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Location: **Nairobi, KENYA**

Mission: **Christian education**



Accountability

May's bulletin focused on the grisly discovery of a doomsday cult in Kenya in which followers were brainwashed into fasting to death in order to meet Jesus. To date, over 240 bodies have been discovered in mass graves and 90 people rescued from Shakahola forest. The recorded missing persons count has risen to 600. While the search for more victims continues this month, former cult members and post mortem autopsies are revealing more of the horrors that took place under their leader - Pastor Mackenzie.

One positive outcome from this tragedy is that national security agencies are actively investigating other Mackenzie-like extremists in the country. The Interior Cabinet Secretary (Prof. K. Kindiki) warned those purporting to be religious, while engaging in serious crimes against humanity, including - sexual violence, slavery, torture, inhumane & degrading treatment. He said: "Hiding behind the use of holy scriptures will not save you from accountability or the jaws of justice. We are resolved that Shakahola never happens again in Kenya."

The Church in Kenya also has to give an account of its actions. In the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) department, we hope, in the near future, to develop a bible study guidebook on the topic of "Cults and Religious Extremism." This book can be of help in equipping believers with the ability to examine scripture, enabling them to protect themselves from indoctrination or radicalisation.



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A bible study can also assist people in identifying the warning signs to look out for when listening to sermons. Critical thinking needs to be encouraged so that people are not easily manipulated or robbed of their resources by con artists masquerading as God's anointed ones.

"Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Acts 17:11



The photo is of Peter Ng'ang'a who has recently joined the TEE writing team

Prayer Points

- Thank God for changes being made within the country's security institutions as a result of the probe into events at Shakahola forest
- Please pray that all necessary steps will be taken to protect innocent people from cults and bring those hiding behind religion to account for their illegal actions
- Pray for the TEE editorial team and our future plans of writing a bible study guide book to address the issue of cults and religious extremism in Kenya
- Remember the current TEE writing project on Christian Music and thank God for the addition of Peter Ng'ang'a to the team.