

## **EDWARD MUNENE**

### **Report #K11**

#### **QUESTIONNAIRE**

In the Kenya national survey, Edward Munene was one of the top 16 most frequently listed for having maximum impact, and was rated among the top five in terms of the extent to which he trains leaders. He was identified as of the Kenya Assemblies of God, a Kikuyu, between the ages of 35 and 44.



“My Name is Edward Munene, a husband, father, and Pastor of International Christian Centre Mombasa. I planted the church beginning of January 2008, and it’s been an exciting Journey so far. I served as a pastor with International Christian Centre in Nairobi Kenya before relocating to Mombasa to pursue God’s mission and the vision that He laid in my heart.

“I love reading, writing and enjoy thoroughly the opportunity to motivate people to seeking and fulfilling God’s will for their lives. I view writing as part of what the Lord has called me to do. I have written a weekly devotional for the ICC website for six years now and will continue to write a weekly devotional from the ICC Mombasa website, [www.iccmombasa.org](http://www.iccmombasa.org)”

This is from Edward’s active and well-written blog. at: [http://www.lifession.com/?page\\_id=46](http://www.lifession.com/?page_id=46)

*[Unless otherwise indicated the information below is from an interview by Pastor Edward Munene given to Becher Karanja on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. What is not in direct quotes is summarized.]*

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Childhood Home***

“Well, I was born and the first five, actually the first seven years of my life happened in Athi River. My dad was working for the Kenya Meat Commission KMC then, and we lived in the factory estate. So there were all these boys whom we hung around playing together. At a very early age, there are things that I observed that were happening. ... Children were engaging in sex. You know I am talking about early 70s. ... Children hiding and trying things like smoking. You know, picking up cigarette packs that had been thrown away and lighting them and trying to smoke. ... We moved away from Athi River and went to live in Kiambu, a different setting but really the things that we were doing were not that different. In those days there used to be a program on TV called ‘the six million dollar man’ and the other superhero programs, I loved watching those. And I loved it, in fact, I used to tell my parents that when I grow up, I want to be a superhero. And my dad would ask ‘why?’ I would say I want to rescue people.

“So it was actually a prayer of mine from a very tender age. We weren’t a church-going family, until one day my dad gave his life to Christ and suddenly all of us had to change and become church goers. That is what began my journey as a Christian.

“I discovered that as I began knowing the Lord, growing in my faith and walking with God, this is about 1989. I began having the same passion; I want to rescue people. I began thinking about the kids I was growing up with and some of the things they would do. You know it became a passion wanting to see other people know what I know and beginning to see them living their lives differently.”

##### ***Countries of Residence***

*In addition to this country, have you lived in another country for more than three months or longer?*

“No, I have not lived in another country for more than three months. A lot of what I have done is just go for maybe two or three weeks for ministry and then come back home.”

### ***Current Family***

“I am married to one wife her name is Ruth. And between us, we have two children Sarah and Grace. Sarah is 13 years ... Grace is 9 years.

“Well in terms of what she does. She is a principal of a school. A Christian school we started as a church here in Mombasa. As a way you find that in our generation, in our day there are a lot of people who are dissatisfied with the 8-4-4 curriculum ... Our education system is value based and treats a child as an individual. ... So what we are looking for is to be a solution to our generation. We don't want to be seen always complaining but to say here is a solution.”

*How does, or what basically is the involvement of your family in your work, your ministry, how is it?*

“My family is very involved. My daughters when they are not attending the children's service they are volunteering to serve... So my children are involved. And my wife too, she tells people that she works every day of the week. There is church work to be done on Sunday and then Monday to Friday she is leading our school.” His daughter Sarah even has her blog with a few posts.

### ***Educational Background***

“I went to City Primary School. Right in the city of Nairobi and one thing I can point out is that being in the city, interacting in an urbanized school set up. It gave me a lot of exposure...from a very early age, I remember one of my best friends was a Ugandan. We used to hang out as three boys. The other one was an Ethiopian. So I grew up, my education was a multi-cultural setup. This helped me at a very young age to appreciate other cultures. And be able to realize that we all go through the same challenges regardless of the countries. In standard four my best friend was an Asian guy. So I had that opportunity to have a multi-cultural upbringing and an education that exposed me to all that.

“I went to Jamhuri High School.... One of my classmates was called ‘doctor.’ He could supply you with any drugs you wanted. So that has helped shaped me. Because when I gave my life to Christ I suddenly realized how my generation was desperate for God. ... A classmate...died. He was shot on Thika Road. He was a car-jacker. What that did is that when I got saved, I had that passion for reaching the young generation because I would go to church, having been brought up in a Presbyterian background and I would look around and not see people of my generation. Almost 70 or 80% of the congregation used to be older people. And that until today continues to influence me and that's why I focus on reaching out. From Jamhuri High school, I went to the University of Nairobi to study for a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture....From the University of Nairobi, from the time I was in my second year of university I had already made up my mind that I was going to serve God in a full-time capacity.”

*What were the sources and the nature of support for your education?*

Support for my studies at the University of Nairobi was “from my dad and the Higher Education Loans Board. For my theological studies with Global University through East Africa School of Theology (KAG University), I got a scholarship from Rev. Ron Sonnas.” All his studies have been in Kenya.

### ***Personal Testimony and Call to Ministry***

“When I gave my life to Christ, it was in a youth camp organized by the Presbyterian Church from where our home was in Kiambu. ... I wanted to help other boys and girls like me. I would talk to them about the things of God. In fact I think three months after I gave my life to Christ, I began preaching the gospel to other people. By reading the Bible, I wanted to learn and grow. There was a lady by the name of Catherine Njoki, who is my cousin. And was way older than me and when I

gave my life to Christ, she took a personal interest to help me in my walk of faith in Jesus Christ ... She disciplined me and helped me to grow.

“There is something I began doing. I would go and stand at the gate of our homestead, and I would wait for any young guy a guy of our generation, and I would escort them and talk to them about Jesus. So some of them began giving their lives to Christ. Three months after I had gotten saved, we had attended a youth rally somewhere and the preacher who was supposed to come and preach didn’t show up. ... And so because the preacher didn’t turn up, the youth leaders had to decide who was going to preach, and Catherine suggested me. And I will be honest I just repeated a sermon I had heard on radio. I made the same alter call I had heard on the radio, and to my amazement, there were about 26 young people who responded ... So it became a passion. Something I desired to do, longing to tell other people about Jesus publicly and individually. Three months into the faith in 1989. That’s when I began ministry.”

### ***Personal Testimony and Calling***

*How were you led to do what you are doing at the moment? How have you felt led to do what you are doing now?*

“One time while traveling in a public bus (*matatu*) he heard a voice asking him to reach out to his generation. “So it became a passion from then on that I would do that. I didn’t understand what that really meant. But when I shared it with my friends ... they encouraged me ... If it is God asking you to do this, He will show you the way. Even after leaving campus, I had decided that this is what I want to do. You know when people ask me why I focus so much on the young generation. It doesn’t sound so spiritual. Not great words but just my generation that is what I focus on ... It’s my desire to teach the word.”

### ***Influences***

“The one I would pick is my Pastor. The man who told me to stop traveling all over preaching and serve in church. His name is Ron Sonnas. He was the senior pastor at ICC in Nairobi, and he taught me the value of number one, knowing the word of God, being a continuous learner or student and then from there being able to empower others to go out there to do what I do.... I would sit down and ask these questions when I was an intern pastor and his ability to do ministry. In fact, he taught me a leadership principle of being in church. ‘You don’t starve after growth; you starve for growth.’ In other words, you get people to serve with you, because of the number of people you want to reach. In a church of about 600 people, he had a pastoral team of 5 pastors. And that helped the church grow at that time to almost 2000 people. But it’s because he had multiplied his capacity, his ability to do ministry.

Second, “... I’d actually pick Catherine. She might not have looked at herself as a church leader, as a Christian leader; but that’s just the fact she took the time to sit with me to speak to me about the Word of God; she really did disciple me.”

## **CURRENT MINISTRY OR VOCATION**

### ***Work/Ministry and Mission/Vision***

“I spend my time reading a lot, preaching and teaching other people what I know. They give me a little; they say I’m the senior pastor at ICC Mombasa. What I see myself as is I am the key learner, so that I can help other people to learn.

“If you ask the mission of the church, we say for us to connect people with God and to each other, challenge believers to Christlikeness and changing the world. We believe that our faith has to be contagious, to affect our world.”

“I began searching the Bible to work for a solution and realized Jesus never sent us out to make converts; he sent us out to make disciples. So I began to make disciples. ...What is my mission? In summary, I began to teach the word so I can reach my world.”

“God has not called me to be a CEO, God has called me to be a servant, and I need to be available to the people I am reaching. I mean if you send me a Facebook message I should be able to reply. Some very quick examples. I have another lady who contacted me; she was pregnant and ready to commit suicide. She contacted me through my blog. I talked with the dad and mum and who were so angry with her, there was family reconciliation, and she is back to college because she was a student in one of the universities in Kenya. Just by being accessible there are people whose lives have been changed. So I normally challenge people and say be accessible, available [like Jesus]

### ***Organization***

International Christian Centre Mombasa: “In 2008, I left the city of Nairobi to come to start this church in Mombasa from scratch. We came with my family, and we began services just during the post-election violence. At some point, I thought I had come at the wrong time. But beginning then, what we realized is that God had brought us to a city that is needy in so many ways. Regardless of being what people say an Islamic city but they were people just like everywhere else who needed Jesus as their Lord and Savior. What the post-election violence did, has been a benefit for me today, not many people wanted to travel to other cities away from where they are born ... So we came to this city just my family and I. There were no other people who wanted to come and work here and do ministry. Right from the start I had to develop my own team. I had to create my own leaders ... We had a dream which was basically to reach two types of people -- Steve and Stacy. Steve is 32 years old, a young guy. He is single and loves to party. He thinks church is the most boring place on earth. He cheats on his girlfriend with another girl, drinking is something he enjoys doing. So he is completely unattached. Stacy is 29 years old; she has her eyes set on being successful. Success here means money, position and doing whatever she wants. She doesn't go to church except when one of her girlfriends is getting married. She has a boyfriend who sleeps over on Saturday night, so she has no time on Sunday morning. She has a different boyfriend who sleeps over on Tuesday because the guy provides her money for entertainment. She can do anything to climb the cooperate ladder. Those are the two people we set out to reach out to. It doesn't matter whether they are Muslim, Hindu or from around the world. We saw them, identified them and said these are the people who we want to reach out to. We began doing services differently, I would say really those are the same people we are reaching out to. If you ask them who does ICC Mombasa reach out to, they'll say Steve and Stacy. Same profile, same definition.

*What exactly is your relationship to ICC Mombasa in terms of salary, funding, logistics?*

“We are privileged to have a church that supports us financially. I receive a salary, and the offering is not mine. It's counted and banked by other people; I am not involved; all I get is a report. Things to do with expenditure are made using the budget by the people in charge. On staff, we have six people who are full-time staff.”

### ***Impact/Success/Assessment***

“We have a staff team of about six people who are in full-time ministry now, who were not in ministry. Some of them are in Bible school pursuing Masters in Christian leadership and theology, who are sold out to ministry, who would not have been in ministry today. We have taken about 20 people who have gone through internship some have gone to join our staff and others become leaders elsewhere.

“People that I have worked with directly in leadership development, people that weren't leaders and today are in a leadership capacity. A rough estimate is about 200. We have also seen ICC Mombasa grow from zero (from him and his family) to a congregation of about 400 people in regular attendance.”

### ***Training/Leadership Development***

“One of the primary responsibilities I see as my job here at ICC is to develop and create leaders. It’s my job description to develop leaders ... I tell myself I need to keep finding people that I can train. We’ve written materials for new believers ... My role is to train people whom I can entrust with leadership tools, and they can entrust to others.

“There’s a program we created called ‘anchor.’ At ICC, we have what we call leadership voyage. Where we pick people in society and take them on a journey of transformation. We would look at society as a continent, and we have certain islands. So we take them to an island called ‘inspire island.’ Where we don’t care who you are, but we invite you to join our services. At inspire island we challenge you to do a ten-week program called ‘anchor.’ Which challenges you on how you handle your personal health. We challenge you to personal development in regards to your relationship with God, your finances, your gifting, and abilities. We even challenge you regarding your services in ministry. We have seen over 400 people go through Anchor and have come out giving their lives to Christ since some, when joining, were not even believers. And others have become leaders in various places in their organizations, and in their companies. Some of them in their churches have become pastors or leaders. From inspire island, they move to a journey to ‘investor island’. We challenge them to stop doing church or the things of God as something assured of an earning but to become a lifestyle. This is how I live my life. In fact we encourage them to stop doing it as a banker, accountant or government employee. But to view themselves as servants of God who have an undercover job as a banker or undercover job as an architect. So the first loyalty we challenge them to God’s servant. In essence really going therefore into their world and making disciples there. So if they are true believers and working for the government nobody should ever complain about the government because you are there. Make the difference to God’s glory.”

### ***Professional Relationships and Partnerships/Links***

“One of them I think is just by denominational affiliation with the Assemblies of God. For me, that’s important because it gives me a counsel of reference or accountability. I’m a leader in leadership, and I have people over me as leaders. And also our sister church ICC Nairobi, the fact that we can discuss tough issues and share ideas.

“When I’m discouraged or going through something I’m able to discuss with my peers. Something we began in campus ... That is Pastor John Wesley, Pastor Mike Muthengi, I’d put Pastor Mureithi Wanjau at Mavuno Church and Pastor Philip at ICC Nairobi. People I can call and share things with them and ask them to pray with me. Even Pastor Simon Mbevi in Mavuno. Those are people I talk with a lot in a ministry capacity. And of course, Pastor Peterson Rukenya. And then also, I have fathers, whom when I get an opportunity we talk and seek for their advice and opinion on staff. My Bishop in the KAG [Peter Njiri] is one of them. And then there’s Pastor Oscar at Nairobi Chapel. When I get an opportunity to sit down with him, I treasure the moment.

“Mavuno Church is another one, though not of our denomination, but we have a partnership with the pastoral team. I would say they are our partners in ministry. Even when those times, I need to travel, I need to go on leave, I turn to them and say I need a pastor to be here. So in Kenya, those are my quick two. We have a partnership with EAST, I believe because... it is a part of the Assemblies of God. Even the people some that I have here are students there right now. Just ensuring that they get the necessary training. ... We’re trusting in God in seeking partnership with a church in Asia or an organization in Asia or Europe and the rest of the world that can help us reach our community right here [especially the large non-missionary expatriate population].”

The influence from Mavuno (and indirectly other Nairobi Chapel churches) can be seen in things like active use of social media, the link to Mavuno senior Pastor M’s blog on Munene’s blog, targeting a young professional profile (Mavuno calls them Mike and Makena), the “leadership pipeline,” writing a series of 10 week discipleship manuals, preaching one month very practical sermon series on topics like saving money, sex, etc.

*What are the limits of who you will and will not work with? Just explain.*

“I think the biggest limit we have is who we reach out to. You find there are organizations that focus on reaching out to maybe the elderly. I don’t think we would be very quick to get into partnership with those because we have a clear focus on who God has called us to reach as a congregation. Organizations that are political in nature, I would not want to get political because in our church we find people who have all kinds of political ideas.

***SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats***

“Our strength is that we reach out to a very young congregation. The average age at ICC Mombasa is 30. I’m very happy about that because it means that our vision is working. But on the flip side is our weakness because there’s a lot of people who walk into our church and say, ‘This church is for young people. I can’t come back.’ Looking at it from a financial perspective, a lot of people in our congregation are in their 1<sup>st</sup> job or beginning their career. Therefore, you’ll not find people who can tithe a million shillings. I know churches that have people who can write a cheque of a million shillings (\$11,500 US). For me I view that as a strength for these are the people who will grow with us. But ... some people can view that as a weakness because then it means as a church we might not have the financial muscle that other churches may be having. Another strength is the fact that these people are available to do ministry. When you give them a vision, they are ready to run with it. Rarely do we print flyers, because we use e-mail and social media for information.

“We just came out of 21 days of prayer and fasting season and we were writing a daily devotion that I would e-mail to them. I know churches that can’t do that because they need to print it and give it out as booklets. We have developed a mobile app on the android platform, anyone with an android device can download and get connected to us, and thus we have a technological edge. We tweet our sermon every day as I am preaching by one of the staff. On the flip side some people can view them as weaknesses and say that too much use of technology some people will lose connection with the church. For us, we say movies are parables of our generation. We do a movie night every third Friday of the month. We look for movies that have a message, and we invite people to show up ... At the end of the movie we share a point and challenge them to life-changing topics, invite them to Church. Even during our services we use a lot of videos, movie clips illustration, so those are our strengths.

“Last strength is just the fact that our generation is hungry for information, so that is why people are getting on the internet, getting smartphones, googling for something ... I would look at it as an opportunity and not as a threat. Because it is an opportunity to give them a lot of information, teach them the word of God, because they are hungry. What... matters is, ‘How do you teach it?’ When you package it correctly, people will get it and run with it.”

*What challenges or constraints do you face in carrying out your mission? Second, what unique opportunities are you positioned to address?*

“Challenges being technologically savvy and up to it, like last year we had to get a fiber connection to the internet and I know many other churches some of them way bigger than us don’t have a fiber connection. And so we’ve got to invest in some of these things, invest in technology - that is a challenge to us. We have a vision that is way bigger than our resources because [with] the younger generation we attract we don’t have all those financial resources, financial muscles. The number of people we have on staff and all that and so our finances are a constraint upon us all the time, but we don’t view it as a weakness; we view it as a challenge actually. Something that we’ve got to constantly creatively think how to deal with. Then the fact you cannot just stand up and preach ‘this is what the Bible says’ and that’s it, because of the people we reach, we have a challenge of making our sermons very practical. We have to give people very practical solutions. When somebody comes and shares - for example when we do a finance series we don’t just tell people, ‘give and it shall come to you good measure pressed down.’ I know that is what the Bible says, but this generation wants to know, ‘How do I save? How do I multiply my resources? How do I get out of debt? How do

I deal with my credit card that is giving me nightmares?’ And so we’ve got to give practical solutions, and they are there in the Bible. The Bible says a wise man knows the condition of his flock, so we challenge the people, ‘You’ve got to know your financial state, you get to do a liability against asset and get to know what your net worth is.’ ... We have realized when we present the Gospel message practically, we get to see a number of them turn their lives to Jesus Christ. It also means that we cannot shy away from dealing with the challenges of our generation.”

### ***Reading and Writing***

*Now into reading and writing, can you just describe your own reading and writing habits?*

“What I do is that a few years ago I stopped reading paper books and began to read Kindle books. Also known as eBooks. There is a Kindle application by Amazon which when you have it allows you to buy a book very quickly using your credit card or something like that. One id ensures that I do not lose my books and then it means if I have my cell phone or my iPad, wherever I go I have my books available with me. So if I am meeting with somebody and they are running late, I can actually open up and read a page because every year I set a goal of how many books I want to read. Like last year, I had a goal of reading a 130 books by the end of the year. I actually met the goal. What is that I am able to open my Kindle very quickly and buy a book ... I have a statement I love saying to myself that if I am not learning I am not growing. And if I am not growing then I am dying. It is a principle of life, anything that has life grows, when it stops growing it has begun a journey to die ... “I have written a book that has been used by ICC Nairobi and a few other churches in the area of Finance. I have also written manuals on parenting, practical parenting; *Anchor*; *Set the Sail*, which is like a second level to *Anchor* which teaches somebody to be an investor in the things of God, ownership of their own lives so that they can influence and impact their generation. I have also written a manual on just coaching leaders to be Leaders ... I am a blogger I write a blog called: *lifession.com*. That is one of the things that I have written that has actually gone viral way beyond my expectations, and there are seasons when I have been very regular in blogging, even at one point I got 1.5 million unique visits to the blog.”

*In terms of the books is there any author that has personally influenced you? African authors or those who are non-African?*

“Unfortunately in Africa we consume a lot and create very little, and I think that is why one of the reasons I have written four manuals so far. Because it disturbed me so much that we read so many books from the Western world, and the Eastern is also beginning to give us quite a [bit of] reading, and yet we generate very little as Africa, books worth reading. We are consumers yet we are so rich, there are stories in Africa ... That is one of the reasons why I write a lot.”

*To what to extent do you see yourself writing something that is important for you in the future? What sort of writing?*

“I actually view writing as one of my callings. It is something that God has called me to do ... I write from the context of reaching out to my generation since they are looking for practical solutions to the challenges and problems that they face. So out of my writing I seek to handle practical problems or write practical solutions for them.”

### ***Electronic Media***

*What electronic have you found would be most helpful and which do you wish you had better access to as a leader?*

“I don’t think there is any I would say I wish I had better access to because my church has given me the access to the tools I need ... The ones I have found very helpful as a leader, I would begin with my blog because it gives me an audience way beyond ICC Mombasa and the city of Mombasa. I have readers from my blog actually from every continent in the world. There are people who contact me and ask me would you visit or can I call or like to counsel together with you, and actually that is one of the reasons I use Skype because it helps to be able to communicate with people from all over the world. I also use social media a lot, Twitter and Facebook because they connect me with people

right in my city and it connects with the greater region reaching the influencers and people who I'm also reaching and also email...

### ***Finances and other resources***

*What extent are you involved in soliciting funds or other resources for your ministry? If you can describe the nature of this efforts and where do your other financial resources come from for your work and ministry?*

"About 95% of our finances as a church comes from us. It comes from the giving by the congregation. Then we have about 5% that comes from people who have had been part of this church and moved elsewhere or from just friends from other places who once in a while would say I want to support what you're doing. A lot of our resources come from the people who attend ICC Mombasa and call it their home church ... I view myself as the chief fundraiser, I normally say that if a senior pastor does not take financing as part of their key responsibilities it will not get done. How I do that is that when I teach people ... when I teach people about saving, when I teach people about investing, when I teach them about multiplying the resources that they have, their income grows and if their income grows their giving capacity grows. So instead of challenging them to give, give ... I challenge them to do what the Bible teaches, become faithful stewards."

He does not have other financial sources outside the country.

*What non-financial resources does your ministry benefit from and where do these come from?*

"Non-financial, the partners that I talked about. The fact that I have, almost let me call it a 'counsel of reference,' people whom we can brainstorm ideas with, church leadership challenges, people I can benefit from to come and preach and encourage us in one way or the other. That for me is very important and critical, people who pray for us and just encourage us. We live in a city that has got a lot of challenges in terms of faith ... Because there are some elements of Islamic fundamentalism in our city and so with all those challenges we benefit from a lot of people who join us in prayer."

### ***Political arena***

We realize we are not political, God has called us to reach out to people who are politically impacted, who need to make a political influence. We don't shy away from political influence, but political stands. For example during the last election, we did a topic for one month entitled 'forever Kenya'. Talking about things we needed to consider as we went into the election. We told people regardless of whom you'll vote for here are the criteria you'll need to judge them with. Things like those, we didn't tell them whom to vote for but things to look out for.... If the church does not take the responsibility to equip the people, then the society is going to end up as disadvantaged. Because they will not have for example the opportunity to get leaders from a genuine platform. Out in the secular world they gauge leaders from who comes from my political affiliations, who is doing or saying what I want to be said, who comes from my tribe, who can make my business thrive. In the church, we can be able to say hey these are the 3 C's that you can be able to gauge leadership from, which are: Character ... Competency... Commitment of the person."

### ***Future***

*In terms of the future are there hopes and dreams that you have for the future? And you have future plans related to writing?*

"Yes, I would like to see my blog get to a place where, when I read of the most visited sites by Kenyans on the internet are pornographic sites, I would like to make my blog be one of the most visited sites or even our church web site. I would like to challenge other churches to use the internet to make a difference in our generation. The other thing is to continue writing; remember I said in Africa we consume too much and give too little ... because we have a huge population in Africa that needs to read the Gospel message from a Christian perspective."

*What factors are likely to play a role to whether or not you are able to successfully achieve some of this goals?*



“One is my ability to continue to raise leaders, because if I don’t keep giving away the things that I do I will not be able to keep doing the things that I should do. You know as a leader there are things that only I can do but there are things I’m doing right now that somebody else can do, so I need to keep on finding the things that somebody else can do and I give it away as I raise leaders. So my leadership development critically impacts what I have been able to do.”

***Pastoral question***

*If you were to make a guess as to what part of your ministry they were thinking of (study participants when they listed you as influential) what would it be?*

“Wow! My thinking would be preaching and social media, especially my blog.”

*Can you describe how often you preach and what do you do to prepare for your sermons?*

“Basically out of a year I preach about 80% of the time, in the church every Sunday and I begin by preparing sermon series’ that means I pick a topic and preach on it for a month. And what I have noticed is that it takes me a minimum of 3 months to prepare for a sermon series.”

*What are some of the areas that you use to prepare for your sermon? Materials that you consult?*

“Well there’s the Bible of course, then there is a lot of background studies using Bible dictionaries and Bible concordances and stuff like that. I will also do a lot of talking to people especially the unchurched. Sometimes I will pick a sermon idea and look for people who are not Christians, who do not go to church and I will just sit with them and tell them this is something I am planning to speak about, would you guys show up to listen to this? And they would tell me, no, and I would ask them why, then they would say I don’t find that relevant. So I would go back and ask myself how can I go back and preach this same sermon but in a way that is relevant to this person. Like I told on Sunday I was preaching about sex and I sat down with this gentleman and I told him what I want to preach and as we talked through it, he told me that ahh no I can’t come to church because you will tell me that sex is bad out of the bounds of marriage, you will tell me to abstain and I think that is old fashioned that kind of thing. I went back and asked myself how do I apply this, one of the things he had told me is, the problem is we tell them what not to do, we never tell them what to do. And so I picked my sermon and turned it around and I said I am going to tell people what to do. So I showed them the danger, I picked a couple whom I interviewed live on stage and they talked about the challenges that sex outside the bounds of marriage creates for a marriage ... Here is what you ought to do ...take a journey from just pursuing pleasure and pursue purity ... just seek to ensure you do things that honor and glorify God. ... When we made an altar call they were many of them who wanted to change their lifestyles and give their lives to Jesus. But that was influenced by a non-Christian, somebody who does not go to church, who told me the church needs to begin telling people what they are for and not just what they are against.”

For Pastor Edward relevance is key to reaching and impacting this current generation.

***Information about the Preparation of this Report***

Report by Becher Karanja and Steve Rasmussen