



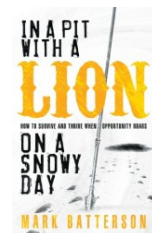
WALKING BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT!

"Benaiah chased a lion down into a pit. Then despite the snow and slippery ground, he caught the lion and killed it" - 2 Samuel 23: 20

Greetings!

These past months have been faith stretching for us as we continue to trust God to raise all the funds for our move to Canada as African Missionaries. We have had to postpone our move twice now, first in December 2010, then in March 2011. In our 17 yrs and 20 yrs of ministry on staff with LIFE Ministry, this has perhaps being the most challenging experience for Emily and I. We have endured several setbacks, one being the Canadian dollar growing stronger against our weakened Kenya shilling. Also, the escalating high cost of living fueled by the exorbitant fuel price increase of almost 25% since the beginning of the year. This has caused us to revise our support levels upwards.

However, despite the odds, we continue to trust God because He operates on a different economy (2 Corinthians 9: 8 – 14). He has been teaching us not to give in to fear but to press on in faith. Mark Batterson's book, *"In a Pit with a Lion on a Snowy Day: How to survive & thrive when opportunities roar,"* was a great inspiration to us. He shares about one of David's mighty men, Benaiah, who defied all odds to chase a lion into a pit on a snowy day (2 Samuel 23: 20 – 23). How many of us would chase a lion? We would probably be the one chased by the lion! The themes in the book such as defying odds, facing fears, overcoming adversity, embracing uncertainty, taking risks, seizing opportunities and seeming foolish all spoke to us. The lesson we learnt is that our greatest regret at the end of our lives will be the lions we didn't chase. We should stop running away from what scares us the most and start chasing the God-ordained opportunities that cross our path. We believe God is preparing us for the battle ahead and therefore against all odds we know He will give us the victory. As long as we have responded not in fear but in faith to His call, He will cause us to do great exploits! One of these, we believe is that this is Africa's time to send & support missionaries to the West and we are excited to be one of those going!



In the past three years since moving back to Kenya from Mauritius, we have been part of a small multicultural Church called New City Fellowship that has a strong vision to influence the Asian community with the gospel. Ken is involved with the leadership of the Church and is part of the preaching & worship team. Emily helps with the Sunday school and women's ministry. The church has several Hindu and Muslim background believers. In fact, our associate Pastor, Shafkat Khan is from a Muslim background and has been a great inspiration to us.

We have learnt so much from him. Personally, the church has been a training ground for the ministry ahead in Canada, which will be among the Diaspora especially the international students and young professional immigrants.



Many of you have been asking us why we have not left yet? As you know, LIFE Ministry Kenya (known internationally as Campus Crusade for Christ) is a faith based organization and all staff of CCC have to raise their own financial support by trusting God for individuals like you who would join their partnership team. Hence, until we can show that there is sufficient support coming into our staff account to sustain our ministry in Canada, Power to Change, Canada cannot issue us a religious visa as they also have to fulfill certain government regulations.

We want to thank all those who have joined our partnership team so far. We also want to make an urgent appeal to others who have been considering to begin sending your gifts so that we can report to our ministry assignment quickly. We are hoping to relocate by the first week of July so that we would have enough time to settle down and look for schools for our children before the school year begins and winter sets in. We continue to covet your prayers that we will be able to complete our partnership team soon and raise all the support we need. Because of the spiritual battle involved, the Lord has laid on our hearts the Gideon 300 concept: these are the men & women who will watch and pray for us on a regular basis. Would you consider being part of our 'Gideon 300 intercessory team as well as mobilize others to join?

Your fellow Lion Chasers,

Ken, Emily, Natalie and Eva

Donations can be sent via **Cheques** made out to LIFE Ministry Kenya, P. O. Box 62500—00200 Nairobi. Please Indicate that it is for the Stravens or **MPESA**, Pay Bill Business Number 200111, in the place of 'enter account number' type "Stravens"

ONLINE GIVING: <http://tinyurl.com/give2stravens>

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