, and then God bringing them to come back to possess the land. They did not possess the land right away because ten of the twelve spies did not believe in God, brought a report of unbelief back to the people of Israel, and as a result, God judged Israel by killing off every Jewish person over 20 years old of that generation for the next 40 years. After the end of this carnage and death, God brought Moses to Moab to give the law a second time as He had done the first time at Sinai to the new generation about to come into the land of Israel that had not been occupied for 450 years. This is where the Pentateuch ends when Moses dies after giving the law a second time. Then we reviewed

over the signs of the whole Pentateuch. We therefore concluded the third day of the institute after a great day with these pastors and church leaders. Then Pastor Julius Olindo came and closed out the third day of the institute with some comments and concluding remarks and necessary directives for tomorrow. Then Pastor Martin Shikuku also made some concluding remarks to prepare the pastors for tomorrow. He had one of the pastors close in a word of prayer and dismissed the institute for the third day.

After the institute was over, we said our goodbyes to the pastors as many of them got onto their bicycles, motorbikes, or walked on foot back to their homes. So Paul Swets and I brought our small bags and loaded them into Pastor Charles Karuru's SUV Toyota Voltz, and he drove us from Lumakanda Baptist Church in the small town of Lumakanda back across the dirt and muddy roads out to the road that leads to Eldoret, Kenya, about 40 miles east across the rural part of the country. The approximately one-hour trip only lasted 40 minutes in Charles' SUV Voltz, and he took us back to the city centre of Eldoret. We decided to stop by a pharmacy to see if we could get something to help with the sunburn on my face and even get a better sun block to help with all the direct sunlight during the day. We went to five pharmacies and only found one item that would work but it cost around \$40 dollars, so we decided to look for more options. We finally came to the Nakumatt Eldoret, which is a major market store like Wall Mart in the Eldo Centre on the main drive, Uganda Road, in Eldoret. There I found a After Sun product to help my sunburn and a better sun block to help me tomorrow. So Charles Karuru bought it for me since he had Kenya Schillings, which I would pay back later. Then we got back in his SUV and he drove us over to the Cicada Hotel, our home for the week. Then Matthew Limo helped us with our bags up to our rooms and I went to my Room 407 on the fourth floor. We met with Pastor Martin Shikuku briefly about a few things regarding the institute and made a few adjustments, and then we said goodbye to him as he left to go home. Then Paul Swets and I went down to the restaurant called The Bazaar, where we had our dinner meal for the night. We had a good meal which consisted of rice and chicken, vegetables, tomato soup, Mango juice, and Coke Light (Diet Coke). We had a good day and talked a little about our third day at the institute. Then we went back up to our rooms and stayed in for the night. I spent some time typing on my Email Report for awhile and then went to bed after a great third day at the TPI Lumakanda Institute near Eldoret, Kenya.

We thank God for all He has done so far in our first institute in Lumakanda, Kenya. We appreciate all your prayers and the gifts we have received to put on these six training institutes in East/Central/Southern Africa. Please continue to pray and for those who would still like to give, we still have needs to train these pastors throughout the summer.

Yours for Christ's mission,

John Balmer, Jr.

Training Pastors International

