

## Naomi Lermore

Location: **Nairobi, KENYA**

Mission: **Christian education**



### The National Association of Christian Chaplains (NACC)

The annual NACC conference took place in Mombasa at the weekend. Miriam was among the 300 chaplains in attendance. Her purpose was to “spy out the land” on behalf of the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) team. The TEE director, Rev John Gatu, is also the Secretary of NACC and well placed to lead us as we explore the possibility of writing a companion book of talks for chaplains.

In a chaplain’s role, there are many opportunities to walk alongside the students and mentor them. During school assemblies, held twice a week in the open air, chaplains bring God’s Word through a short devotion. On Sunday mornings they are responsible for organising and conducting the worship service in a boarding school. (This gives them the chance to preach to a captive audience!) The chaplain may also teach weekly classes to help with the spiritual formation of students, or offer guidance and counselling to individuals.

Miriam chatted with chaplains working in a variety of contexts. She discovered that some are ordained ministers employed by a parish with ten or more schools to take care of, while others have little professional training or serve in one institution only. An important part of a chaplain’s job is to speak God’s Word into the situation, to pray for the staff and students and address the issues they are dealing with, such as mental health and well-being, exam pressure, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying...

The government has recognised the need for more full-time chaplains in schools, but does not want to take on board the cost of employing them. For now, the political will to adopt a curriculum for school chaplains has faltered.

Those who are passionate about their work, are left to plan the content of their talks and find suitable resources on a wide range of topics. This is where the TEE team can help.



Photos: The National Association of Christian Chaplains (NACC)

### Prayer points

- “Let’s send men before us to spy out the land. They can come back and tell us about the way we should go and the cities we will find.” Deuteronomy 1:22 (NCV)
- Pray for God’s wisdom among the TEE team members as we analyse the feedback from the NACC conference, and seek God’s leading in the way we should go.
- Pray for all the school chaplains in Kenya; that they will seek to serve well and have a positive impact on their school community. Thank God for the opportunities they have to preach the gospel, teach, mentor, counsel and guide students.
- Pray for NACC as they liaise with the government in support of school chaplains and on the issue of approving a curriculum for their work.