

**A SHORT HISTORY OF GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
IN
KENYA
(BY REV. BEN ANDERSON – 2004) Revised
and updated By Rev. Peter Kagwi
(In March 2010)**

In 1980 a man by the name of Festus Njoka saw an advertisement for correspondence in a magazine. The address was in Cameroon. He started taking the courses and after he reached an advanced level he started taking correspondence from Prison Mission Association in the United States.

Joe Mason the Director of PMA started corresponding with Festus. Festus began to understand the gospel of grace. He enjoyed teaching the grace message around his market of Kiritiri in Mbeere District. His first love, however was distributing tracts. I spent many hours and days with Festus distributing tracts in Embu, Mbeere and Machakos Districts.

In 1982 Festus started several Bibles studies and in 1983 the first Grace Church in Gatiriri Village was formed. This was soon followed by churches in Kerwa, Kariguri and Twamakaa.

Joe Mason sent an invitation to my father, Vernon Anderson to come to Kenya. In 1984 he came with my mother and two sisters. **For three months they lived in one room in Kerwa Village where they preached and taught the word of God several times each day.**

When my father returned to United States he recommended that Things to Come Mission establish a permanent ministry in Kenya. He also

challenged Joyce and me to come to Kenya with them as missionaries.

In January of 1986 my parents came to Kenya and in November of that year Joyce and I arrived. We started at the CPK language school in Nairobi and then settled in Embu Town.

In 1987 we saw the lack of capable grace pastors and the T.E.E program was established. This program continues to function under the leadership of Samuel Mwangi. Many lay leaders and pastors of grace churches were trained in T.E.E.

In 1989 Grace Bible School was opened. More than 30 pastors and Bible women were trained in that school. The school has now been divided into two schools – KGBI and intended GSOT.

In 1990 Pastor Festus Njoka died and was replaced in Director's position by Samuel Mwangi. Through his leadership grew to over 35 churches. In those early years there were some encouragements and also discouragements. One time when multi-partyism was just starting in Kenya, six of the GBC pastors including myself were put in jail for holding an illegal meeting.

Finally in 1999 GBC was registered by the government and then in 2000 we received our incorporation which allows us to own property in the name of the church.. Before this we had used the name *Grace Bible Fellowship* and you may still see the name on the older tracts and booklets. The registration allowed us to make our church more established in Kenya.

In 2000 the missionaries of GBC agreed to implement Project 2010. This is a goal of establishing 20 grace churches in the 10 strategic

cities of Kenya by the year 2010. All the TCM missionaries in Kenya eventually left Embu and moved to different cities. Joyce and I moved to Nairobi. Later in the same year Pastor Peter Kagwi and his family joined us. Then the Maraats moved to Kisumu and after two years to Eldoret. Joshua Kithuka, a teacher in Bible School by then moved to Machakos Town to establish a church there. The Panas moved to Thika and have established a GBC in that town. The Improsos decided to come to Nakuru to establish grace church in this town. Later they moved to Eldoret to take the place of Maraats after they moved to Thailand as missionaries.

Ben and Joyce Anderson introduced GPT in 2004 before they left Kenya to U.S for TCM executive office. In the same year Pastor Peter Kagwi was elected as the general Director by the Board of Grace Bible Church. Region ministries headed by coordinators were started. He encouraged more leaders to join advanced leadership training. More than 7 new churches were planted during this time. As the National Director, he visited the coast of Kenya where particularly he met Pastor Tawa Peter. He developed friendship that led to beginning of the new grace work in coastal region.

In December of 2009 Peter and his family moved to Mombasa for the purpose of church planting and training. In Feb.2010 a new institute of training known as Berean Grace School of Ministries (BGSM) was founded in Mikindani, Mombasa.

In September 2010, TCM Missionary Jim and Missy Tollar joined Pastor Peter's family in Mombasa for their first missionary field.