

Interview with Chiluka

Field assignment #1

Chiluka means doing things in a hurry and also very determined in Mijikenda language. His father is a Mijikenda from Mombasa and the mother is a Kikuyu from Central but living in Nakuru. I have realized that people like to listen to other ethnic languages rather than their own language and they are interested to learn another language from other ethnic backgrounds. I wanted to know the best language to use in a mixed ethnic setting during service and from my interview I noted that we should use understandable language so that other tribes who do not understand the ethnical language of the majority will be able to be blessed, using a language others do not understand will make them not to be free and we will lose them from the church.

Kiswahili and English are the best languages to use in Kenya, since many people understand it because it is the second language to our ethnical languages in Kenya. During bible study and preaching or any other church function we should have an interpreter if the language is not understandable.

When one is not understanding what is going on in the church, it is challenging because we cannot differentiate when someone is saying the truth or false, and it is easy for someone to discuss about you because you don't understand their language.

There is a sense of worry, tense, doubt and not comfortable and the spirit of cooperation goes down. Chiluka one day felt uncomfortable because members were greeting one another and laughing while he watched and wondering what was going on and he felt discouraged because he was not welcomed like other members of the church.

The issue of language barriers in communication particularly without interpreter giving some members more priority than others make the church not to grow. The church should welcome new members and give them a warm welcome. Also the church should have a different programmer to lead the church service and welcoming different preachers at a time.

What I learnt from this interview:

- ✓ **Mixing of leadership;** meaning that we have to have leaders from different tribes so that no one is left out in decision making and also the development of the church and lead by example in leadership and spirit of serving one another like our Lord Jesus, not to conform to the standard and pattern of the world but being renewed in our minds. (Romans 12:1-2)
- ✓ **Official language-** It is very important to use understandable language for harmony, love and unity of the church particularly where the setting is of different ethnicity and everyone will feel part and parcel of the church.

- ✓ **Giving;** Members are not the same economically and we should allow each member to contribute their support and give according to their abilities cheerfully; those who are blessed more should give more and those who have little should give whatever they have.
- ✓ **Love;** We should also cultivate the spirit of love and teach members effects of gossiping one another, supporting the needy during the time of difficulties and being together in time of celebration will make the church to grow. (1 Corinthians 13:1-13)