

The front page of the newspapers in Kenya today show a picture of President Kibaki and ODM leader Raila Odinga shaking hands as they meet for the first time since the general election and promise to hold peace talks. A reserved hope is in the air that a peaceful solution can be made...we hold our breath in anticipation. These talks are crucial to Kenya's stability and well being...both immediate and long term. Please pray that these talks will continue until a solution can be made, agreeable to both sides.

Meanwhile, life continues to be lived but with underlying tension and uncertainty. In places where unrest and violence are minimal, life is more normal. Children go to school, people go to work, goods and supplies flow. In unstable areas, life is difficult, painful, and terrifying.

Consider Narok, a once bustling town west of Nairobi located in the Maasai area. It was/is "the" main town or hub in that area with various tribes living and working side by side. After 3 weeks it looks almost like a ghost town. Some businesses have opened while others remain boarded up due to earlier rioting. Few children are in school, either because parents are afraid to send them or many of the teachers (from the Kikuyu tribe) have fled for their lives. A private primary school run by one of the CMF planted churches had 10 pupils show up out of 400. One business man estimates 80% of the Kikuyu have now left Narok...driven out by Maasai and/or other tribes. Many of these Kikuyu were business owners, school teachers, plumbers, construction workers, etc. One of our teammates had a flat tire just outside Narok this week. He could not find any place to repair it. Unheard of just 3 wks ago! Our minds cannot wrap around the deep tribalism issue in Kenya. Please pray for our CMF Maasai, Turkana, and Nairobi urban ministry leaders as they come to grips with the many repercussions. May God encourage His church and these leaders, giving them wisdom and discernment as to what their people should do towards reconciliation and immediate relief efforts. Pray He would comfort and bring hope to the hurting and displaced.

We, CMF missionaries in Kenya, remain living in safe locations. But our hearts are heavy and saddened by the results of anger and violence in this beautiful country as it has effected even those we know and love. Pray that we remain steadfast and strong...open vessels to be used for God's purposes and glory.