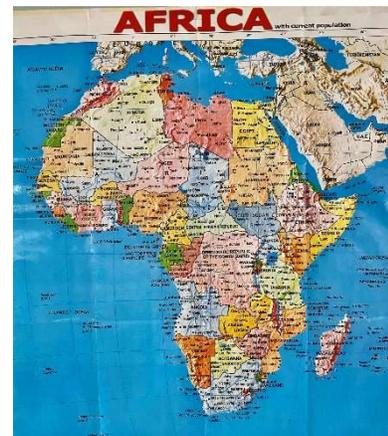


## *Celebration for John and Romans Swahili Translation*

The translation team at Grace Bible Baptist Church in Nakuru, Kenya has finished the first edition of John and Romans in Swahili. A celebration will be held on January 22 at the church. Soon we hope to print a large quantity of bi-lingual English/Swahili John/Romans booklets for use in East Africa. The celebration for the completion of John and Romans in Swahili in Nakuru, Kenya, is being preceded by a week of Bible college classes. Many have come for the classes and the celebration. One of them is Boniface Mitole from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The pictures below show him traveling to Nakuru and enjoying the study in Romans.



Traveling to Kenya



Arriving Safely



Studying Romans

**Boniface's Testimony:** I was born in a Christian family, my parents took me to Church but I was not taught about God and his word. As I continued, I started to have bad habits and entered bad groups and worldly pleasures. I started not going to church regularly and I started feeling very guilty. In 1984, when I was

at my parents' house, I was witnessed by two evangelists who came to the house. They testified about the Love of God, that God is loving, he loves everyone, he also loves sinners, God exists and forgives. If I ask them, can God forgive me? The day I accepted Jesus as my Lord and savior. Since then I began to see myself as free and innocent. I began to learn the word in a Baptist church, later I joined the Bible School and in 2006 I joined the theological college of Mount Meru in Arusha. Now I am a Pastor and Missionary, making followers and planting churches. May God continue to use me for his kingdom and glory.

There were great difficulties in getting to Africa this time. Dr. Combs worked to make arrangement to travel to Africa, beginning between two and three months ahead of travel. At first, he planned to travel with Dr. Zeinner. However, Dr. Zeinner was scheduled to leave on Friday evening, January 13, 2023, and arrive at 5:55 AM Sunday morning, with accommodations that would allow him the opportunity to rest on the flight. On the other hand, Dr. Combs would travel in basic economy, which is a somewhat difficult circumstance at the best times and normally made rest difficult. Dr. Combs had undergone cancer treatment in 2021 and 2022, which left him in a weakened state. He could not have handled the schedule that Dr. Zeinner could. He did feel he might make it if he could upgrade his seat to premium economy. Nevertheless, that proved impossible because there was not enough money available. He did send a video message, however.

Dr. Zeinner experienced his own difficulties. He arrived at the airport in the evening of Friday, January 13 ready and excited to leave for Kenya. His plan was to teach during the week prior to the celebration and meet with the Bukusu translation team from Bungoma, Kenya, and a team from Uganda. However, he was not allowed to board the airplane due to an error on his visa. He reapplied for a new visa online and rescheduled his flight for Sunday evening. Then he returned home to wait. The visa was not approved in time for a Sunday flight, so he rescheduled for Tuesday evening, January 17. On Tuesday, he once again arrived at the airport, excited to leave, only to find that his flight was cancelled while he waited in the airport. Again, he rescheduled for Wednesday evening and continued waiting. After his arrival at the airport on Wednesday, he again had a roadblock. He gives this testimony.

2 hours from Nairobi.... when I went to board the flight in Detroit, my passport was flagged. They checked my COVID vaccination card and said that I was not fully vaccinated so I could not board the plane. You can imagine my heart sunk and said Oh no, not again. I spoke with another lady. She made a few phone calls and said you're just fine and allowed me to board the plane. WOW! This has been some trip!

Dr. Zeinner was able to fly out on Wednesday and arrived in Nairobi Thursday evening, January 19. On Friday he taught "Missions" in the Bible school. On Sunday, he took part in the Celebration. He also met with the Swahili and Bukusu translation teams.

We had a wonderful dedication service for the newly translated, John and Romans in Swahili at Grace Bible Baptist Church, Nakuru, Kenya. These precious words of life will affect millions that speak the Swahili language, bringing the truth of God's love and salvation, for all who will believe.



From top left: church on 1-22, Dr. Zeinner with Pastor Oloo, Jn.-Rom. books, from lower left: translators (L) and staff, Robert Mickey and Pastor Oloo, translators and pastors.