

Famine Relief: Short Term and Long Term Healing Hands International Trip to Kenya

.... August, 09 Kenya Newsletter

Famine Relief Update

In the June 26 newsletter, we quoted Erastus as saying, “ we are now surviving under hardship. Famine has just become part of us and we are kind like getting used to it. In my lifetime I have never seen this kind of situation where we have skipped three good rain seasons. Food is so expensive and even our livestock is feeding from our pockets. We eat just to survive. Nearly every home is surviving on a single meal per day, either ugali or a mixture of beans and maize..... Pray for us to continue being strong.

May the Lord continue to add on your faith each day. We know you love us and we love you too. May the grace of our Lord be with you all. Pass our lovely greetings to all the beloved churches and individual brothers and sisters. God bless you Amen.”

As a result of reading the above letter from Erastus we set a goal of raising \$5000 to assist with famine relief to be distributed through the 6 congregations we have in Kenya. To date \$15,850 has been donated by loving, caring people from around the country. Erastus says, “Tell the people we are very thankful. Words cannot express our gratitude. It is incredible! It is very dry here and even getting water to drink is a problem. We are so thankful for the two deep boreholes (wells). Some families are now struggling to have even one meal a day. Many eat only porridge (corn meal and water). To them a meal of maize (corn) and beans is like a privilege.”

Short Term

Famine conditions will continue until the rainy season harvest in January. In the short term food has been and continues to be purchased. Hybrid seed is being purchased for rainy season planting. In addition the church leaders are paying men to dig the well on the school property and to make bricks. They are then able to use the money to purchase food.

Long Term

Adding additional water kiosks and wells, teaching drip irrigation, learning food preservation techniques, and establishing community development projects provide hope and help for future dry seasons. Justus Mutua, one of three men who will graduate from Nairobi Great Commission School in December has been accepted at Day Star University to complete a double major in Bible and Community Development. He has a long range plan to help the people at difficult times like these. Here is a quote from his last letter. “Now the level of success in our life, whether ministry or business, will depend on the kind of planning you make. For sure a life without a plan is a life out of control. To be sincere, it is like a car without a steering wheel. That means you cannot make it go where

you want it to go. A person who does not know or is unsure of where he/she is going will wander back and forth, making no progress even on a straight road. So my point is that I have a plan and a vision for the young people and the church at large. Given a chance to go through my university studies, I assure you that I am being equipped for the benefit of the people of Tulia Kenya. I want to show them how to live a life worthy of Christ and how they can develop their living standards and be healed from poverty mentality sickness. That is the attitude that we are poor and we can do nothing to overcome the situation. It is high time to say NO and make sure that each and every person within the Tulia area develops a plan for his/her own life based on Christian principles.

Just having some idea of what you want to do does not make it a goal. It becomes a goal when you sit down, think it through, write it down, make a plan on how to achieve it, count the cost, and then set out to work on it. Psalms 127:1 says, "unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain; unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stands guard in vain." This means that when we separate God from our goals and dreams, we automatically become failures and miss the meaning of life."

We feel that community development training Justus will receive will help the people create new opportunities to earn a living even in time of drought and famine.

Healing Hands International Trip to Kenya

Two additional water distributions points (water kiosks) are currently being installed with the \$4000 donated by Healing Hands International (HHI). The long wait for water will be reduced and the use of drip irrigation will increase. The water will come from the two deep wells that we have near Tulia. HHI Vice President Chris Gingles and Agriculture Director David Goolsby will be going to Kenya September 4 to see the situation first hand. We are hoping HHI will help us provide additional sources of water and provide training to farmers.

Matt Price and I will be with the HHI team in Kenya. We will meet with the Kenyan church leaders and the Nairobi Great Commission School (NGCS). Tentatively HHI will return to Kenya in 2010 to train preachers in survival gardening and drip irrigation. The preachers can then use this training to help the people and as an outreach tool in establishing new congregations.

In addition to meeting with NGCS and the Kenyan church leaders, we will be evaluating the famine situation. Other planned meetings are with the Kavonge Community Water Project Committee and the school board of the school we are planning to build. We plan to visit the churches, progressive area farmers, the bore holes and water kiosks, area schools, community development projects and the mobile medical clinic. We plan to survey the land where our school will be built. We hope to develop a master plan for building the school and a timeline for the phases of construction. HHI's David Goolsby will offer recommendations for an agriculture use plan of the 16.5 acres.

We will be taking school supplies, drip irrigation kits, and 5 laptop computers. Matt Price will be setting up a computer lab at a secondary school with the laptops that were donated by HHI. Matt and Lewis (Kenyan preacher)

will work together to instruct the teachers and students. In addition to the students learning computers they will also learn about God through using the Bible software loaded on the laptops. We will be seeking to encourage Kenyan wherever we go and share the Gospel with them.

Kenya Face Book Group

If you are on Face Book Matt & Audrey Price have set up a face book group where we hope to post daily updates during the trip. It is the same as our website- caringforkenya.org. We plan to send e-mails also.

Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian Award

We were notified last week that Caring for Kenya will receive the Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian Award October 15. The application was submitted by Celia Elliott, Johnetta Wilde's co-worker. Celia says this recognition will provide new opportunities to tell the story of God's Work in Kenya and resulting in new funding sources.

Summer 2010 Trip to Kenya

Some of the time spent with the Kenyan leaders will be used to formulate plans for a June, 2010 mission trip to Kenya. We have always said we see our role as helping Africans take Africa for Christ. Continue praying for our Christian brothers and sisters in Kenya and for the success of the upcoming mission trips.