



The Maasai Oral Learners leadership training in Nairobi was a success. And, here's what was said at the final de-briefing.

*"I oversee many churches....every church needs a set...and they need the training, too. Please, can I take many sets with me? Perhaps at least 10? And, will you come and teach them?"*

*"The Samburu district is not here. They must travel too long to come to Nairobi. Will you come and teach the Samburu district?"*

*"Our two biggest ministry problems are illiteracy and the remoteness of the bomas (villages). God has sent you to help. This is a vision from God."*

Thus ended two days of training 24 Maasai pastors and district leaders. In the end, each pastor was allotted one set of materials and each of the five District Superintendents received an additional five sets to take with them and distribute. We were excited that three of the men attending were participants in the original recordings that had been done 18 years earlier!



Ruth and my conversation back in our room? *"Oh God, if only we were 35 years old again.....and could do more! These people are hungry for the Word of God, in a format they can hear and use!"*



After the training, each pastor left for the loooong journey home. That represents many hours on bus and on foot through the African bush. Ruth and I accompanied the Mara District Superintendent, Moses, to implement and mentor learning centers in his area. Upon arriving at the Namelok Maasai training center in the bush, we worked with two groups – one with student pastors (most of whom are illiterate) and the

other was a group of young men who were invited from the *bomas* nearby. One group met inside the training center and the other met outside under the trees.



Upon hearing the Maasai language, one man asked: *“But where did you get our voices? How did you put them on radio?”* (“radio” meaning MegaVoice player) I explained to him that nearly 18 years earlier, the voices were recorded in a makeshift studio in Loitokitok at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. Now, God sent us to train them how to use these materials. And we have Scripture Pictures (Scriptpix) to help them memorize the words from the Bible. I told them we had been praying for them and hoping to meet them after all the years.

The Maasai are interactive – they don’t just listen! Each time the theme music played they sang loudly and enthusiastically. However, it really wasn’t long enough to suit them! Sometimes they laughed, ‘clicked and tsked’ about the dramas and stories. Clapping and shouting followed the memory verses as they said them outloud with the Scriptpix.



In the Maasai Mara, the students must start walking home well before dark due to the danger of wild animals and to be there when the cattle are brought home. There were, however, about 20 pastors-in-training who live on site. All living in one 40 foot shipping container! When Ruth and I returned the next day for another lesson, we discovered they had stayed up most of the night listening to the New Testament on the MegaVoice players.



We have 12 lessons recorded in the Maasai language, and at the rate they're going, they will finish all of them in about 6 days! Then they will listen over and over and over again.

They asked: *"Will you come back and make more lessons? We need more 'radios' and more 'Mbichai e Biblia' (Scriptpix) books. Will you come to our bomas and teach?"*

And, so let me ask you: What would YOUR answer be? Ruth and I really want to work ourselves out of a job! So, we said, **"God willing**, we will come back. When we do, we want to teach YOU to record the lessons. We will train more pastors to use the materials. Then YOU must do the training."

Ruth and I are deeply humbled to have the privilege of working with these wonderful people. They are so hungry for the Word of God. What an opportunity!

That was Kenya.

Now we begin the training in Tanzania!

Thank YOU for praying, giving and sending us. As God provides the finances, health and strength, we will serve where He opens the door.



Ruth & Naomi

John and Ruth