

Erastus' Visit to America

... September, 2008 Newsletter

As I review the mission work in Kenya I realize that 2009 will mark a 20 year friendship with Erastus Kavuti. He has said many times that God brought us together. God used the Kenyan Air Force and the U.S. Air Force to bring him to America. At basic training a man from Granada invited him to a Bible study taught by a man from Mexico. He was baptized in Texas and came to Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul, Illinois as a new Christian. As he grew in Christ, we grew in our appreciation and love for him. Erastus made the decision that on completion of his Air Force commitment that he wanted to return to his village as a native missionary. After completing the two year Nairobi Great Commission School he returned home to teach and preach.

Spiritual Progress and Needs

Beginning with one Christian and power of God to touch lives, we now have 6 congregations with over 200 Christians. Church members are growing spiritually and more of their friends and neighbors are coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. The churches are especially seeking to involve the youth and in August held a very successful youth rally.

At present seven preachers have been trained at the Nairobi Great Commission School and three more men are currently being trained. During Erastus' visit we will be asking for an increased financial commitment from supporting congregations and seeking new congregations to join the partnership of God's work in Kenya. Providing men trained and prepared to preach the Gospel is one of the keys to reaching more people and to expanding the number of congregations in the Kitui District of Kenya. Pray that our partnership will bring glory to God and help many people come to know Jesus.

Food/Agriculture

This is the dry season in Eastern Kenyan. The July crop failure has produced famine conditions. The rainy season crop planting will begin in October and that crop will be harvested in February and March. We want to purchase 100 KG bags of maize (\$30/bag) and 100 KG bags of beans (\$60) that can be divided and given to needy families. Most families are eating one meal/day consisting of maize and beans (costing \$1.50/day). Money is also needed to help buy quality seed for planting.

Water

Many people are benefiting from the two deep wells we helped to drill. Water costing approximately 1 cent/gallon is distributed at the well but the lines are long and many people walk long distances to reach the well. World Vision has donated 1600 of PVC pipe to develop another water distribution point up the mountainside. The pump at the well site could be used to pump the water but another 24,000 liter water storage tank is needed at the new distribution point. The cost of developing each additional distribution point (called water kiosk) would be \$1800 to \$2000.

Education:

- **Building a School**

The land (16.5 acres) has been purchased and brick making has begun. By August 2009 the Kenyans will have made 20,000 bricks and will begin building the first 2 classrooms and an office. While Erastus is in the U.S. we will discuss the building design and formally announce the fund raising campaign for building and equipping the school. Our goal is to have the freshman and sophomore class ready to start in January of 2010.

- **School Student Sponsorship**

A secondary school education provides Kenyan young people with hope for a better life. For families who pay per session, we need your third term payment. Erastus has brought names of additional students needing sponsoring families for 2009. Many of the students we sponsor are orphans and all of them come from needy families. Erastus speaks of the spiritual growth that he sees in the sponsored students.

Health Care

James continues to provide health care for people in Tulia, Masaani, and Zombe with our mobile medical clinic. For many of his patients his weekly visit to their community is the only health care option. We continue to seek individuals, especially medical personnel with an interest in sponsoring a diagnostic lab (\$2500).

Erastus' Schedule

Erastus will be in the U.S. from Sept 18 to Oct. 8. He will be speaking at 8 congregations and meeting with several groups of people (i.e. the elders, medical personnel, student sponsors, college students, etc.). He will provide an update on God's work in Kenya including new opportunities to help. We will meet with congregations in Tennessee, Arkansas, Illinois, and Michigan. In Nashville we will meet with Healing Hands International. They will provide assistance in planning the agricultural use of the school land. In addition to the basics, our students will be taught survival gardening and the use of drip irrigation. The food that they raise will be used for lunch at school and the surplus will be sold to help pay the operating expenses of the school. Nairobi Great Commission School is interested in using our land and classrooms for an extension school during the secondary school breaks in April, August, and December where preachers will also be given instruction in food production. When they establish a congregation they will be able to teach sustainable agriculture as a community outreach. Pray that God will guide us as we strive to service Him by ministering to the needs of our brothers and sisters in Kenya

For the Cause of Christ,
Carl Burkybile