

2019 December Caring for Kenya Newsletter



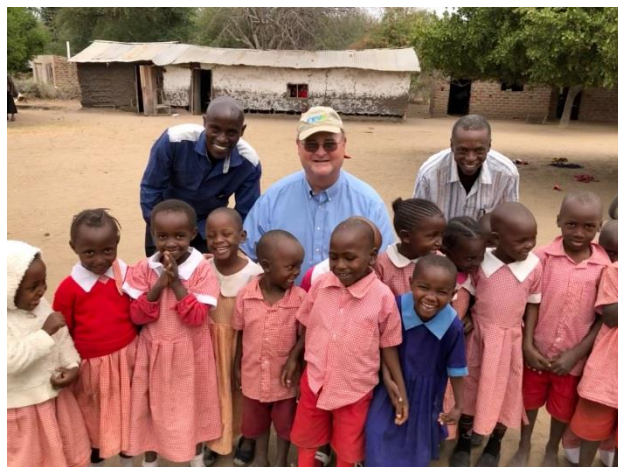
Gary Masters was able to make the trip to Kenya in July and Carl Burkybile and Steve Hollinger were able to go in December. A new solar powered water well has been completed this year providing a dependable water source for the Kavonge Primary Academy and 16 acre school land where we hope to build either a secondary school or a vocational school. Gary was able to meet with the Kavonge Vision Committee to discuss how we can partner together moving forward. Carl and Steve were able to travel with Justus Mutua to see the completed well and the construction of the 5th and 6th classrooms at Kavonge Primary. As a part of the construction the current church building will become part of the school and a new church building is under construction. As the school grows so the church also grows. Early on Erastus said, "We want to be known as the church that cares." The parents are impressed with the education that their children are receiving and are attracted to the church. In 2020 we plan set up a five station computer lab and complete more school construction. Two donors have already contributed toward the construction and computer lab.

We are projecting the 2020 summer mission trip will be July 15- Aug. 1. We hope to have a tech. person on the trip that is able to set up the computer lab and internet for the primary school and the mission center. Having internet at the mission center would not only help us when we visit but also make it possible to add Erastus and Vundi to the email conversations that we have with Justus.



Visits with the congregations and participating in community Bible studies provided the opportunity to encourage Christians and share the Gospel message. Two were baptized in July and another four were baptized during and right after the December trip. Since December is the rainy season we had the opportunity to see Erastus do a baptism in the river.

Gary was able to meet with all the water committees where we have drilled wells and stressed the importance of record keeping and talked about the annual audit of records that we plan to do. We provided kiosk operators with a ledger book for their recording. Gary also met with the preachers in the Zombe area and helped resolve the issues associated with the Zombe well project. Working with the Kenyans, Gary was able to move a diesel powered generator from Kithumula to the Mwangya well and provide water where the well had not operated for two years. Kithumula is one of four wells that are solar powered. The wells projects we have done in partnership with Rotary and Healing Hands International are now providing water for 45,000 people and 20,000 cows and goats.



Gary was able to visit two primary schools and some of the 65 secondary school students that CfK donors sponsor and hand out student school packets. In December Justus Mutua shared grade reports and thank you letters from the sponsored students.

He reported that 5 of the students will be attending the university. In the last 11 years Caring for Kenya donors have made it possible for over 500 students to get a secondary school education! Several students have been able to earn scholarships to earn a college degree.



One of the schools where we have sponsored students, Ilako Mutata, has requested an agriculture workshop during the July mission trip. The Vision Committee is now proposing a vocational school rather than a secondary school on our 16 plot of land. Agriculture would be the first area of vocational training. The first step in developing the land will be fencing. Trees and brush will need to be removed in order to begin the development. In July we are considering the possibility of installing fencing and conducting a Survival Gardening workshop to begin a community coop. garden. Two of our eight congregations are currently utilizing some of their land area with a church garden. The Nzawa congregation has a fenced four acre area where the preachers want to demonstrate to the community what can be produced using drip irrigated raised planting beds.



On both trips we provided medical supplies for Celestine's medical clinic. She indicated that the medicines she needs are often not available. She plans to provide a list of medicines for us to bring in July. We also plan to assemble and bring birthing kits for her as she assists with home baby deliveries.

In July and December we met with congregations and conducted community Bible studies. We were pleased to hear that the preachers had held a two day preacher's seminar at the mission center with all the preachers attending. Erastus is training and mentoring two men to help with preaching as he hopes to plant another congregation. During the December trip most of the preachers were involved with 100 students at the annual Youth Bible Camp. The preacher at the host congregation was converted through World Bible School and has now been preaching for over 50 years. He served as an inspiration to all of us.

