

Bringing Hope and Clean Water to Eastern Kenya - 2014

Saturday February 22nd representative of U.S. Rotary, Thika (Kenya) Rotary, Caring for Kenya, Healing Hands International, and the Tulia, Kenya community met to view and review the water project. Thika Rotary Club President Samuel Mwangi spoke to the community members who were present. The group included 30 people who are interested in developing a Rotary Community Corps (RCC).



The RCC could propose additional service projects to the parent club, Thika Rotary, and serve as a project managing group. Erastus Kavuti spoke on behalf of the community and Carl Burkybile spoke on behalf of Healing Hands, Caring for Kenya, and U.S. Rotary Clubs. The group visited the 6 new kiosks and water tank stands. The electric wiring certificates have been issued and the contractor will begin the work of

bringing electricity to the three well sites. The goal is to have electricity to at least borehole number one within two weeks. Rotary International comes for an on-site visit March 21st. Thika Rotary agreed to develop and pay for a plaque at each kiosk that would include the Rotary Wheel along with the Healing Hands and Caring for Kenya emblems. Thika Rotary is also planning a billboard for the community that will recognize the donors.



Titus (local contractor who has been involved in the project) provided lunch for the group. During lunch several people gave their thoughts about the impact of the



water project on the community. Church leader and Caring for Kenya Coordinator Erastus Kavuti said, "The project has touched the people economically and emotionally. It has created teamwork. The community now sees the church as a group that wants to help them. They see the project as a group of people who want to join together to help each other." Titus said, "The people have a sense of ownership in the project because they have been

personally involved". Workers are saying, "Someday this will be my water and someday this water with help us to establish a new secondary school." Assistant Project Leaders Justus Vundi said, "The project has developed a sharing attitude with people working together." He said, "Both men and women have been



involved in digging the trenches to lay the water line piping. Children 14 years old and older have also helped dig. “ Project leader Justus Mutua said, “The community views the project as a miracle from God. “ He said, “The hope of water ... the thought of water... has lifted the spirits of the community during this time of extreme drought.” When the project is completed 15,000 people will have clean water. Community members shared their thoughts about the benefits of the project has and will have on the people.

The project will:

1. save time in walking for water
2. improve the health of the people because they will be getting clean water
3. increase food production because more water will be available
4. will improve the attitude of the people because they will be less concerned about drought
5. Increase the supply of water thereby lowering the cost of water
6. convince the people that things can be accomplished when people work together
7. show God’s love and created opportunities to share the good news of Jesus
8. create a community unity and an attitude of sharing and caring for each other
9. change the attitude toward the church... seeing the church as a group of caring people



Assistant Project Leader Justus Vundi (26 years old) said that during the project older people developed a respect for him and his leadership as they worked together. He said, “This project will impact people who aren’t even born yet. The success of this project and long term benefits of the project will bring other projects and community improvements. The project is bringing an attitude of hope for the future... that life can be better for our children!”

