

2015 Mission Trip to Kenya

Churches and Church Leaders

One of the priorities when we travel to Kenya is to meet with the Caring for Kenya church leaders. Our meeting focused on empowering all Christians to share the Gospel. We said “God does not call the equipped but equips the called”. We discussed how we could work together to equip each member to share the Gospel. The Kenyan preachers discussed ways they were currently working to bring people to Christ and how we could help each member become committed to sharing the Gospel. We discussed individual and congregational goals. We also discussed the need for the preachers to develop a “tent making” plan to support themselves as preacher support is potentially reduced. During our trip our mission team met individually with the 11 preachers and Fredrick (first year Nairobi Great Commission School student). We visited congregations. A highlight of the trip included baptizing nine people at the Masaani congregation.



Mission Center



We met with Erastus, Justus Mutua, and Joseph to view and discuss the continued construction and future use of the Caring for Kenya Mission Center. The center will be available for preacher retreats, ladies inspiration days, youth rallies, women’s coop groups, community meetings, and housing for mission teams.

Education

Currently we are sponsoring the secondary school education for 23 day students and 25 boarding school students. We visited several of the 25 schools where our students attend distributing student packets (pencils, pens, notebooks, wash cloths, soap, tooth brush, tooth paste, etc.). We continue to realize the impact that our support has on the students and their families. These students are orphans or from poor families and would not have the opportunity for an





education without our support. We met with John and Geoffrey who are attending the university on scholarship following our sponsorship. Geoffrey said, "Thanks for your compassion and support. May God bless you." John said, "I am very grateful. The hand that gives is blessed. Thank you." Mary Caster, another sponsored student now attending college indicated she wants to be a teacher. She said, "Thank you very much. God bless those who have helped me get an education."

The Kavaani congregation has a primary school where we provided pencils and soccer balls. The Kavonge congregation is starting a pre-school. The Masaani congregation sponsors a primary school. We have the land that has been purchased for building a secondary school and we are praying that we will be able to have our own Christian secondary school in the future.

Joyce, children's Bible class teacher and primary school administrator, made us aware of the need for school uniforms by 17 of her students. Team member Steve Collins had the students measured and the uniforms made. When the uniforms were presented to the students, the parents were present to thank us. School Board Chairman Benson said, "We are very grateful. We pray God be with you and that you can help even more people."



Community Development



We work with a variety of community coop groups. Kavaani church member Jephath organized a 35 member farmer coop where they work with the Food and Agriculture Organization to test new crop varieties. The BROOM women's coop told us they work to "sweep away their problems". The 25 ladies each contribute monthly and then provide loans and grants to each other. Loans have been used for household items, school fees, and start-up businesses. They asked for a survival gardening workshop.

The BY GRACE women's coop of 13 women has purchased 100 chairs and Healing Hands International agree to purchase a tent for the coop. They will rent the tent and chairs for gatherings like weddings, funerals, and graduation parties. The income will help them provide for their families.

Tulia Water Project

The three well six kiosk water project in the Tulia area has provided over 18 million liters of clean water to the area. As we visited kiosks we talked with women and children who came to get water. Over and over we heard about the impact the clean water was having on the



community. Eunice Mutumwa said, “This clean water means my five children are no longer getting amoeba parasites, typhoid, and tapeworms”. The water project was a partnership with Caring for Kenya, Healing Hands International, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary International. Justus Vundi said, “This project will impact people who aren’t even born yet. The project is bringing an attitude of hope for the future... that life can be better for our children.” The kiosk visits provided opportunities to pass out new dresses to many of the young girls waiting to fill their water containers. While we were in Kenya, the seventh kiosk began to provide water. As the water flow filled the first jericans, the dusty road filled with donkeys and people carrying jericans coming to get clean water.

Agriculture... Reducing Hunger



The new source of clean water close to home has resulted in improved nutrition and reduced hunger. Garden beds are being established and expanded. Farmer Anthony Musembi says the new water source has allowed him to plant raised garden beds with tomatoes, spinach, kale, and peppers. With his donkey he carries 20 jericans per day (20 liters/jericans). Caring for Kenya community development leaders Justus Mutua and Justus Vundi have helped several individuals and the Kavonge congregation start raised bed drip irrigated gardens.

Health Resources and Training

Realizing that clean water is only one part of improving the health of the people, mission team member Steve Clarkson shared health, hygiene, and sanitation resources with local health care professionals Celestine, James, and Frieda. They will be training community groups and encouraging the construction of tippy taps. A tippy tap is a hands free way to provide soap and water for washing hands after using a latrine.



New Water Project



Again Caring for Kenya is partnering with Healing Hands International, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary International to bring clean water to more communities. The Caring for Kenya communities of Nzawa, Masaani, and Kithumula will be getting deep wells with clean water. The mission team met with these communities, their community water

committee, and the local schools. Kithumula water committee member Alfred Mwanzia said, "Water is life. It is important to have clean water. We are now getting water from the river and that contaminated water causes disease. We will be happy to get clean water. We say thank you for the heart to help us." Masaani and Kithumula schools have gathered Body Mass Index (BMI) numbers on their students. Once the water project is complete and the students have been drinking clean water for a year the BMI numbers will be taken again. As the numbers go up, we will have evidence that the clean water is improving the health of the students.



In the future we hope to raise additional funds to bring clean water to the Zombe community. Currently they have a 22 foot deep sand pit well in their dried up riverbed. They use a bucket on a rope to get water. Currently a geological survey is being done to help us determine the depth the well will need to be drilled and allow us to develop cost estimates. From the beginning of Caring for Kenya we have said we work to meet physical needs and thereby create opportunities to meet spiritual needs. Through water, agriculture, education, health care, and community development many have been led to Christ. If you would like to donate contact us through our website: www.caringforkenya.org or at Caring for Kenya, 3508 E. University Ave., Urbana, IL 61802