

NEWSLETTER

2025

DECEMBER, 2025



The year 2025 was truly one of surviving the storm for the ICOC-Kenya church, as we grappled with severe financial crisis, debt, and a consequent leadership deficit, but we give all glory to God, whose sufficient grace sustained us through the unwavering partnership of our sister churches, allowing us to appoint 34 deacons and joyously launch a new church in Kitengela while progressing in our transition to a New Team Leadership model.

**“MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU,
FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT
IN WEAKNESS.”**

2 COR 12:9

Welcome to this final edition of the ICOC-Kenya Newsletter for the year, 2025. As we wind up the year we can only describe 2025 as a year of surviving the storm. This description is warranted by, first, the fact that the church has had to battle through a period of serious challenges with financial scarcity and debts which, significantly, threatened the operations of the church. The second challenge is a consequence of the first one, which necessitated the laying off of nine (9) paid staff. This action created a huge deficit in the leadership. Furthermore, all the women on the church staff were put on a stipend in order to prop up the church's financial position. This latter measure has made it necessary for the staff ladies to seek other means of earning to subsidize their family incomes, widening the leadership deficit even more. Therefore, it goes without saying that 2025 has been a year we have had to, literally, survive the storm.

However, we give thanks, glory, and praise to our God who has continuously helped us to navigate this stormy season. The church in Kenya has received generous financial, moral, and spiritual support from our sister churches in North Carolina and San Antonio. This helped the church to pay off some of the debts and to pay staff salaries. Africa Missions Association (AMA) also sent their staff who pitched camp in Nairobi to help the church by training and coaching the administration staff to plug loopholes that landed the church in this trouble. May God continue to bless our brothers and sisters for always coming alongside us and partnering with us in the gospel in good and bad times. The church in Kenya and East Africa is grateful for these unwavering partnerships.

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” (2Cor 12:9). The church in Kenya and East Africa testifies to the above Scripture because, despite our dire situation throughout the year, God has proved that it all depends on his grace and power. Firstly, in August, 2025 Nairobi church witnessed 34 deacons from across the four blocs being recognized and appointed to take up different service roles in the church. This came as a breath of fresh air considering the weight that the few staff members has had to carry after the staff lay-offs. Secondly, a new church was officially launched in Kitengela, Kajiado county, becoming a new addition to the Eastern African family. Indeed, God's grace is sufficient for all, regardless of the facts on the ground!

Additionally, the church in Nairobi embarked on a journey towards Team Leadership model in January 2025, with a leadership team of 5 currently leading the church. The team is composed of an elder and his wife, a teacher, an evangelist and a women's ministry leader, and a non-staff brother. The short interim period has proved that leading a whole church is too heavy a burden for one person because it can easily lead to burnout. Please, continue praying for God's clear way forward as the church continues on this journey of re-defining its leadership structure. May God receive all the glory, honor, and praise as you journey with us through this 2025 edition of God's story in Kenya and East Africa as told in this Newsletter.

In Christ,
Samson Mokaya Monda (For the Leadership Team)

EVENTS



CAMP SWAMP EAST AFRICA: 10TH ANNIVERSARY

From August 12 to 17, 2025, Camp Swamp East Africa hosted over 90 campers and 30 counselors at Happy Land Girls Senior School in Kiserian, culminating in a special 10th-anniversary celebration. Since its humble beginnings in 2015, the annual camp has grown into a vital tradition, transforming the lives of hundreds of pre-teens and teens by fostering faith, courage, and lasting friendships through various activities, songs, and Bible classes.

The theme for this milestone year was "The Jesus Story," based on John 9. This theme encouraged campers to explore the stages of encountering Jesus—from curiosity to belief and finally to worship—reflecting the journey of the man born blind.

The anniversary celebration was a heartfelt reunion, attended by parents, alumni, and supporters who gathered for a worship service. Together, they reflected with gratitude on God's faithfulness over the past decade.



WIDOWS' MINISTRY TAKES FLIGHT

The Nairobi church launched a new Widows' Ministry in February 2025, led by Nancy Pole, to provide support, encouragement, and community through prayer and Scripture study. This initiative created a vital space for healing and belonging, reaching a major milestone in August 2025 with its inaugural Widows' Retreat in Malindi, where sisters gathered from across Kenya to strengthen their bonds and focus on spiritual growth.



TEAM BUILDING CAMPUS LEADERS

ICOCEA hosted the first East Africa Campus Leadership Conference (EALC) on the 9th to 11th October 2025 in Nairobi. This Conference is scheduled to take place annually. The Conference brought together 13 campus leaders across E.A from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The goal was to Fellowship, pray together and Strategise for the upcoming E.A Campus Conference 2026 in Uganda. We also had lessons focused on Effective Youth Leadership.



EVENTS



NAIROBI CHURCH CELEBRATES WEDDINGS

The Nairobi Church joyfully celebrated three weddings—Dennis and Sarah, Ken and Fridah, & Jerry and Ruth—witnessing "God's great revelation" as the couples came together as husband and wife. These unions were especially celebrated the newlyweds have served in various capacities within the church for many years.



EAST AFRICA SINGLES RETREAT 2025

The East Africa Singles Retreat 2025, held at Jumuiya Beach Resort in Mombasa, successfully gathered over 70 singles from across the region for a weekend focused on "Love Beyond Measure." The event provided a time of learning, worship, and deep connection by the ocean, with a special highlight being the unity and joy shared with brothers and sisters who traveled all the way from Bujumbura to join the inspiring and unforgettable fellowship.



INAUGURAL CAMP SWAMP KAMPALA

After years of planning, the dream of hosting Camp Swamp in Uganda was realized with the first edition held at Taibah International School in Entebbe from September 8th to 13th, 2025. Previously, Ugandan campers had endured costly, tiring, and risky 650km bus journeys to attend the camp in Nairobi, Kenya, from 2022 to 2024.

This inaugural camp successfully hosted 33 campers, supported by 9 counselors and 7 helpers, fulfilling the church's desire to reach more local teens. The launch is a welcome sign of Camp Swamp's growth into new countries, and going forward, Kampala is now positioned to host teens from South Sudan, Rwanda, and Burundi.



EVENTS



ICOC- NAIROBI TEENS CONFERENCE 2025

From November 27th to 29th, 2025, the ICOC-Nairobi Teens Conference successfully brought together an estimated 125 teens alongside 19 facilitators, mentors, and campus volunteers—a true testament to God's grace and community support. Operating under the theme "Rooted, Growing and Thriving in Faith," the three-day event provided comprehensive spiritual and practical training. The sessions were carefully structured to address key areas of development: Being rooted in Faith through recognizing manipulation and setting boundaries; Growing in Faith through career guidance, digital responsibility, and physical/spiritual hygiene; and Thriving in Faith by building healthy relationships. Each day combined devotionals and keynote talks with interactive Q&A sessions, group discussions, and time dedicated to developing talents through outdoor games and performances. We give thanks for your partnership in making this impactful event possible.



MINISTRY



KITENGELA CHURCH OFFICIALLY PLANTED

On August 17, 2025, the new Kitengela Church, growing out of the Southern Bloc of the Nairobi congregation, was officially launched as an independent church. The church currently has a membership of 75 (32 men and 43 women) and is led by the seasoned team of Tom and Diddy Akello, who were officially welcomed by Samson. Tom Akello brings a rich history of church planting within the ICOC movement, having previously planted the Arusha church in 1996, led the Kampala church, and planted the Bujumbura ICOC in 2000, where he met Diddy. Their move to Kitengela marks an exciting new chapter for the couple and the congregation. The Kitengela Church now begins its mission to be a light and a beacon of hope in its rapidly growing community, concluding its launch day with prayer, fellowship, and great anticipation for the future.



APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS IN NAIROBI

Faced with a shortage of servants that burdened ministers and hindered their focus on the "ministry of the word and prayer" in 2025, the ICOC-Nairobi leadership initiated a search for men "full of the Spirit, faith, and wisdom," following the example in Acts 6. This culminated in the joyous appointment of 34 Deacons at a church service on September 7th, 2025, after a structured period of training. These new deacons have begun serving in various capacities, bringing significant relief and spiritual joy to the congregation, and the leadership anticipates a resultant surge in church growth as the gospel continues to spread.



MINISTRY



DAKUSOM MISSION SCHOOL TAKES FLIGHT

Since its launch in May 2024 with the motto "In the hands of the Master Potter," the Dan Kuria School of Missions (DAKUSOM) was busy equipping disciples to spread the Gospel across East Africa.

Individuals were not needing to be full-time students to benefit. DAKUSOM was making its courses open to the entire church, and participants were choosing how they were wanting to participate:

- **Audit:** Students were simply attending the sessions to listen and learn.
- **Credit:** Students were receiving the full experience and were using the CANVAS platform for lessons and assignments.

A Period of Growth and Connection

The first group of seven students was progressing through a deep three-year program. During this time, they were learning everything from Bible history and preaching to practical skills like leadership and family ministry.

Furthermore, some of these seven students were having valuable connection times at CHORD conferences in Lagos, Nigeria, and Bengaluru, India. During these periods, they were connecting with other youthful, upcoming leaders from across the world.

With over 60 people joining the online Saturday classes, the school was growing fast. Whether online or in-person, DAKUSOM was helping to shape the future of the church.



Connection, Fun, Learning at Chord Conferences: Lagos (2024) and Bengaluru (2025)



NOMINATION OF SHEPHERDING COUPLES

The year 2025 marked a significant investment in the spiritual health of our congregations through the nomination of new shepherding couples across East Africa. In April, eight couples in Nairobi were formally recognized and enrolled in specialized training designed to bolster leadership capacity and support the growth of the church. This momentum continued in May, as five additional couples in Kampala were nominated for the same vital ministry role, committing to a journey of continued development. These appointments represent a major step forward in ensuring our disciples receive dedicated care and guidance as our churches continue to expand.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



ELDORET CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

By God's grace, the Eldoret Christian Academy has emerged from the challenges of the COVID-19 season and continues to take shape. The school is seeing steady improvements in its infrastructure and promising growth in student enrollment. With the unwavering support of our church members, we remain hopeful and prayerful as we work toward long-term sustainability and financial stability.

Our mission is to provide high-quality, holistic education that aligns with Kenya's Competence-Based Education (CBE), all while staying rooted in Christian principles. We aim to nurture the intellectual, spiritual, physical, and emotional development of every learner in a safe and inclusive environment.

The school is seeking support through grants or partnerships to construct permanent classrooms, acquire learning materials, procure a means of transport and training & employment of qualified staff. This support will help the school continue offering affordable, value-based education to children in Eldoret and the surrounding areas.



NAIROBI CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OFFICIAL LAUNCH

We were honored to have Rick Overturf, accompanied by his wife and Kyle Saxton, for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony to launch our new School Building. This facility stands as a testament to our commitment to education and the future of our children.

The celebration continued during a moving worship service, where Rick Overturf was formally installed as an African Elder. The atmosphere was filled with gratitude as the congregation witnessed this significant appointment, strengthening our leadership and spiritual oversight across the continent.

We are grateful to God for these markers of growth and for the hearts of those dedicated to building both the physical and spiritual walls of our community.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



VARIOUS BONDING ACTIVITIES ACROSS KENYA - GALLERY





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

THE LEADERSHIP WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE SUPPORT OF ALL THE DISCIPLES IN EAST AFRICA FOR THEIR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION WHICH HAS GONE A LONG WAY TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL IN THE REGION.

WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR OUR PARTNER CHURCHES WHO HAVE CONTINUALLY SACRIFICED FOR THE MISSION WORK IN EAST AFRICA. THESE INCLUDE: ATHENS GEORGIA, BALTIMORE, DES MOINES IN IOWA, SAN ANTONIO, TRI-CITIES, AND THE NORTH CAROLINA CHURCHES I.E. ASHVILLE, CHARLOTTE, PIEDMONT TRIAD IN GREENSBORO, TRIANGLE, WINSTON SALEM).

CELEBRATING

98 & **BAPTISMS (83)**
RESTORATIONS (15)

IN EAST AFRICA, 2025