

FIELD ASSIGNMENT 4

INTERVIEWEE - TOM ARESI ODHIAMBO

Tom Aresi Adhiambo is a Luo by tribe in our Kenyan culture, and according to him and his name Aresi means someone who rescues another person from danger or a deliverer. Such people in their community are thought to be important people and are run to help in case of a needy situation. He is a church elder in our church. He is currently based in Nairobi Kenya where he works. He was born and brought up in Luo community and also went to school there. Aresi can speak Swahili and English frequently and He can also understand the Kamba language, even though he cannot speak it well because his workmates are mostly the Kamba.

Around The Globe Deliverance Ministry (ATG) is our church, located at the City Centre making it reliable to many people nevertheless the Kamba are the majority considering that the Presiding Bishop is a Kamba. The Gikuyu and the Luo are a good number. Personally I am a Kamba and to be realistic am not comfortable when people speak in Kamba language because we are mixed with other ethnic groups and as a leader I find not in order. Our church is a deliverance ministry and people from all walks of life are welcomed. It is hard to know what tribe one is unless you engage in conversation or ask. All people are treated equally regardless of where they come from. As for food we do not offer in the church, unless there is a function and during such an event we set a buffet. Being a deliverance church, we welcome people of all nations and ethnic, cultural, social economic backgrounds. We do not even have seats for specific people to be precise. All people are God's creations and we handle everyone as a child of God. We believe in love and care, so it is never cumbersome for us to accommodate anyone.

For Aresi, to be in a church where his ethnic group is not majority, says that it is the spiritual matters that he considers most important to him, though at times he feels down due to the mother tongue which is conversed there because he cannot comprehend it well. He wishes that all people could talk in language like Kiswahili or English which at least could be understood by most people.

As for me the thing we can introduce to improve economic status for those who are down is to initiate church business dealing in household items which are given to church members to do business outside the church at a commission. We can also initiate a loan facility in the church for our members who are interested in doing their own business which is serviced monthly at a small interest. Socially as a church we need to embrace and encourage marriages between our members from different cultures and strive to learn other languages apart from our own, so as to make our stay and working together comfortable.

From the interview, I learned that culture has diversity, but we should work hard to modify and see to it that we embrace other cultures apart from our own so that we can be able to get along with all people from all walks of life.

