



## The East Africa Project Newsletter

### Divine Appointments

**"I have been praying for God to send me a mentor!"**

**Evelyn - Kakamega area director HEART Ministries**



God really does have a sense of humor. Leave it to Him to bring an old grey-haired 'Muzungu' from 9,000 miles away to introduce two neighbors whose ministries are located literally across the road from each other!

Last summer when Susan and I went to Kenya, a late outbreak of COVID in the outlying counties prevented us from travelling on our planned visits to Kakamega and Kitale. Given the extra time in Nairobi we loaded up in the car with Baron and visited several places that might be suitable to host future mission teams. The last place we found was a place called The HEART Lodge in the Ridgeways neighborhood in Nairobi not far from where Baron and Jackie live. It is a quaint, quiet little compound that reminds you of something out of a old Agatha Christie novel. We used the lodge with our Bellevue team in March and then again for the August trip with Mike Curry and a team from a church in Texas. In the email traffic confirming reservations, the executive director visited our website and contacted me. It turns out that HEART stands for Health Education Africa Resource Team and they run the Lodge as a 'Business as Mission' operation. HEART is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to empowering the people of Africa to survive the HIV/AIDS pandemic. When I arrived I met with the Kenya Director of Operations, a sharp young man named Nicholas. As we met and shared stories I found that HEART is involved in many of the same types of ministries as our Kenyan partners, but they serve different areas.

As it happened (or as God planned!), Nicholas was headed to the exact same area as we were. HEART has several ministries in the Kissi/Kenyan area where we have partners, Pastors Daniel and Christiano. There are things that Daniel and Christiano are doing that HEART can learn from and there are things HEART is doing that complement them. They have already started to collaborate and I look forward to hearing how God uses this relationship. One of our goals is to work to coordinate and expand the efforts of disparate organizations and individuals who have a heart and a mission to serve East Africa. But the goose-bump story was still to come!

I was to move on to Kakamega in a few days to visit The Rebecca House. HEART has a similar ministry in a village named Nyakach that serves ladies recovering from HIV. The HEART team invited us to visit their center to see how it was set up. Nicholas, the regional director Jackie, and area program director Evelyn met us at the hotel in Kakamega to follow us to the center. Since Light school was on the way we stopped there for a quick visit. As soon we pulled in the gates Evelyn got out of the HEART Land Cruiser with a look of surprise and wonder. It seems the HEART program in Kakamega was located on the other side of the highway from Light School! Evelyn and Rebecca met and their hearts instantly bonded! You see Evelyn graduated from that program and had grown in responsibility to become the director. She had been praying for someone locally who would mentor her, pray with her and encourage her! God had answered her prayer, but it took a year to come to pass! So an interrupted itinerary last year led to a new connection, which led to a ministry conversation, which led a shared ministry visit, which led to a 'quick visit' to a school, which led to a new mentoring relationship between two ladies who are helping to minister to others in the region. Don't tell me God doesn't orchestrate things for our good!

## Legacy



***“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” Phil 2:3-4***

Early in the morning on Sept 28, The East Africa Project lost a valuable board member and I lost a friend. Phil Dane was one of a kind. Phil was a mentor, confidant, sounding board, golfing buddy, camping

buddy, discipleship group partner and so much more. His friendship was a gift, a result of following God’s prompting: “This is the way you should go”. We met Phil and Debbie through their daughter Abbey. Abbey went on our first trip to Kenya in 2009 and shortly became like a member of the family. She introduced us to her parents and when they moved to Memphis in 2016 it was like God immediately knitted our hearts together! They were “our people”, the kind you do everything with. Were it not for Kenya and following God’s leading, we might not have ever met!

Phil was the retired Athletic Director at the University of Tennessee at Martin, and he was a legend. First as a Vice Chancellor and then as AD, he guided UTM to academic and athletic success. He was inducted into the UT Martin Athletics Hall of Fame in 2015 and was then inducted into the Ohio Valley Conference Hall of Fame in 2021. But you would never have known that by asking him. Quiet but well spoken, gentle yet persuasive, cerebral yet funny, compassionate, wickedly competitive, a passion for mentoring boys and young men, an ‘over-the-top’ lover of his wife and three girls; Phil was these and more.

When we were contemplating starting this ministry, the four of us sat around a campfire one evening while I shared the vision and Phil peppered me with thoughtful questions. He was one of the men who helped me work through some of the details that must be addressed when starting a new ministry. Then he and Debbie agreed to be on the Board of Directors for the Project. If there is one act that personifies who Phil Dane was it might be this: one day he texted me and said “We’re sending a donation over. I’d like for you to give it to the person who may have been overlooked or maybe is in a remote region that’s harder for teams to get to.” That was Phil, always looking for the overlooked!

I’ll never understand why God chooses to take so many good men in their prime. These last few years have been brutal. I’ve lost several good friends to the ravages of cancer of some kind. Their memory pushes me on. Phil never gave up. He fought to the very end. He was still planning ahead. I am forever grateful for Phil and Debbie Dane and will carry his encouragement in my heart until we meet again.

“Your own ears will hear him. Right behind you a voice will say, ‘This is the way you should go,’ whether to the right or to the left.” Is. 30:21

## He's Never Late!

The Welding workshop at the Kenyena School of Ministry is turning out some beautiful work. They have recently built a beautiful security door for a new house under construction as well as many different type of metal windows. The instructor's craftsmanship is highly sought, and there is much potential, but there was a large problem. As is the case in many small villages in rural Kenya, electricity is notoriously unreliable. Since a welding machine requires electricity, the ability to make products and repair broken metal objects was severely hampered. It's not uncommon for the power to be out three days a week. The answer to that problem is to purchase a welding generator, which costs a good bit more than a standard gas-powered generator.



When I returned from Kenya I could not get the generator off my mind. With the expenses of the trip and the commissioning of the survey in Munduma, our funds were very low. But for some reason I felt God telling me to go ahead and send the money for the generator, so I did. Christiano travelled to Nairobi and purchased the generator.

On the same Monday Susan and I were visiting her parents when I got an email notification. Someone sent in a donation that paid for the generator with money left over! And when we started to think about the times, it occurred to us that God provided the funds for the generator at almost the same time Christiano was purchasing it! When you feel led by God to do something, DO IT! He will always meet the need...



### I would like to partner with The East Africa Project:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Ways to Donate:

- ❖ Online at [www.theeastafricaproject.com/donate](http://www.theeastafricaproject.com/donate)
- ❖ Make checks out to: "The East Africa Project" and send to:
  - 9160 Hwy 64, Suite 12-262, Lakeland, TN 38002
- ❖ Bill pay through your bank's online service
- ❖ PayPal/Zelle

## 2022 Investment Opportunities

- Basic Financial Literacy training for one widow at The Rebecca House (12 weeks): \$100
- Follow on Basic business training and mentoring for one widow at The Rebecca House (100 hours): \$200
- One month salary for the Welding Workshop instructor in Kenya: \$100.
- Startup equipment and supplies for the hairdressing school at the Kenyena Ministry Center: \$1,500
- Complete the purchase of additional land at The Rebecca House to be used to teach farming and livestock management. \$2,500.
- Purchase ARC Welding Equipment for the Tentmaker Complex in the Turbo (Pastor Samson) \$2,500.
- Welding Workshop equipment for the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry: \$5,000
- Import and delivery costs for another shipping container of bibles and teaching materials, as well as some desktop PC's: \$6,500
- Construction of a training kitchen at The Rebecca House also to be used for a catering business: \$25,000
- Construction of a Vo-tech center at the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry: \$25,000
- Milling center complex which will provide ongoing income for the Seeds ministries in Kitale \$300,000



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The East Africa Project

**Light School in Kakamega is taking early childhood education seriously. Without this school, many of the children from the area would have no place to go. Light school is run by Rebecca Khasoa, with whom we enjoy one of the longest running partnerships. Rebecca also oversees the widows ministry in Munduma. Read this month's newsletter for another story about Rebecca's ministry**

