

Kenya–November, 2009 Newsletter

... Planning for 2010

Famine Relief and Food Production

Praise God for rain in Kenya. The rains began in late October as the rainy season planting concluded. Erastus reported that the seeds germinated and crops are growing. He says rains have continued and they expect to harvest beans this month. The maize ears are setting and they expect to harvest them in January. Pray this crop will be a great harvest and the end of the famine in Kenya. Since many of the oxen have either died during the famine or were eaten for food, seedbed preparation was more difficult. They helped each other loosen the soil with African grubbing hoes. The food supply is still short and expensive so the famine relief “Food for Work” funded by our donations will be needed at least until the January harvest.



The famine also resulted in a seed shortage. Some families ate their seed to survive. I am currently working with my brother Earl and others at Monsanto in hopes of getting a supply of drought tolerant hybrid seed to plant during the next dry season. They are doing research in Africa to develop drought tolerant high yielding varieties. They have a seed outlet in both Kitui and Nairobi. We are hoping that part of our school land might be used as a demonstration plot for new varieties. They are also contacting the Bill Gates Foundation on our behalf seeking grant funding.

We are continuing our discussions with Healing Hands International Vice President Chris Gingles and Agricultural Director David Goolsby. Together we are planning a 5-day hands-on food production and food preservation workshop at Ilako Mututa Secondary School near Tulia, Kenya for 80 people in June, 2010. The food production workshop teaches composting, use of raised planting beds, drip irrigation, mulching, etc. The food preservation workshop teaches solar drying, leathering, salt curing, smoke curing, pickling, canning, etc. Men and women selected to participate in the workshops must commit to using the techniques learned and teaching others. We will do follow-up visits and interviews one year later to assess the impact of the training.



Need for Clean Water

The September trip to Kenya emphasized again the importance of clean dependable water sources. We told the stories about people like Jacinata Muthui and Mumbe Jospeth who walked 12 miles or more to get water. We told about people like Juliana whose water source is the muddy water of a local reservoir that was drying up.

The hand digging of the well on the school property continues. When it is completed to want to put a cover on it and install a hand pump (cost \$500). When we have raised \$18,000, we want to drill a well at one of the two geological survey recommended sites. This well will provide water for both the school and the community. We have raised \$4489 in the months of October and November. A \$50 water filter will remove 99.9% of the bacteria from disease causing water. The manufacturer says each filter is capable of filtering one million gallons of water. The first test shipment of water filters has been sent and we waiting hear of its arrival prior sending the second shipment.

Building the School

As the hand dug well on the school property is finished the emphasis will shift to brick making. Part of the June, 2010 mission team will be focused for assisting with the construction of Phase 1 the Kavonge Secondary School being built on our 16.5 acres. In order to achieve the goal of opening the school for freshmen and sophomores in January, 2011 the administrative building (office and staff room), a kitchen, 2 classrooms, and 3 latrines will need to be complete. Other members of the team will be visiting and encouraging our sponsored students at various schools.



Filling a Shipping Container



Sometime in 2011 we plan to ship a container to Kenya with items to equip our secondary school. Items that you can help collect include: desktop and laptop computers, science lab equipment, library books, textbooks, carpentry power tools, welding equipment, motorcycle mechanics tools, school instruction equipment and supplies, a tractor, three point hitch post hole digger, grader blade, loader bucket, soymilk processing equipment, and solar collectors to name a few. An equipped science lab, a library, and an equipped shop for needed for the Kavonge Secondary School to be open for juniors and seniors in January, 2012. Over the next year we are asking you to watch for the opportunity to obtain the items we have listed as schools and companies update their equipments, as libraries replace books, as schools update their textbooks, etc.

Sharing Our Story

After Caring for Kenya received the Champaign-Urbana International Humanitarian Award, Kathy Kaler, who directs the Illini CHAMPS program, read about the award and contacted us. She works with top student/athletes from 19 sports in leadership training and service projects. Her group is planning to help build a school in Kenya for the Maasai tribe. I have had the opportunity to visit a Maasai Village and in January I will have the opportunity to share with the student/athletes pictures and stories of what life is like in Kenya. Each year they pick a project to fund so maybe next year they will be helping with our school.

November 19th I had the opportunity to share the Kenya story with 15 preachers and elders in the Danville, Illinois area. We are always looking for congregations and service groups that might have an interest in the work in Kenya. Both Rotary Clubs and Engineers without Borders are interested in providing clean quality water to people around the world. We are seeking opportunities to speak to them. We are also looking for grants that we can apply for relating to food production, water, education, and/or health care. If you have suggestions let us know.

NGCS and Congregational News

Our three men who graduated from Nairobi Great Commission School December 5th reported that 20 were baptized on their recent trip to Tanzania. Erastus was the speaker at graduation. Over the last 10 years we have trained 11 men through the Nairobi Great Commission School. With help of the new graduates we anticipate two new congregations will be established in 2010. At all 6 of our established congregations we hear about new Christians being added to the church. Erastus reports their building is full and people stand outside during the assembly.



In addition to worshipping, studying, and sharing the Gospel with others, brick making, building of church buildings, and stock piling bricks for school buildings continue in the "Food for Work" famine relief program. Masaani and Zombe are building classrooms. Mwinya and Kavaki are building church buildings. Members at Nzawa, the smallest congregation, are helping the community's most needy and Kavonge members are digging the well on the school property, making bricks for its construction, and getting well drilling bids. They are also constructing a 10 foot platform to raise the water tank at the borehole resulting in greater water pressure.

They are all thankful for the recent rain and ask for our prayers that the January harvest will be a good one. He said in a recent phone conversation, "tell the people we appreciate all they have done for us and we love them."

Funding Opportunities

As we approach the holiday season, a time of giving, let me share with you some opportunities to help our brothers and sisters in Kenya. As we realized how blessed we are, may we consider the following opportunities to bless others. Donations can be made to "Caring for Kenya", 3508 E. University Ave., Urbana, IL 61802. Specify what you would like your donation to fund.

1.FAMINE RELIEF



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| a. Feed a family | |
| - for a day | \$1.50 |
| - for a week | \$10.50 |
| - for a month | \$45.00 |
| b. Fund "Food for Work" famine relief | \$50.00 |

2. FOOD PRODUCTION



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| a. Purchase baby chicks and feed for Youth Chicken Cooperative | \$5.00 |
| b. Provide a drip irrigation kit for a family to produce vegetables | \$15.00 |
| c. Purchase a milking goat for a family | \$25.00 |
| d. Sponsor a student at the Summer 2010 5-day food production or food preservation workshop conducted with Healing Hands International | \$30.00 |
| e. Purchase oxen to pull single bottom plow and cart | \$100.00 |

3. WATER



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| a. Provide a water filter for a family
(will remove 99.9 % of bacteria and filter one million gal of water) | \$50.00 |
| b. Provide a well cover and hand pump for the school well that is being hand dug | \$500.00 |
| c. Provide a hand dug well | \$1000.00 |
| d. Add a water kiosk to the existing deep wells | \$2,000.00 |
| e. Drill a well on the school property | \$18,000.00 |



4. EDUCATION



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| a. Buy bricks build a school (construction begins in March) | \$10.00 |
| b. Pay for a school/personal hygiene packet for a sponsored secondary school student (61 delivered in September) | \$10.00 |
| c. Sponsor a secondary school student's education | |
| 1. Day school student | \$250.00 |
| 2. Boarding school student | \$500.00 |

5. MEDICAL



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| a. Treat a patient for typhoid and malaria | \$10.00 |
| b. Purchase medical supplies | \$50.00 |