

Our Assignment

Call of Duty – Series

Ps. Waweru– 12^h June 2017

Sermon Notes



Mavuno's growth

Matthew 28:18-19

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {teach...: or, make disciples, or, Christians of all nations} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Mavuno has now grown to 10 Mavuno churches in 6 countries. In Kenya we have Hill City, Downtown, Mashariki, Lifeway and Crossroads. Internationally we have Berlin, Kampala, Kigali, Lusaka and Blantyre. We also have teams preparing to plant in Thika, Nakuru, Bungoma, Kabalagala (UG), Accra (GH), Bujumburua (BUR), and Addis (ET). As you can imagine, that's requiring more and more of our time and resources. One of the questions I typically have to answer is, 'is this the right time to do this? Especially in this season when we don't have all our resources in place?'

That's what I want to talk about today. This whole month we'll be doing a series called, 'Call Of Duty'. We'll be hearing from some great speakers who are in the frontlines of expanding God's kingdom. But today, I want to introduce to you our brand new series by answering a significant question some of us may have as we enter into church planting.

Why do we plant New Churches?

1. New Churches Reach Lost People

A little while back, I went with some friends to a church service. It was a traditional church and the service had a lot of liturgy and was quite long. I'll be honest – I struggled to stay awake! When I asked some guys what they thought afterwards, they said they really enjoyed it and found it very refreshing! Now I'd need a lot of grace to join a church like that – that's just my nice Christian way of saying there's no way I'd survive! Nothing against that particular church, it just reaches a different older generation really well! But often, it takes new churches to reach new generations.

In fact, research shows that the average new church gains 60-80% of its new members from the ranks of people who don't go to church at all, while churches over ten to fifteen years of age gain 80-90% percent of new members by transfer from other congregations. This may be because older congregations end up spending more and more of their resources on their members, while new churches, that don't have members, have to focus on the needs of non-members, just to grow and survive!

This is not theory for us! Many of our family members have come to Jesus or recommitted their lives to Him because of coming to Mavuno Church. Their lives are different, their children/marriages/careers are different

because this church existed. But let's not fool ourselves – if we are not careful, we are already becoming the 'cathedral' church for the next generation! Peter Wagner, a famous missiologist said, *'planting new churches is the most effective evangelistic methodology known under heaven'*. *If we want to see our friends, our family members, our colleagues come to Jesus and have their lives transformed like we have, then we must be passionate about starting new churches.*

2. New Churches Grow People

When Mavuno's Senior Pastor Mureithi Wanjau joined the UON, he was a **secret service Christian** – anybody know what that is? He had given his life to Jesus in high school but even though he knew he was now a follower of Jesus, his life externally had not changed very much. During the week, he lived my normal student life – playing rugby, partying, running after girls etc. Then on Sunday, he put on his Sunday best and went to Nairobi Baptist Church and sat and was fed! In essence, he was leading a **double life** – his two worlds did not connect. But when he joined the university, he heard Nairobi Baptist was helping restart a church called Nairobi Chapel and he decided to visit as it was much nearer the campus. It was such a small church that he was quickly drafted to serve on Sundays; in fact in a few months, he had even joined the worship team – where he discovered he had musical talents! For the first time, he got some really cool Christian friends and quickly realized (nobody had to tell him) that he would need to make a **decision** and stand for his faith. He could no longer be a secret agent Christian! So - He still played sports - but now there was no dichotomy – He was a Christian both on Sundays and during the week in the classroom and on the rugby field! He began to grow in his faith – and it was in that place that God eventually gave him a heart to start a church that would reach people who didn't like church known as Mavuno Church!

You see, new churches create new opportunities for people to grow in their faith. Many of you would never have grown into the amazing leaders you are today if not for the growth opportunities you found in Mavuno. And maybe you are here and you who have plateaued in your faith – I suspect helping a new church might be just what you need to ignite that passion again! *If we want to see our people grow and not stagnate in their faith, we must remain passionate about starting new churches!*

3. New Churches Bring Sustainable Change

One of my favorite Mavuno stories has to do with how our campus here was started. Six of people from Mavuno (3 pastors and 3 businessmen) got on a plane and flew to Kampala, capital city of Uganda. They didn't know how to start a new church but we knew God wanted them to do it! They asked congregation members to refer them to their un-churched friends and invite them for breakfast with their 'cool pastors'. About 6 to 8 showed up and as they ate, they asked them why they didn't like going to church. They opened up and shared for quite a while! They then asked what kind of church would ask such a question. The leaders told them about Mavuno – a church for people who didn't like church. They were intrigued and said they wish there was such a church in UG! They didn't really know what to do next but they invited them to dinner the night before they left. They all showed up and had a great meal. During the meal, one of the business men had an idea. He said he'd be willing to take a bus to Kampala every weekend to facilitate a Mizizi group. They asked the group and they signed up. So for the next 12 weeks, two guys got on a bus every Friday and drove 12 hours to Kampala, facilitated Mizizi and then drove back on Saturday evening! But at the end of the time, graduated a group. This group invited their friends and another group started. After a while, there were enough groups to support a pastor and we sent Pastor Kevin and Mavuno Kampala was born!

Many people have come to Christ, many marriages have been saved, and many transformation initiatives have been started because of Mavuno Kampala. One of the people who came to Christ was a young party animal named Carol. She was so passionate about her faith that her pastor invited her to join our leadership training school, Discovery Africa. After that year, we sent her to lay the groundwork for a new church in Kigali. This young Christian stayed at an old friend's house. Her friend was amazed at her transformation! She asked her friend to invite some of her friends and she led them through Mizizi. Many gave their lives to Jesus and invited their friends to the next one. In no time, she had 5 different life groups meeting in Kigali. We sent a pastor there and the rest is history. Today in Kigali, there is a church of almost 200 people, many of whom have experienced amazing life change. All because of a young Christian named Carol! Isn't that fearless!

Well the best part of the story for me is that this July, Mavuno Kampala will be planting our very first church. And guess who the campus pastor will be? That's right! It's exciting to see our church now taking responsibility for our nation and beginning to plant churches. Talk about sustainable change - Hill City doesn't have to plant another church here or to fund ministry in Kampala – in fact, the amazing thing is that this church has actually given to our campaign to raise funds for the facilities at Hill City!

I can't wait to see such churches in every county of this nation and in every capital city of Africa! Churches that are changing their nations, healing families, restoring relationships, raising leaders and engaging in societal transformation. You see governments deal with hardware (they build roads, deploy police etc.) but it is the church that will build the software (transform people's hearts so they want to drive well, obey the law etc!) *If we want to see sustainable change in our cities, our nation and our continent, then we must be passionate about church planting!*

But I want to share one last reason, and if you forget all the rest, this is truly the most important one.

4. New Churches Are Our Assignment

Jesus' final command to his disciples was 'go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you'. And surely I will be with you always to the very end of the age' Matthew 28:18-19. This was not a task left for pastors and specialists. It was his assignment for all believers. And, from what we read in then book of Acts, the way in which Jesus' disciples carried out that Great Commission, was by starting new churches. These new churches were not started by professional pastors! Paul, the main visionary God used, was an entrepreneur who was in the tent business. If it was today, I don't know what type of tents he'd have specialized in– maybe it would be those pretty ones used for weddings or the luxurious ones used for tented camps! Or maybe it would be large domes. The point is, this man ran a business and the main purpose of that business was to fund the expansion of God's kingdom in His generation! So what's left behind/Paul's legacy – you don't hear so much about his business; you hear about the churches that the business started!

What's your profession? What's your training? What's your gifting? What's your hustle? The point I'm getting at is that if you are a follower of Jesus, one of the main reasons He's given you that that hustle is to fund the expansion of God's kingdom in your generation!

You see, we don't start new churches because we have all our needs met. We don't start new churches because we have extra money. We don't start new churches because we want to spread our brand. We start new churches because that is our assignment!

Which brings me to the crux of my message. The work of spreading God's kingdom is the work of every Christian, no exceptions! **Spreading God's kingdom is NOT your side hustle, it's your main hustle!** And that's why this church exists! Here's the secret, Mavuno is not a nice church to feed you. Mavuno is a boot camp to train you! And we're training you so you can be involved in spreading God's kingdom in your generation. We are training you so that your career can become the side hustle that funds your main hustle! **Spreading God's kingdom is NOT your side hustle, it's your main hustle!** There are nations not open to pastors or missionaries but open to doctors and entrepreneurs and teachers and IT specialists. There are people at your workplace who would never trust a pastor, but will visit your home and will have spiritual conversations with you, their friend and colleague. We are trusting God that every single member here will play their kingdom role in expanding God's kingdom. **Spreading God's kingdom is NOT your side hustle, it's your main hustle!** That's why in the next 10 years, we want to train 5000 marketplace pastors, men and women who run businesses or work in professions whose main purpose is extending God's kingdom! That's why this month we'll be commissioning Pastor Carol to lead a team to plant the Kabalagala church. Sent by us and supported by several LGs. But what if we could begin to pray that God sends some of you out to Dar-e-salaam, Cape Town? Ouagadougou? Luanda? Dubai? Isiolo? Mbarara? **Spreading God's kingdom is NOT your side hustle, it's your main hustle!**

As I end, let me ask you a question? What the biggest thing you are praying for yourself right now? Is it a new job, business success, good health, an investment, a spouse? In **Psa.2:8**, God tells you what you should be asking for; He says, *'ask of me and I will give you the nations for your inheritance'*! A job is too small a thing to challenge God with. God is saying, 'challenge me – ask me for something that is worthy of a God like me!'

Does your neighbor look like someone God can use to spread His kingdom? What are some ways you can begin to apply this message?

- ☐ **TRAIN WHILE YOU'RE HERE** - As you serve here, you are training yourself for kingdom usefulness. Gaining skills that will help you add value to others! Sign up to lead a Mizizi group, Ndoa, host a life group etc

- ☐ **PRAY WHERE GOD HAS PLACED YOU** – Ask God to give you a burden for neighborhoods, counties, and cities. It could be where you grew up, your shags, or a nation. It could even be your workplace! Join in praying **Luke 10:2**, *"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field"*. Pray for a transfer to that country or that branch and let us know so we can send you out as our missionary there.

- ☐ **GO WHERE GOD LEADS YOU** – Many of our LGs have been doing family road trips. Exciting! We want to challenge all our LGs to do a couple of times a year. To your shags, to another country (we recently had a team go to Kigali and serve our church there)

PRAY

Secret service Christians – this message scares me, but I want to live a more effective and exciting Christian life!

Challenged to start to pray for nations – maybe already even know the place God has given me a passion for...