

June 2011 Kenya Mission Trip

We now have nine congregations including one on the other side of the mountain near Zombe. During the Leader's Meeting I spoke about Loving God, Loving Others, and Living Christ. We discussed keys to church growth.

During the trip we also put plans in place for the concrete floor in the Masaani church building, the foundation and the brick walls at Mwangya church building and a hand dug well on the Kithumula church property.

We toured the site where the Nzawa congregation plans to build their building. We made church benches and distributed baby blankets and clothes for children. A good one on one conversation with each preacher offered encouragement and a personal challenge.

We took \$180 worth of medical supplies for Celestine's medical clinic and for James use in treatment from his house. Celestine's clinic serves the Nzawa and Masaani area. Tulia area now also has a clinic. We re-established the mobile medical clinic on a trial basis to the Zombe area two days/month. James will provide his time and we purchased \$140 worth of in country supplies

for him, including malaria medicine. James asked to take Priscally Kuyumba Mutia in for an examination at the local hospital. The examination revealed the need for surgery and follow up treatment

(\$600) to remove the fluid and infection from her abdomen. Surgery is scheduled for this week. In addition to



Celestine with mother, baby, and blanket

talking with James, Celestine, and church leaders while we were in Kenya we talked with hospitals, clinics, and nurses about bringing a medical team to Kenya in 2012. Everyone we talked with was excited about the possibility of medical personnel and medical supplies being bought to Kenya. They also encouraged us to bring more water filters and eye glasses and be prepared to teach health and hygiene.

The community development program is going great. We are buying donkeys, rabbits, goats, chickens, and sewing machines. We met with the Ladies Self Help Soap Making Group, the Rabbit Keepers Group, and the Goat Raising Coop. We took more drip irrigation kits for

Justus Mutua to give to people who have made compost piles and raised planting beds. At Justus's request we took two incubators so he can hatch chicks. He has been unable to meet the demand for baby chicks. During the trip we were looking for opportunities to help people who were helping themselves. HHI provided \$2000 for us to use to impact women. We provided medical treatment, bought sewing machines, funded education, provided water filters, and bought goats and rabbits to help women.

We followed up with many students from last year's food production and food preservation workshops. Many people are using what they learned. Celestine Mutua did her own food preservation workshop at Nzawa for 21 ladies with the help of HHI funding. Many of the farmers said,



Augustus & Carl in irrigated field

"What I learned has changed the way I farm." HHI's Assistant Agricultural Director Ebenezer Udofia



Matt and Joseph building benches



Containers to fill because pump was broken

toured farms, community development projects, and congregations with us. He will be a real asset to the work in Kenya. He was impressed with the work we are doing and offered to teach seminars for the Goat Raising Coop and the Rabbit Keeper's Group. He can also help with funding the expansion of some projects. In Nairobi we met with Kenya Monsanto Head, Kinyua Mbijewe to discuss a potential grant application that would help fund agricultural development and training in our area. Whether the grant proposal is successful or not, the meeting produced many helpful suggestions as we look to the future.

As you know our 2010 well drilling resulted in a 140 meter dry hole. While in Kenya we met the Kitui West Agriculture Ministry to explore the idea of a reservoir/ farm pond on our land to provide water for the school and agricultural development. When they told us the idea was not feasible, we visited the Regional Minister of Water, Irrigation, and Geology. They had suggested that nearby sites be identified where the landowner would allow a survey and be willing to sell the land if a drilling site were selected. On June 29th the Regional Geologists did a geological survey with three soundings. The first sounding identified a promising drilling site one km from the Kavonge Church Building and

two km from the top of the hill. Some trees will need to be cleared to get the drilling rig to the site near a dried up streambed. The permit is being obtained and Erastus hopes to drill in either August or September. Electricity is nearby and the plan would be to pump water to the top of the hill to a water storage tank and then have piped gravity flow water down the one km to the school property.

We visited several schools, met with students, gave them a student packet and took their pictures. We have several students who rank high in their class. We challenged all the students to take advantage of the opportunity they are being given. We met with the District Minister of Education. The District Educational Officer was amazed and pleased to learn about our student sponsorship program. He asked for a list of the schools and students sponsored. We talked with Erastus and Lewis about deadlines and new procedures to improve the sponsorship program.

There will always be challenges and disappointments but we came away from this trip more convinced than ever that God is being glorified and lives of people are being impacted in his name.

*For the Cause of Christ,
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and Wesley Orr*