

Dean returns from Kenya

The Rev. Ron Horton, dean of the Tyndale Bible Institute at William Tyndale College in Farmington Hills, recently made a missionary trip to Kenya, Africa, accompanied by three local pastors, Gregory Alexander, Rascoe Belton and Charles Oliver. The four, three of whom are Tyndale graduates, became interested in overseas missions and participation in missionary work through their Detroit congregations.

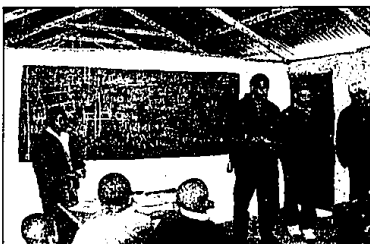
Wachira Ngamau, a native of Kenya, who was educated in the U.S. and presently lives in Kenya, came back to the U.S. to

accompany the group to Africa. Ngamau and the African Inland Church helped by laying the groundwork, translating where needed and networking with Kenyan pastors and officials.

The four pastors conducted workshops for local pastors. Many had to walk several miles to participate.

"They were so elated to see us and to share in the Word with us," said Horton.

Next month, the pastor said a group from Kenya will be coming to the Detroit area in an effort to support the churches' adopt-a-village concept.



The Rev. Ron Horton, center, and the Rev. Gregory Alexander, to his right, visit an orphan school in Kenya on a recent missionary trip that is an on-going project to better the lives of villagers in that country.

PICKET

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Freeman said that would eventually take away jobs by allowing the retailer to deliver the goods to its stores.

Normally, there are 22-24 trucks that distribute food products daily to area retailers such as Kroger, Farmer Jack and Wal-Mart, Freeman said.

As of Wednesday, the second day of the strike, only eight trucks went out on runs, said Freeman.

The other issue is pension. Freeman said Nabisco isn't offering similar pension

plans that match other snack food companies such as Keebler. Cathy Fernu, spokeswoman for Kraft Foods, the parent company of Nabisco, said it's unfortunate the union "chose this course of action rather than to continue negotiations."

"We're taking the necessary steps to service our customers and we prefer not to get into specifics of the negotiations."

Fernu said the company has made fair offers to settle the contract, "but the union has not found them acceptable."

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CALLERS

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The 947 code is the newest area code in southeastern Michigan, the sixth area code in the region.

Nationwide, more area codes have been needed as cellular phones, faxes, computer modems, beepers and other devices have eaten up available phone numbers. But the method of issuing those numbers is being changed to enlarge the pool.

The Macomb County area recently split off from the 810 area code (which used to include all of Oakland County) and now has a new code, 586.

And phone users in the 313 and 734 area codes will be dealing with an overlay code of their own - 679 - within a few years. No implementation date has been set.

10-DIGIT DIALING, OR 11?

When Sept. 7 arrives, current procedures for toll and long-distance calling will still apply, even to toll calls within 248 and 947: Dial "1," then the area code, then the number.

But callers will not have to use "1" to make local calls, just tack on the area code, be it 248 or 947.

The MPSC's order for the overlay specifically reserves 11-digit dialing for toll and long-distance calls, Norcross said.

SBC Ameritech urges phone users to simply start thinking of their phone numbers as 10 digits long, not seven.

Find the changes too much to deal with? In Massachusetts, Norcross said, four overlay codes were introduced on the same day. "They called it Black Tuesday," she said.

Still, she said, there were only two official complaints there.

Norcross said phone users for the most part are used to dialing more than seven digits, because they use area codes with cellular phones and because of the popularity of calling cards, which require many more digits.

SAVING THE NUMBERS

Nationwide efforts at "number conservation" are extending the life expectancy of current area codes, Norcross said.

Conservation in Michigan means that in eight of the state's 12 area codes, numbers are now issued to phone providers in blocks of 1,000 instead of blocks of 10,000, which had been the case, she said.

So, when a provider dips into a new block of numbers and uses, say, only 800, there are only 200 unused numbers left in the block, instead of 9,200. Numbers conservation is also at work in the plan for 313 and 734 to share an overlay area code in the future, Norcross said: The number of possible area code combinations is running out.

Other conservation efforts are being studied.

Already, the estimated year by which the pool of phone numbers available under the current system will dry up has been pushed back from 2010 to 2031, she said.

"All of this takes a while, but I think we're seeing good efforts and good numbers coming from this process," Norcross said.

To learn more about area code changes, call SBC Ameritech's area code hot line, (800) 831-8999, or visit the Web site www.ameritech.com/areacode. The North American Numbering Plan is administered by NeuStar Inc., a spin-off of Lockheed Martin. Its Web address is www.nanpa.com.

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