

# 2020 Caring for Kenya in Review

## Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 virus has altered plans and activities in Kenya just as it has here in our own country. Our July mission trip was cancelled. Churches did not meet together for two months. Our preachers were able to continue encouraging members with visits and to teach one on one Bible studies. Some baptisms happened even during that difficult time.

While the COVID-19 cases in Kenya were mainly in the large cities of Nairobi and Mombasa, travel and size of gatherings was limited throughout the country. Lack of income during the pandemic made it difficult to meet basic needs. In response to the need Caring for Kenya provided in country food aid twice to church families. Aid was also provided for Augustus Kimanzi's congregation in the Mombasa area and the Kitui Prison.



We started this year with sponsorship of 51 boarding school students and 15 day school students. Our sponsored students completed the first term before being sent home. Our Form 4 students (seniors) returned to school for the third term. All of our students are returning to school January 5<sup>th</sup>. Because of the financial impact on families, teachers, and schools we expect to assist with the purchase of school uniforms and food for school lunches in 2021. We plan to sponsor the

education of 65 students in 2021 (\$550 for boarding students and \$200 for day students). From 2008 to date we have helped over 500 students graduate from high school.

## Moving Forward

Through phone calls and emails, several positive things have continued or been completed during the pandemic. In addition to replacing two leaking water tanks, we are now converting our sixth well to solar power replacing either electricity and diesel powered generators resulting in considerable savings in operating costs.

A farm dam that had washed out has been rebuilt making it possible to hold water from the rainy season and increase food production. The area above the dam will be planted with tomatoes and vegetables while the area below the dam will grow bananas, sugar cane, and sweet potatoes. We were able to repair Justus' truck, which was used extensively to haul construction materials for school and church construction and to deliver food aid. .



Plans are in place to conduct Survival Gardening workshops at Nzawa, Kithumula, and the Kitui Prison in 2021. We have been encouraged to see the increased agricultural production where farmers have been trained. Justus Mutua's farm continues to be an example of what can be done agriculturally. His farm production includes onions, tomatoes, peppers, kale, spinach, cabbage, and banana.



Construction of the two additional classrooms for Kavonge Primary Academy has been completed. Plastering, smoothing the concrete floor, and painting are the finishing touches. The Kavonge, Mwangya, Kithumula, and Masaani congregations have continued to add to and/or improve their church buildings. CfK has provided cement while church members have gathered river sand and provided construction labor.

### **Plans for Next Year**

It is our hope that some projects planned for 2020 will be completed in 2021. We plan to assist the Kenyans as they set up a computer lab and internet at Kavonge Primary Academy, teach a Survival Gardening workshop at Ilako Mutata Secondary School, train children's Bible class teachers, and complete the church building construction.

The CfK goal is as church buildings are completed to empower congregations to be more self-reliant. We want to promote evangelism, church growth, development of church leadership, the nurturing of young men interested in ministry, and encourage the planned March two day preacher retreat. We are hoping and praying that a 2021 mission trip will be possible to encourage the Christians in Kenya, visit sponsored students and make additional plans for the future.