

**BRITISH METHODIST WORLD MISSION:  
REPORT ON LECTURING IN KENYA METHODIST UNIVERSITY, MAY TO AUGUST 2017  
BY JANET AND MALCOM McCALL.**

**Introduction:**

Malcolm and Janet undertook unpaid, non-contractual lecturing in KeMU's Main Campus in Meru, central Kenya, from 9 May to 3 August 2017, a period of 84 days. It was again a joy and a privilege to join the Theology Department there as temporary Members of Staff. For us, this completed one whole academic year (or three Trimesters) of lecturing, one Trimester in each of the years 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Though 84 days represented the time spent away from our home in Scotland, preparations for our third visit began early in January 2017, after the University again asked us to undertake voluntary lecturing; and this Report is being compiled only at the end of September 2017! In other words, much of the year necessarily focussed upon our visit to Kenya – as was also the case in 2015 and 2016. Of course, it was a sheer delight to do this – but we became aware that a commitment to **one** Trimester in KeMU really involved making it the main focus of **a whole year**.

**Academics:**

We quote from our "Comments on Students' Achievements," which has already been sent to the Chair of KeMU Theology Department, the Revd Dr John Njoroge:

**1. Class Numbers:**

*Janet taught Homiletics 1 (18 Students) and Homiletics 2 (12 students). Malcolm taught Modern Church History (13 students) and Wesley & Methodism Studies (20 students). This produced a total of 63 students whom we taught during the Trimester.*

*How was this possible, when the Theology Department contains less than 40 students in all? Some students elected to take more than one course: also, these student numbers include 11 Distance Learners.*

**2. Academic excellence:**

*Silas Itonga gained the highest individual mark across the four classes, and higher than a 75% average in the two classes in which he participated. Having known Silas in both 2016 and 2017 academic years, we think he might prayerfully consider whether to pursue an academic teaching ministry. Others who gained more than a 75% average in 2 subjects were Monica Auma, Shem Mwetui and John Kithinji.*

**3. Our Ugandan and Tanzanian students:**

*We were delighted with the positive attitude and infectious enthusiasm of the Ugandan students: eager, consistent and committed, they were a joy to teach, and provided us with much encouragement. Four out of five of them we taught in Jinja in 2014, when Cliff College began a "Pioneering Programme" in Uganda. (The Revd Dr Peter Ensor also participated in that Programme.) In 2015, 2016 and 2017, the Cliff College International Training Centre continued a "fully-fledged" Training Programme under the leadership of the Revd Richard Jackson, and this programme was crucial in preparing all five Ugandans for their Methodist ministerial training in KeMU. Samuel Kisulla from Tanzania is also to be commended. Two years ago, he had been taught exclusively in Swahili, and never through English. In 2016, he benefitted from one-to-one coaching in English with Janet. Now, in English, he enthusiastically joins in Class discussions, and interrogating the Lecturers with perceptive and relevant questioning; and he is now able to joke in English. Praise the LORD!*

**4. Distance Learners:**

*Both **Mathiu Ntarangwi and Jennifer Kagendo** consistently made a sacrificial effort to be present once a week on the Campus at 0700 in the morning for Malcolm's W&M Studies throughout the Trimester. For a second year, Mathiu gained high marks (71%).*

### **The University Chapel: Is this revival?**

We have never felt so close to revival! Our friend and colleague, the Revd Dr Peter Ensor, living in the flat below ours at KeMU, commented recently on the whole area of aMeru: "It could be that we are now living in a time of revival in this area." Especially did this seem so to both of us as we shared in the Campus Sunday Morning Worship times in the University Chapel. During our 12 Sundays there, the LORD was doing wonderful things. **Regularly, the large University Chapel was packed with 500 – 600 students**, some as young as 18, and none very old. Not surprisingly, we became Shosho and Babu (Grandma and Grandad in Swahili) to these youngsters. Not only Malcolm, but also most other (much younger) Sunday-morning preachers in the Chapel concluded their sermons with an altar-call. Over the 12 weeks, we saw **more than 100 students altogether make personal responses**, some coming forward to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour; some seeking healing; others with some more specific prayer-requests.

A specially memorable moment was when a young Maasai trainee-Methodist Minister, called Moses, asked those to come forward who felt something was missing in their walk with the LORD through ongoing influences from 'generational sin.' They were invited to come forward if they wished to be completely disconnected from the pagan past of their previous generations, in order to be fully connected, through the blood of Jesus, to God the Father, by the Holy Spirit. There was much feeling of need in this area, as some of the students belong to families where past or present generations have practised blood sacrifice and other evil and ungodly things. The immediate response was that about 10% of the students just got up out of their seats and surged forward for prayer. It was such a privilege to witness people (some whom we know very well and love very dearly) being transformed in answer to prayer – set "free indeed" – and some leaving the building radiant!

It was a special joy that Moses had been a student in Janet's **Homiletics** Class in 2016, and this Trimester was part of Malcolm's **Modern Church History** Class. All this was absolutely unexpected to us and very wonderful. We went looking to be used "most fruitfully" in a spiritual way. What most thrilled us was that, when we arrived, we simply 'slipped into' becoming part of an amazing and most fruitful work which the LORD was **already doing in the University Chapel**.

Partly as the result of a car accident, our dear University Chaplain, Patrick, was necessarily unavailable for much of the Trimester. So, mainly in the absence of Patrick, the mature Christian students (most of them **our own students** – some of whom we have now taught over three Trimesters) soaked everything deeply in prayer. They preached on Sunday mornings; formed Swahili-singing choirs with amazing harmonies; often led Monday and Thursday University Morning Prayers; and formed a very dedicated Christian dance group! These students also ran one all-night Prayer and Praise Meeting, as well as a long-weekend Mission in a nearby town. One absolutely amazing dimension to all this was that students, worship-leaders, and preachers must have had an average age of less than 30, possibly 50 years or more younger than us both!

### **Much thanks and unspeakable gratitude:**

We have so many to thank for so much! Dr Bunmi Olayisade, a dear friend of ours and well-known in KeMU for her support, helped us liaise with the British Methodist Church World Missions Fund. The Revd Dr Stephen Skuce helped and encouraged us to relate to both Methodist Mission House in London and with Cliff College. The Revd Richard Jackson – as always – provided stalwart support and encouragement as the International Coordinator of the Cliff College International Training Centre. We have always understood our involvement in KeMU as an extension of our CCITC activities, having spent nearly 10 years with CCITC Programmes in Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Uganda. We need to emphasize that the financial provision provided by British Methodism through these various agencies was crucial: we simply could not have done our three-trimesters of lecturing in KeMU over three years without assistance in air fares and medical insurance. Once in Kenya, we were able to

live on our UK pensions in “economic subsistence,” without needing further financial help; but the cost of actually getting to Kenya would have proved too great for us to bear alone.

In KeMU, we greatly benefitted from our close long-standing friendship with the Revd Dr Peter Ensor. We also want to record especial thanks to the Revd Douglas Nchebere, our Theology Department Exams Officer. There were times when the growing complexity and frequent alterations – and re-alterations – to exam formats would have overwhelmed us, apart from Douglas’ generous use of his time and experience to help us through.

Most of all, we are grateful for the constant support of our dedicated team of “Prayer Warriors” who, from all parts of the globe, daily – and more than daily – upheld us in their prayers. We must especially thank God for our own precious Minister and his dear wife, here in Glencairn: the Revd Jannie and Sunet du Plessis. They themselves prayed earnestly and regularly for us; encouraged us with timely messages of support; and stirred up others to pray for us. Of course, there is no “power in prayer” **in itself**, apart from the all-powerful One who **answers** our prayers – the LORD God Almighty, the God and Father of our LORD Jesus Christ. Without His constant answers to prayer, we could not have completed this whole project. Therefore, our greatest gratitude and thanksgiving must be to Him first and last. Since we were married 47 years ago, we have never spent such a long time – or such a physically and spiritually “stretching” time – away from home in ministry together. Surely God’s strength was “made perfect in our weakness.”

In Jesus – and always, only, all for Him,  
Janet and Malcolm McCall.

September 2017