

2010 Mission Trip to Kenya

Long-Term Famine Relief

A six member Caring for Kenya (CfK) team joined a 4 member Healing Hands International (HHI) team at Nairobi Great Commission School on the evening of June 10th to finalize two 5-day hands-on workshops. Several workshop supplies had been brought with the team, other supplies and tools were gathered by Erastus Kavuti in Kenya, and the remaining supplies were purchased Friday June 11th in Kenya as the group traveled to Tulia in eastern Kenya. The area had been without rain for three years prior to October, 2009. In October the rainy season actually brought rain and a good crop to follow. Three times in the last 5 years CfK had provided short term famine relief through food distribution and the "Food for Work"



program. The workshops and drilling another well are part of a long-term plan to reduce famine conditions. The workshops through producing more food in the dry season and preserving excess production in the rainy season will result in a more stable food supply. The workshops were held at Ilako Mututa Secondary School. 74 men in the food production workshop learned how to make compost piles, raised planting beds, use drip irrigation, and apply mulch. The workshop taught them simple, affordable, practical, and sustainable farming methods. The 26 men and women in the food preservation workshop learned solar dehydration, leathering, salt, sugar, oil, & smoke curing, brining, pickling, fermenting, and high acid canning. At the workshop, Timothy Mwanja, said, "the things I have learned will make a difference in my life, the lives of my children, and the lives of my grand children" People from throughout Kenya that attended the workshops asked "can these workshops be done in our area?". Monday June 21st workshop participant Joseph Kenyatta was baptized. Tom

Opondo of NGCS commented after the workshop, "there were a lot of sermons preached in the garden this week". Thuka Phillip said, "I can't express in words my deep and sincere gratitude for what you imparted and gave to the community, school, needy students, and myself. May God bless you all abundantly!".

Congregations

Saturday after the workshops the team met with the Kenyan church leaders to evaluate the workshops and to learn about the 7 congregations we work with in the Kitui District of Kenya. The newest congregation was started in April and already has 40 members and another 40 children in Bible class. While the men met, the ladies on the team met with 50



ladies from the Kavonge Church of Christ Both Sundays of the trip the team spread out to attend worship services at the various congregations with the men providing the sermon. As is always the case, we enjoyed being a part of the service seeing the joy, the zeal, and enthusiasm of the people. It is a thrill to watch the children in Bible class and hear them sing. At the Mwingya congregation when Johnetta gave the children cards that said "Jesus Loves You" (made by a 3 and 5 year old back home), the children spontaneously started singing "Jesus Loves Me" in English. After services several parents talked to us about the impact that sponsoring their son/daughter's education had on their families. When communion sets that we brought from the U.S. were given Erastus said, "to us



this is like gold". They replaced a plastic bowl for the bread and a piece of wood with holes as a cup holder. Church members we excited to receive the 105 Bibles and 140 song books in their tribal language of Kamba.

Visiting and Encouraging



The second week of the trip involved visiting church families, congregations, and schools where we sponsor students. Kenyans consider it an honor for us to visit their home. We visited 14 homes and shambas (gardens). We visited 8 schools and 35 of our 73 sponsored students. Erastus and Lewis will take the packet to the other students (CfK T-shirt, pencil, tooth brush and tooth paste). Everywhere we went we continued to see the impact that the sponsorship program has on young people and their families. We heard from students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community members as we traveled. The

program brings hope for a better life in this world as well as eternity in heaven for many who have become Christians.



During the visits to the congregations we hear their concerns, saw their progress, and learned about their challenges. We learned about plans to buy land, build church buildings, and complete school buildings. We distributed 80 water filters to families drinking contaminated water and gave 60 mattresses and blankets donated by HHI to children, many who were sleeping on the dirt floor of their mud hut home. Children were excited to receive new dresses, shirts, and pants. Bible class teachers receive visuals to help teach the children. While the men met, the women in the team spent time with the ladies and gave them gifts of jewelry, soap, lotion, etc.



Health Care

As visits were made medical needs were identified. James set up doctor's appointments for Josphat, Justus, and Kasungwa and surgery was scheduled for Josphat.. Medicine was purchased for Jonas and Elizabeth. Celestine's medical clinic at Nzawa and the community health care workers at Kavonge and Zombe were given medical supplies.



Celestine was given money to replace a broken stethoscope and blood pressure machine as well as water filters, mattresses, and blankets to distribute to poor families. Wherever we traveled Johnetta did eye exams and distributed a total of 60 pair of glasses.

Water Kiosk Development

In September 2009 HHI had donated \$4000 to add water distribution points (kiosks) to our existing deep wells. At that time people were traveling as far as 12 miles to the well and waiting in line as much as 3 hours to get water. When we visited the well site on this trip to saw that the 24,000 liter storage tank at the well had been set on a 12 foot tall platform to increase water pressure. The community members had dug the trench to lay the pipe to the next kiosk. The side benefit of the higher water pressure was that containers at the present site to be filled faster resulting in either short lines or no line at all.



The School and the Well

Drawings of the secondary school that we plan to build near Tulia were reviewed. The land was walked and GPS readings were taken so that Steve can develop a map of the area. The hand dug well was viewed and the potential well drilling site was reviewed in relation to the surrounding area. Elevation points were compared to determine the potential for water distribution to the surrounding area. Discussions with HHI and Stephen (from Mombassa) hopefully will bring together a drilling rig and a driller in the near future. Brick making will continue and once the well is in place the construction will begin. Also once the well is complete Stephen has ensured us that electricity can be brought to the site. We are exploring the possibility of satellite internet for the school.



Helping People Help Themselves

During our visit to Zombe we observed the sewing coop that we established in 2007 in operation. They are making school uniforms, shirts, and women's slippers. The coop provide income for single mothers to support their family.



Through of the generosity of 4 women in the U.S. we were able to buy 2 more sewing machines. The first machine was delivered to Eunice, one of our sponsored students. She is an AIDS orphan who just completed tailoring school. With her training and the new sewing machine she will be able to support herself. She was excited beyond words. The other machine was taken to Dorothy at Kithimula. She was excited about being able to make clothes for her family and to make items to sell to earn an income.

Justus Mutua, a graduate of NGCS, has completed his community development program at the university and will now work to help bring people out of what he calls "poverty mentality sickness". He says "many have the attitude that they are poor, their family has always been poor, and they will always be poor and there is nothing they can do about it". Through his training and leadership he will give the people hope that things can change. Through development projects and cooperatives along with grants and mini-loans from CfK we expect to change people and impact their future. During the trip we bought 2 oxen, 1 donkey, 8 goats, and 20 baby chicks. A ladies goat raising coop. was started at Masaani. A chicken coop is underway at Tulia and a youth rabbit project is being started. Tree nursery and grain milling coops are being considered. After the workshop, several farmers indicated they are planning to work as a team to develop their farms.



Thank you to all the churches and individuals who prayed for this trip and contributed funds to meet the needs of our friends in Kenya. May we continue to join our hands and hearts in service to God for many years to come. May God guide us as we seek to help African's take Africa for Christ.