

W5 on Missions

Who?

Yattani Gollo was born into a nomadic family in Ethiopia. He came to Christ through a missionary in Northern Kenya and was helped by Christians to go through high school and Bible School. After serving in his local church and earning a Bachelor's degree in Management and Leadership, he worked as a hospital chaplain where he came into contact with East Africa's Somali community. He met Canadian Baptist Ministries (CBM) field staff and in 2008 began working full time in the Somali community of North Eastern Province, Kenya. He is married to Salome.

Where?

Yattani and Salome live in Garissa, Kenya, the capital city of North Eastern Province. Garissa is situated on the Tana River, and its industries process food, beverages, and tobacco products and its manufactures include plastic containers. It is located about 350 km east of Nairobi. Most of the inhabitants of Garissa are ethnic Somalis, many of whom raise livestock for a living. Garissa has a very warm/hot climate, due to the low elevation and distance away from the cooler coastal areas. The daytime temperature typically rises above 33°C every day, but returns to a mild temperature, every night.

When?

Yattani was appointed by CBM as National Field Staff in January 2010.

What?

Together with Paul Carline (CBM Global Field Staff), Yattani's work in North Eastern Province (NEP) of Kenya involves encouraging local community groups to engage in an integrated sustainable community development. They also facilitate the ministry of both national and Canadian STM's. They partner with local community groups who are involved in health and education sectors especially for underprivileged and orphaned kids in Early Childhood Education (ECD). The school they work with and encourage is a great advocate for girls' education. 90% of the girls in NEP drop out of school due to lack of funds and lack of value for their education by their communities. As a result, many enter marriage at an early age. Yattani also partners with local community groups to help people affected with HIV and AIDS.

Through the help of The Sharing Way, Yattani has been involved in encouraging the farmers along the Tana River with training, distribution of some seeds and exposure visits. The Ibn-Khaldun Integrated Program group runs an ECD and primary class (grade 1-5) with 200 students. On their 8 acres of land, they have been irrigating some vegetable crops

including maize, spinach, kales, onions, tomatoes which help provide lunch for these vulnerable children. Yattani writes: "We are encouraged with the community response and together we move forward. However, we do acknowledge that walking along with the community groups is slow and challenging."

Yattani has also developed great relationships with Somali refugee families. He helps coordinate the visits of doctors from a local mission hospital to the refugee camps. These doctors offer surgery and counseling services to hundreds of disabled children.

Yattani and Salome have a wonderful ministry of hospitality and fellowship. They open their home to neighbors and contact friends for home fellowships, which has established stronger relationships with different families.

Yattani is very appreciative of the support of ABW and asks us to **pray for the following**: "Pray for thousands of refugees in the camps who are wounded physically, abused socially and traumatized because of the civil war. Pray for growing relationships to be formed. Pray for God's wisdom as we serve and live among the communities, that we may share God's unconditional love. Pray for our marriage and the work we are involved so that we may live exemplary lives reflecting Christ. Pray for travelling mercies and encouragement as we serve God and the different communities. Pray for vulnerable children in an orphanage (30 kids) in Garissa where my wife has been visiting recently, that they may experience God's love."

Why?

Yattani writes: "It has been a desire in my heart to do missions to the unreached especially to the nomadic people groups. The people group we work with are one of the least unreached people groups in Kenya. God gave me the burden and love for these communities a few years ago when I was working at the hospital.

What is the best part of ministering in Kenya? The joy of serving, loving, living among and sharing our life with communities is the best part. Seeing God's love penetrating through the lives of many, orphaned children getting food, knowledge and education. Making a little impact, walking along with local partners in doing community development, and doing kitchen gardening for vulnerable HIV/AIDS affected families are some of our joy in serving here."

Lisa Lohnes

Corresponding Secretary for UBWMU/ABW

