

FIELD ASSIGNMENT # 2

Pastor Gideon Robi was born and brought up in Bondeni estate, Nakuru County. He is from Kikuyu tribe. He grew up among his peers like any other normal child; he started his primary education in Nakuru municipality. In 1980 after finishing his primary education he went to high school, and after high school he went to Moffat College of Bible Kijabe. In Moffat College Pr. Robi enrolled in a diploma course in Bible and Theology; a four years course graduating in the year 1993.

After four years in Moffat Pr. Robi went back in Nakuru where he was engaged in the ministry, serving in Africa Inland Church, AIC Nakuru District Church Council. He was assigned to serve thirteen local churches around Njoro area. The means of transport then, was a big challenge with no road network and using a bicycle to reach out to Christians.

Pastor Robi is married to Jerioth and God has blessed them with two sons, Jeremy and Jonathan, who are 24 and 18 years respectively. Pr. Robi went to USA nine months after their marriage, he recalls their arrival was on 19 May 1995. He went to USA for the purposes of pursuing education, in Beulah Heights University, in Georgia.

Cultural shock; From his world view point, Pr. Robi never thought or imagined there could be any poor white person, but his experience in USA opened his eyes to reality. "at the junction of Boulevard the first exit as you enter Beulah Heights University, there was this mzungu with a big placard written 'I work for food' I was shocked." The poor man was homeless, this is one of the things which I least expected in America he says. The other thing that he didn't see coming was the couple's accommodation in the campus, the university was not expecting a couple but pastor alone, but acting on his sister's advice, he made the decision to go with the wife, only to get to the University where there were no apartments for the married couples. The nine-month-old married couple was separated. Pr. had to seek accommodation in men's dormitory while the wife was accommodated in ladies dormitory. This was later sorted out by Dr. Karanja. The last thing that they could not believe came after the resolution of this issue; the couple after getting their apartment, they had no furniture and they had to spend their first night together on a mattress on the floor.

Education and cultural Challenges. Pr. Robi went for a bachelor's degree from 1995 to 1996, upon graduating from BHU; He went to Luther Rice Seminary for master in divinity (1998 to 99) after which he proceeded to Clark University for master degree in Library science. After completing the master's degree in library science he was employed as a librarian in Columbia University he worked from 2003 to 2007 when he resigned, to work as the Executive Director, The Kenya Projects Inc. a position he is holding to date.

The first thing that you experience in USA is, Americans are aware that they are separate persons responsible for their own stations in life, and in command of their own destiny. In his own perspective Pr. says that our social and family life is very

FIELD ASSIGNMENT # 2

much interdependent that moving forward is a big challenge. Most of us live with our parent or other relatives, on his part he was living with his parent even after graduating from a bible school " I am learning to teach my two sons, to be independent".

Work and Time: is another area that was so challenging to pr. unlike here where lateness for appointment is acceptable, on the other side this is a serious offence .pr. had to learn to keep time, because time is money .There are things that we should keep in our mind as we move in across cultures ,especially pertaining to work ethics .In Kenya pastor is a very respected person ,but when he goes to USA nobody will recognize him as such, Robi refer his experience as stripping off his "dignity" so that you start to fit in the new culture. He worked in various stations as a student but his first job was the most challenging one, working in a restaurant kitchen where he was assigned to fry chicken wings for a thousand customers, a job that he had not done before, but even more shocking was Mr. Derrick who was supposed orientate pr. his accent was big challenge to pr. and he was very poor teacher too; orientation took less than ten minutes. He was done

The Gains: one of the key things that Pr. Robi has gained most from his studies at BHU is the opening of his eyes to see things in different perspective, knowledge and being able to interact with people from different part of the world. He has started the The Kenya Project Inc. the organization deal with the disadvantages children providing education for them, they are also offering technical course for self-sustenance. The organization has primary school and secondary school in additional to vocational training.

I have to remind myself that I am in Kenya; the greatest adjustment is time management. Keeping time is big challenge to many people. The issue of poverty people would always expect you to meet some of their financial obligations.

FIELD ASSIGNMENT # 2