

Hosea's Story

Hosea was one of the first indigenous African MKs. His parents answered the call to go to a neighboring African country in the early 1980s. These are some of the thoughts he writes (see handout for his full story please)

“Unlike the MKS from the pioneering teams of missionary work to Africa either from Europe or America, It is a different experience for an indigenous African missionary kid...I will pick one challenge for now....I would love to talk about my educational life a journey that made me question so much about My God, His Mission, His church and His missionaries.

We went through six mission locations within Kenya in a span of 14 years and this had great implication to my learning, my parents had no training for home schooling... to be sincere I would envy children from the missionaries from the west who had school right at their home, they even had a tutor come to the field and teach them.

My parents had to utilize the public schools around us which had academic difficulty... One of the schools I attended had no desks. We would sit on concrete blocks, or metal water pipes, while using our thighs as tables to write and complete our assignments, We also faced hatred because our parents were missionaries and because it was a Muslim community , we would receive punishment for nothing bearing marks of whips in our bodies. We experienced being infected with jiggers while in school making our feet itch with pain a horrible experience..

Every time we changed schools we knew it is another time to repeat either one class or two or three classes backward and this made us hopeless in school,..As a result of all these challenges it took 14 years for me to finish the elementary school that should have taken 8 years to complete, this meant that all my friends I knew, when we started the school life were at least in 1st year in college when I was just done with primary school.

I felt God had forgotten [my parents] because just across our home I would see other missionary kids doing so well and having fun. I wondered “are we not serving the same God”

What are the extra challenges Hosea and his family face compared to a more traditional Western based missionary family?

What might be helpful to them to ameliorate some of these challenges?

What kind of support does this family need on the field and back home? What are steps others in the global missions community might do to support them in a better, more wholistic way?