

Bringing Hope and Changing Lives

...2022 July Caring for Kenya Trip

Our seven member team left for Kenya July 14th. Carl Burkybile, Grace Taylor, and Marie Shaffer left from Illinois, Gary Masters, Linda Masters, and Logan Cutts from Florida, and Terry Master from Arkansas.



During the mission trip the team visited five congregations. Two new souls were baptized and added to the Masaani congregation. Meeting with the church leaders helped to identify successes and challenges along with the impact of Covid-19. Caring for Kenya provided food aid during Covid to members of the congregations when members lost jobs and churches were not allowed to meet. When schools restarted food aid was also provided for the students.

Because of Covid travel restrictions, the last team trip to Kenya was in 2018. This trip was an opportunity to renew and strengthen relationships with our fellow Christians and friends in Kenya. As is always the case with a trip to Kenya we were able to see projects that had been completed, like improvements to church buildings and the church sponsored Kavonge Primary Academy. The team also saw the work in progress for developing the Kwambelu community garden. Land is being cleared and fencing is being built in preparation planting. Some fruit trees have already been planted. Plans are in place to plant beans in drip irrigated raised planting beds and add passion fruit to the fruit tree area. The produce will benefit families and the students at the Kavonge Primary Academy.



The team visited water wells and became aware of repairs needed at one well. Caring for Kenya has helped drill 9 wells. They visited the site of another proposed well that would benefit the

development of the Kavonge community garden. During the trip 10 gardens were visited and we observed vegetables growing in the dry season because they had been taught survival gardening and the use of drip irrigation.



Team member Logan

Cutts led a bee keeping seminar training 40 people and providing 9 bee hives along with hive tools, bee brushes, smokers, and honey jars.

As more fruit trees are planted the bees will help increase fruit production. A visit to Dr. Peter Kithuka's fruit tree nursery was an opportunity to see avocado, orange, mango, passion fruit, and lemon tree seedlings. Over 200 Caring for Kenya farmers have formed a fruit tree coop and have already planted over 600 fruit trees.



The trip provided the opportunity to visit and provide supplies to medical clinic operators Celestine and James.

In addition to providing medical supplies, Grace and Marie were able to administer simple eye exams to determine the need for reading glasses. They provided over 30 pair of glasses with the reminding supply given to Celestine so she could continue helping those who have trouble



reading. When Peninnah received her glasses she said, "These glasses will help me read the Bible and teach young children about God."

Grace, with Marie's assistance, taught the

6th graders how to construct a small battery operated car. Iron said, "It was fun. I made something that works... it runs!" Mercy said, "It was enjoyable. I learned to make connections and reverse the flow of current causing the car to go backwards."



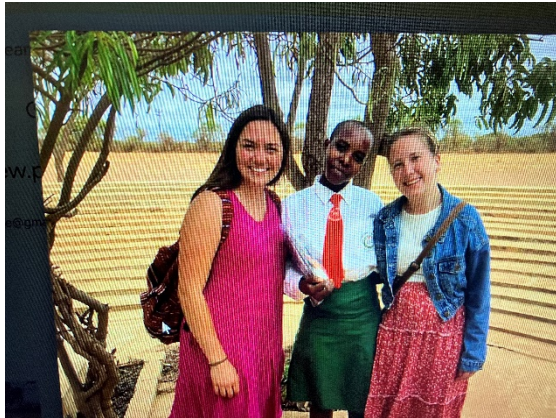
Grace evaluated the computer lab and together we made the decision to bring internet to the school and add a printer/copier to the computer lab.

At Ilako Mutata Secondary School we met with the school principal and the village chief. Marie taught soil testing to the school's 24 agriculture students and the agriculture teacher was given a drip irrigation kit. In coordination with Healing Hands International a survival gardening workshop is being planned for the school. A computer and LCD projector along with agriculture videos were given to the school.



The team had discussed with church leaders about the high rate of unemployment in the area and the need for vocational training. The possibility of starting a vocational training sponsorship program was discussed. The team visited

Augustus' Soaring Eagle Vocational School that is teaching sewing to girls. Each team member was given shirt or dress made by the students. Caring for Kenya will be comparing options for sponsoring vocational training vs starting their own vocational school.



The current secondary school student sponsorship

program began in 2007. Over 450 students are now high school graduates as a result of the program. Each of the last three years 65 students have been sponsored. The team brought a packet of personal hygiene and school supplies for each of the students. Several students were visited and

received

a packet. The other packets will be delivered to the students by Jacob. One student visited with tears in her eyes said, **"I wondered if I would ever meet the people who made it possible for me to be in school."**



Several of our sponsored students have been able to complete a college degree. We are aware of teachers, nurses, counselors, business leaders, etc. that were part of the sponsorship program. We visited with four college graduates during the trip.

Enock's sponsorship began in 2007. When he visited with us, we learned that he is a college graduate, married, and works in the Safaricom finance department. When his sponsorship began his father had passed away and shortly after his sponsorship started his mother passed. Enock said, **"When I learned my school fees were cleared tears of joy ran over my eyes."** Enock continued by saying, "The pillar of my life is the people of Caring for Kenya. If it were not for you, I couldn't have managed to perform well in school and given the opportunity to go to the university. My education has changed the outlook for my family. Many special thanks. Be proud that your investment in my education was worthwhile. I immensely thank you for that bold initiative of taking care of the less fortunate in the African continent. Your efforts will never go unrewarded. May God's favor and blessing forever be upon you and your family."

Caring for Kenya and our friends in Kenya say thank you to donors who make God's work in Kenya possible.