

February 17, 2008

My Beloved and esteemed Friends of KENYA;
EAST AFRICA

To be a democratic nation requires self-discipline on the part of EVERY CITIZEN. The pastors and preachers and evangelists (and hopefully Politicians) must pray for WORDS to reform the minds of the people. WORDS are the only tools we have to work with. In that sense, we are like God. From the time of creation, He has used WORDS to shape the attitudes of humanity.

Leaders must speak creative WORDS in addressing the people. WORDS are the only tools we can use to re-shape people's attitudes. Too often the tendency of both preachers and politicians is to use ugly words that only bear ugly fruit. But wise leaders must choose and use words that motivate people to a higher level of thinking. Leaders must never use the pulpit or the speaker's podium to shame or to scold listeners. Leaders must master the spiritual art of using positive, motivating WORDS to lift people's thinking to a higher level.



It is always a joy to hear of God's blessing upon the ministry of the Gospel all across Kenya. But recently, I have been deeply grieved as I listen to the news about beloved Kenya and the political election. There has been so much Gospel poured into the lives of Kenyans. Most of the young people (and the older ones) who marched and looted and brought shame on their nation's image are Kenyans who have heard the Gospel. They know the principles of the Bible and they know better than to share in making a debacle out of their election.

There are principles of life that we must do our best to sow in the young generation. Typically, they tend to look outwardly and blame others for their problems, when the problems are usually within their own thinking. When one learns to look inwardly instead of outwardly, then one can begin to remedy the situation by applying the remedy within one's self. One NEVER benefits by bruising someone else. One never rises by demeaning others. The Christian believer (and the politician) must learn to see God in people. One praises God by lifting people. One serves God by serving people. One loves God by loving people.

To worship and praise God while discrediting or doing harm to people is paradox---a contradiction----impossibility.

The great catalyst that motivates leaders to move from their podium out to the hurting people around them is to learn to see people like God sees them. Regardless of how destructive and negative they may be, He gave His Son for them. His purpose in coming to our world was to give us an example of what we can be. God sees in every person the potential of being like His Son in life and in ministry. GOOD CITIZENS HAVE MADE KENYA A BETTER NATION. The world—the continent of Africa needs KENYA.

The dynamic young people of Kenya must be convinced that, AS AN INDIVIDUAL KENYAN, HE OR SHE IS THE EXPRESSION OF KENYA. The Kenyan who riots and loots and steals and acts destructively is saying: KENYA IS ME! LOOK AT ME. AND SEE WHAT KENYA IS LIKE. WHEN WE DON'T LIKE THINGS, WE REBELL AND DESTROY WHAT OTHERS HAVE SACRIFICED FOR YEARS TO BUILD! WATCH ME and SEE WHAT KENYA IS LIKE! WE RIOT AND KILL AND ROB AND STEAL. THAT IS THE LEGACY I AM

HELPING TO GIVE TO MY NATION and to my FAMILY. LOOK AT ME! I AM KENYAN IN BLOOD AND FLESH! I BELIEVE IN AND BRING CHANGE BY DESTROYING WHAT OTHERS HAVE SACRIFICED TO BUILD! MY EXAMPLE OF RIOTING IN THE STREETS OF MY BELOVED NATION IS WHAT I WANT THE WORLD TO BELIEVE ABOUT KENYA AND ABOUT ME. IT IS THE LEGACY THAT I WANT MY CHILDREN TO REMEMBER ABOUT ME AND ABOUT THEIR NATION. OTHERS MAY STRUGGLE TO BUILD OUR NATION, BUT I WILL BE A MOBSTER. I WILL HELP DESTROY WHAT THEY BUILD. THAT WILL BE THE LEGACY THAT I WANT MY CHILDREN TO REMEMBER ABOUT ME.

Christianity is the same. That is why God came in flesh. He wanted the world to KNOW what He is like, so He sent His Son with the message: “LOOK AT ME AND SEE WHAT GOD IS LIKE! WE LOOK AT JESUS AND WE SEE GOD. GOD IS PLEASED FOR US TO LOOK AT JESUS AND SAY, THAT IS GOD.

NOW JESUS PASSES THAT PERSPECTIVE ON TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM AND EMBRACE HIM. Now our confession to our world is: SEE ME! SEE CHRIST! SEE CHRISTIANITY IN FLESH AND BLOOD. See me. See my life-style. SEE GOD’S IDEAL FOR HUMANKIND as I have allowed Him to express His principles through me.

The saddest fact about the rioting, marching, looting and this stealing crowd is the fact that most of them have heard the Gospel and have made confessions of faith, but they lacked self-discipline in the time of emotional stress and betrayed their own confession by marching and looting. Each Kenyan believer who participated was announcing to the WORLD, LOOK AT ME. SEE WHAT CHRISTIANITY IS LIKE IN KENYA. I AM A KENYAN CHRISTIAN. IN KENYA I REPRESENT WHAT CHRIST IS LIKE IN MY COUNTRY. I HAVE RELIGION. I SAY AMEN WHEN I HEAR TEACHING ABOUT JESUS. BUT IN POLITICS, I LOOT AND STEAL AND RIOT AND DESTROY WHAT OTHERS HAVE SACRIFICED TO BUILD.

True Biblical Christianity in Kenya is Jesus Christ being manifested in Kenyan flesh. Our Lord has been willing to be represented by individual Kenyans. God says, I love Kenya. I am pleased to be represented by them. HE TRUSTS KENYANS WHO HAVE RECEIVED HIM, because HE HAS SUFFERED TO PAY FOR US AND TO REDEEM EACH KENYAN.

It seems to me that this is the principle that every Christian teacher and every sincere politician must help young Kenyans to embrace in their life so they can REALIZE THAT THEIR words and their actions constitute their WITNESS TO THEIR WORLD. IT IS THE EXPRESSION THEY ARE MAKING OF CHRIST IN THEIR NATION AND THEIR WORLD.

I think young Christian believers can lift their nation to a new level of respect and dignity if they can embrace this simple principle:

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN WROTE THEIR GOSPELS AND LEFT THEM WITH US AS THEIR LEGACIES TO HELP US IN OUR FAITH. NOW, every young Kenyan Christian involved in this proving time for the nation is in process of making their statement as a citizen of Kenya and as a Kenyan believer in God. Each day every young Kenyan Believer (older ones too) is saying LOUD and CLEAR: I AM IN PROCESS OF WRITING MY GOSPEL today for my world to read. WHAT I SAY AND WHAT I DO IN MY LIFE IS MY GOSPEL—MY LEGACY FOR MY NATION—FOR MY CHILDREN. I am not just a tribal entity; I am much more. I am a citizen of a great, free nation. I AM A KENYAN.

KENYA MAY NOT READ THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW OR MARK OR LUKE OR JOHN’, BUT THEY WILL BE READING MY GOSPEL EVERY DAY AS I WRITE IT IN MY COMMUNITY BY MY THOUGHTS MY WORDS AND MY DEEDS. I WANT MY GOSPEL TO BE BIBLICAL, not tribal.. I want to follow Jesus in all that I do and say by my life and ministry. MY GOSPEL THAT I AM WRITING EVERY DAY

OF MY LIFE IS THE LEGACY OF MY LIFE. I am humbled to realize that God, my heavenly Father has believed in me so much that He has given His Son to redeem me from all of my sins so He can send His Holy Spirit into my life so I can be like Jesus and can experience the same anointing and power that He has sent upon His Son. GOD SENT JESUS TO OUR WORLD. NOW JESUS SENDS US TO OUR WORLD. How did Jesus act? We are called Christians because we are to act like Him.

That is why no Kenyan Christian can riot and loot and steal and destroy. Each believer must say to themselves, and to their world: I am a follower of Christ. I am a Kenyan Christian.

I am part of a NATION. I AM KENYAN. That is bigger than being a tribal member. The world will not recognize me because I am a Kikuyu or Luhya, or Luo or Kamba or Kalenjin or Masai. They will recognize me because I AM KENYAN!. My nation is an example for all of Africa and for the world. I represent KENYA. The world can look at ME and see, not my Tribe, but my nation. I am proud to be KENYAN.

My nation, the USA comprises people from more than a hundred nationalities. But once they become citizens, they no longer identify by their birth-region. Every citizen boasts: "I am an American!" That is bigger and much more significant than the region of their birth.

Kenyan leaders and pastors and evangelists can stand up tall and make their voices heard like prophets, calling Christians to identify as KENYANS National Leaders can make their voices heard in every corner of the nation, reminding Kenyans of their NATIONAL IDENTITY, of their DIGNITY and of their MISSION on the great continent of Africa. Every Christian leader and believer CAN say: IT BEGINS IN ME! Now! Wow! HERE! I MAKE KENYA BETTER BY MAKING ME BETTER. KENYA IS ME! MY INFLUENCE SHALL BE A HEALING INFLUENCE. I am more than just an entity of my tribe. I AM A CITIZEN OF MY NATION. I AM KENYAN!

I will not condemn harrange and shame my fellow-Kenyans for errors they may have made, but I will lift and love and inspire and bless them, motivating them to a higher level of thinking and of actions. Yes, leaders have to say to themselves, some of my Kenyan brothers and sisters have brought shame on our nation during this election process, but I will not return more shame on them, by condemning them for their actions.

I will help my nation to march with new banners of love that proclaim, WE ARE KENYANS! WE ARE PROUD! WE ARE Christians. WE ARE BUILDERS! WE DO NOT DESTROY. WE ARE NOT LOOTERS. WE ARE PROVIDERS. WE ARE KENYA. WE ARE AFRICA. FOLLOW OUR EXAMPLE.

These words are the yearnings of the spirit of a distant and long-time friend of Kenya. I have been honored to know your past Presidents. I have conducted the greatest Gospel Crusades in Kenya's history since 1956, in Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Nyeri, and Meru. We have poured over 50 TONS of positive Christian literature into the nation plus 747 jet air-freighters loaded with good, constructive Gospel documentaries of those crusades, projectors, generators, gospel sermon tapes, tape players and 4-wheel vehicles to carry gospel teams and evangelism equipment to neglected villages. Today new churches are thriving in hundreds of those previously un-evangelized areas.

The words expressed in this missive are good seeds. :Let every good Kenyan voice plant them wherever your voice can be heard. The words of every preacher, pastor, teacher and believer and politician who embraces these ideas and SPEAKS THEM, are sowing good seeds of God's love in the good soil of Kenya, making better citizens. Good seeds will procreate and grow and produce a good harvest and THEY WILL HELP SAVE KENYA FOR AFRICA AND FOR THE WORLD.

EACH LEADER and each believer is A CARRIER OF THE GOOD SEED. THAT FACT GIVES ONE'S LIFE AND VOICE EXTENDED PURPOSE. GOD IS IN YOU. HE SPEAKS WHEN YOU SPEAK. HE HAS NO

VOICE BETTER THAN YOURS. MAKE IT HEARD THROUGHOUT YOUR LAND. KENYAN LEADERS HAVE THE SAME TOOLS THAT GOD HAS. WORDS. HE SPOKE WORDS AND THE WORLD WAS CREATED. YOU SPEAK HIS WORDS AND RE-CREATE PEOPLE. YOUR WORDS HAVE THE POWER OF HIS WORDS WHEN YOU SPEAK THEM IN FAITH. Publish these thoughts in tracts. Send copies to people of influence. Ask your newspapers to publish them.

The faith and witness of believers in New Testament times was no greater than they are in sincere Kenyan Christians today. The anointing on Christians in Bible days was no greater than that same anointing that God sends upon true Kenyan believers today. It is the same that anointed Jesus. The power that came upon the believers at Pentecost was no greater than that same power that has come upon Kenyan Christians who have received His Holy Spirit.

This election period in Kenya can result in a great new beginning for the nation if Christian Kenyan voices will rise in positive concert—not in condemnation for the erroneous actions that some may have been guilty of, but in lifting the standard of Kenya with faith for a fresh new beginning for its citizens.

One never improves people by condemning them. Jesus never condemned people. One must pray for WORDS that engender fresh faith, new beginning, of faith in Kenya. Politicians may haggle and condemn. BUT LET SPIRITUAL LEADERS SPEAK CREATIVE WORDS THAT INSPIRE COURAGE IN EVERY KENYAN TO RISE AND TO BE A PART OF RESTORING THEIR NATION and their world.

Let leaders never scold and rebuke and condemn. Let their words emanate from God's Spirit of LOVE. May God pour His WORDS of love and of grace through the lips of sincere leaders and believers.

Preachers or Politicians who proclaim condemnation, fear and threats, etc, are as destructive as rioters in the streets because WORDS are as sharp and destructive as guns. The pontificating of harsh, condemning words are no different than the bullets that bruise and maim and paralyze and wound and cripple the spirits and the thinking of people. Let the voice of the church, the voice of believers always be the healing voice of Jehovah to the people. GOD CAN ONLY SPEAK THROUGH BELIEVERS. He trusts US to be His spokes-persons.

He SPOKE in the beginning and our world was formed. He spoke through the prophets and writers throughout the Old Testament. He spoke through His Son. He speaks by His Spirit through every believer who embraces Him. NOW, WE ARE HIS VOICE. HIS WORDS ARE PLANTED IN THE PEOPLE THROUGH US. NOW WE ARE CREATING OUR WORLD WITH HIS WORDS. He gives us the same power that He has, TO SPEAK HIS WORDS—To RECREATE PEOPLE. Let believers in Kenya NEVER use words to wound or to blemish the life of a Kenyan citizen. They are vital to Africa and to the world.

Let the pastors and believers of Kenya raise their voices in concert in every village where there is a church—never condemning, but proclaiming: I AM KENYA. WATCH ME AND KNOW KENYA. --- WATCH ME AND SEE JESUS IN FLESH in AFRICA. I HAVE EMBRACED HIM IN MY LIFE. WITH PAUL, I SAY:, FOLLOW ME AS I FOLLOW CHRIST.

MAY EVERY KENYAN CHRISTIAN GRASP THIS NOBLE TRUTH: I AM CHRISTIAN. I AM KENYAN. CHRIST IS IN ME. KENYA IS ME, IN FLESH. MY LIFE DEPICTS MY FAITH IN CHRIST.

I am with every Kenyan in faith. I am a believer that Kenya will recoup from this ugly episode; and, will fulfill her destiny in God's great plan for this great nation, and for wonderful Africa. Kenya has suffered an ugly blemish on her proud reputation, but she will resume her noble march of Gospel freedom as she continues to serve all of the continent as a great example of freedom and of dignified citizenship that she has been for so many years.

Your special friend and co-worker with Christ, T.L. Osborn