

2020 Caring for Kenya Update

Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 virus has altered plans and activities in Kenya just as it has here in our own country. Our July mission trip was cancelled. Churches did not meet together for two months. Our preachers were able to continue encouraging members with visits and to teach one on one Bible studies. Some baptisms happened even during that difficult time.



We started this year with sponsorship of 51 boarding school students and 15 day school students. Our sponsored students completed the first term before being sent home but expected to return in September. The teachers were scheduled to return two weeks before the students came back for the third term and then the government suspended school attendance until January 2021. Funds collected but not spent for the 2020 sponsorship will be used next school year to fund school supplies, school uniforms, and

food for school lunches. Lack of income during the pandemic has made it difficult to meet basic needs. Extra assistance with the school expenses next year will be especially helpful to low income parents. From 2008 to date we have helped over 500 students graduate from secondary school.

While the Kenya lockdowns and virus cases were mainly in the large cities of Nairobi and Mombasa, travel and size of gathering was limited throughout the country. We provided food aid through the Likoni congregation in the Mombasa area. Their preacher, Augustus Kimanzi, is a graduate of Nairobi Great Commission School and was part of the first Survival Gardening workshop we did in Tulia in 2010. He grew up in the Kitui area and also serves as an agriculture trainer for Healing Hands.



Moving Forward

Thankfully churches are allowed to meet now and many activities are starting up again. Through phone calls and emails, several positive things have been continued and completed during the pandemic. Two busted water tanks have been replaced. One of our best water wells is currently be equipped with solar power meaning a savings of \$450/month in electricity costs.



A farm dam that had washed out is being rebuilt making it possible to increase food production. We were able to repair Justus' truck, which was used extensively to haul construction materials in various locations.

We have been encouraged by the increased agricultural production. Justus Mutua's farm continues to be an example of what can be done agriculturally. His farm production includes onions, tomatoes, peppers, kale, spinach, cabbage, and banana. The chicken raising co-op has its second batch of chickens. Erastus is currently harvesting sweet potatoes.



Construction of the two additional classrooms for Kavonge Primary Academy has continued. Painting, smoothing the concrete floor, and painting remain. The Kavonge, Mwangya, Kithumula, and Kavaani congregations have continued with the construction of expanded church buildings.



Plans for Next Year



It is our hope that projects planned for 2020 will be completed next year. We plan to set up computer lab and internet at Kavonge Primary Academy, teach a Survival Gardening workshop at Ilako Mutata Secondary School, train children's Bible class teachers, begin developing the Tulia Secondary School property and complete the church building construction.

We are hoping and praying that a 2021 mission trip will be possible to encourage the Christians in Kenya, visit sponsored students and make additional plans for the future.



Kavonge church building expansion