

## **Kenya Mission** **Reflecting on 2008.... Looking Forward to 2009**

....December, 2008 Newsletter

It's gotta be God. As I review the mission work in Kenya I see God at work. In March, 2008 a sixth congregation (Mwanyga) was planted. It has already grown to 25 adults and 50 children. This year three more evangelists/preachers were added to the work (Michael, Lewis, and Justus Mwendwa) as they graduated from Nairobi Great Commission School (NGCS). Eight preachers are now working with six congregations. Three men (Peter, Justus Mutua, and Jeremiah) started their training at NGCS. American families from 16 states this year served as sponsors for the secondary school education of 45 students (up from 22 students in 2007).

During 2007 \$16,000 was raised to purchase 16.5 acres as the site to build a secondary school. Planning for the construction and operation of the school has begun. Brick making and digging a well are underway. The land is being surveyed to aid with the development of a master plan for the building of the school and the agricultural development of the property. Fund raising including "Build a School Sunday" has brought in \$12,000 toward the funds needed for building and equipping the school.

In September and early October Erastus traveled to the U.S. to report to congregations and individuals who have supported God's work in Kenya. His visit resulted in \$6000 contributed to famine relief. To date 190 families have benefited from food distribution. James wrote that the food distribution "brought joy to the church and glory to God". During Erastus visit he reported about the success, challenges, and needs of the 6 congregations in Kenya. He brought several community development proposals ranging from developing a grain milling cooperative to a mushroom raising project to raising *Jatropha* trees to produce oil for bio-diesel.

Looking forward to 2009 the famine and the current worldwide economy will likely result in the need for more famine relief. We will monitor the situation and make requests as needed.

We are seeking sponsors for 61 secondary school students. Most of the students are in boarding school and need \$500 for the year. They are orphans or they come from very poor families. We will continue to raise money to build our secondary school. After the land survey is completed the school master plan with development stages and timelines will be formulated. Brick making will continue and in March building the first classrooms will begin. A hand dug well will be completed on the school property. A fence will be built about the property and agricultural development will begin with tree planting.

Peter, Jeremiah, Justus Mutua, and Matthew will complete their training with the Nairobi Great Commission School. As a result we anticipate more congregations will be planted. We expect the existing congregations will continue to grow spiritually and numerically. Some of the congregations will be purchasing additional land and improving their church buildings. Masaani and Zombe will continue their pre-school programs.

James and the community health care workers will continue to seek ways to meet health care needs of the people. We will continue raising funds to establish a diagnostic lab connected with our mobile medical clinic. We will also be seeking partners to help

with the funding of additional water kiosks where the people can get clean fresh drinking water for a penny per gallon. James says that clean water will help reduce diseases that need to be treated through the mobile medical clinic.

We will be assisting Kenyans with the community development proposals they have presented. These proposals will reduce poverty and help the people come to know Jesus. Our assistance will be in the form of providing training and funding. The proposals include: a grain milling cooperative; raising chickens and selling eggs; planting a tree nursery (grafted oranges, mangoes, etc.); raising Eucalyptus trees for lumber; raising mushrooms for food and medicine; planting Jatropha trees for the seed oil used in bio-diesel; and growing Aloe Vera plants for medicine. We will be writing grant proposals with Healing Hands International and Beterbough Ministires relating to these community development proposals and the build a school project.

Currently we are working with the Kenyan leaders to plan 2009 and 2010 mission trips. In the near future the Kenyan leaders will be recommending the focus and timing of the 09 trip as well as suggesting the number of people on the team. We continue to see our role as a partnership where we are helping Africans take Africa for Christ. May many more Kenyan come to know Christ through our partnership. To God be the glory. Amen.