



# Jeff's Journal

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March, 2008

## It Takes A Team!

IT TAKES A TEAM. This is a motto that United World Mission used back in the late 90's. I still have a well-worn t-shirt imprinted with these words left over from that time. I understood the truth of these words then and still believe in that truth today.

As I have traveled around the U.S. in the past two months or so, visiting with the churches and individuals in the Kenya Ministry Support Team, my appreciation for how much "it takes a team" continues to grow. I've never felt such a sense of "together in the effort" as in this year with each visit I make.

At the beginning of my cross-country journey, I had stopped at the home of team members **Glenn and Tammy Martin** in Owasso, OK. Little did they (or I!) know that I would eventually make "national news" out of a comment that Glenn made while I was there. I had told them of the great progress the Holy Spirit had gained in the Turkana District after Rita and I departed from there in 2001. That's when Glenn said, "And just think, none of that might have happened if you hadn't gone there in the first place." As much as I appreciated Glenn's personal encouragement, I truthfully wanted him to know that I saw Rita and myself simply as members of a larger U.S. team that had sent and sustained us. I told him so and hoped that he appreciated HIS OWN importance as a sender and as a member of that team. Those were not just empty words.

When given the opportunity, I have told that story at each place I have stopped along my U.S. tour. Each individual and church that shares in the sending of those doing ministry also shares in the results, including the *eternal* results. I value and believe in every member of the Kenya Ministry Support Team.

Included in this very special team are: **Pat Deboard**, a long-time church friend from Tulsa, OK; **Steve and Martha Brack** of Puyallup, WA, whom I have sadly not been able to see a single time since leaving Tulsa in the late 80's; **Todd Marion**, a loyal friend and one of Rita's former workmates at the Living Vine bookstore in Columbia, SC; **Tim and Judy Arvin**, farm family and wonderful missions encouragers from Pembroke, KY; **Bill Eddy**, retired lifetime missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators from Dallas TX; **Dick and Annette Knudsen**, two of God's many blessings from Pueblo, CO; **Harry and Sandy Todd**, humble giants in the faith from Muncie, IN; and **Dennis and Shirley Overbay**, loyal team members "since the beginning" from Kansas City, MO.

These and scores of other individuals, along with churches from OK, CO, KS, MO, IL, OH, KY, NC, and TX make up the Kenya Ministry Support Team. I am also still encouraged by the memory of recently-deceased team members **Troy Dumas** of Tulsa OK and **Gary Grimlund** of Fowler CO who, I'm sure, are still praying for the Kenya ministry from afar. As I return to Kenya in May, I go as a team member. May we, together, be used by God to expand His kingdom and encourage his people.

God's richest blessings to all of you.

*Yours in Christ, Jeff*

Jeff Osborne • P.O. Box 770-00621, Village Market, Nairobi, Kenya • Overseas ph. 011-254-735-439507 •

[JeffOsborne@maf.or.ke](mailto:JeffOsborne@maf.or.ke)

Serving with: **United World Mission** • 9401 Southern Pine Blvd, Suite B, Charlotte, NC, 28273 • (704) 357-3355