



The East Africa Project

**“Unless the LORD builds a house,
the work of the builders is
wasted.
Unless the LORD protects a city,
guarding it with sentries will do
no good.” Ps. 127:1-2**



Introducing: THE REBECCA HOUSE!

Susan and I travelled to Kenya in early July with the intention of dedicating the new Widows center just outside Kakamega. A spike in COVID cases and a countywide lockdown prevented that from happening (along with a lot of other things, but that's life!). However, we did get to celebrate the completing of the center and we got to share a 'naming' of the center (albeit by FaceTime) with the lady on whose heart God placed this group of widows. I've written about Rebecca Khasoa several times before, and if you have ever met her you'll know we could never have chosen a more fitting name for the center. Take a look in the top right hand corner at "THE REBECCA HOUSE"! A plaque will hang inside the door of the center with the following inscription:

Welcome to Rebecca House

Dedicated on July 5, 2021, in honor of Rebecca Khasoa.

A remarkable woman of God whose legacy will be named with the great women of the Bible: Deborah, Miriam, Queen Esther, Mary the mother of Jesus, Mary of Bethany and Lydia.

A champion for children, a discipler of women, and a servant of her Lord, Rebecca's vision of a place of peace for women lies inside these walls. May this be a place of learning, of physical and spiritual healing, and of growing closer to the Lord. May this center carry the spirit of Rebecca for generations to come!

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

A wall is currently being constructed around the property and a gate is being fabricated. As soon as the property is secure, 12 brand new sewing machines will be moved into the center. Tailoring classes are due to start in September and they hope to be producing school uniforms by the new year! Not only will the center be a meeting place and a school, but the students will sew school uniforms and other clothing for sale. We are also looking into items that could be sold in the markets in Nairobi or back in the US. We are still planning on going onsite for a dedication in the first quarter of 2022. THANK YOU to all of you who participated financially in this project. Lives will be changed and God will be praised!

“Establish the work of our hands for us— yes, establish the work of our hands” Ps. 90:17

“If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” Isaiah 58:6-11

You’ve all seen the pictures of third world countries; dirty, dusty streets; children running around in rags; small dilapidated shacks that double as storefronts and housing. Some of us are old enough to remember Sally Struthers with her late night commercials asking us to “Save the Children.” These pictures are a reality and many of our Christian brothers and sisters live on less than \$2/day. Hunger is real and poverty is pervasive. Since we started coming to Kenya in 2009, one of our main focus points has been in providing educational opportunity and empowerment for our partners to “learn how to fish.” The only way to lift someone out of generational poverty is to help them with the knowledge and wherewithal to provide for themselves. While we’ve made some strides, much of what we have done over the years has been limited to one-day seminars and some mentoring and limited investment.

Recently we were introduced to an indigenous organization in Nairobi called SOMO Africa. SOMO partners with local entrepreneurs looking to drive change by building enterprises in their own low-income urban communities. They do

so by training indigenous peoples in basic business principles and by helping mentor them as they start their own enterprises. Twenty-three members of Pastor Harrison’s church in the Tassia area of Nairobi will attend training in one of two SOMO courses as a pilot program. If this goes well, we will expand it to other areas.

The two programs are SOMO Baruka and Boost Biz. SOMO Baruka is a 3-month training program designed to help businesses from their growth stage. It meets the specific business needs of an entrepreneur through a series of topics trained over a 12 week period and includes training sessions that equip him/her with skills in business, storytelling and financial literacy.

As the name suggests, Boost Biz is a *boosting* program that targets existing small businesses in low-resource communities to upscale their current operations. During this training, an entrepreneur is taught practical skills such as reporting, how to calculate profits and loss, customer relations, and pitching. Trainees will get a chance to pitch their business in front of Somo entrepreneurs and get feedback and advice on both their pitches and their businesses.

The tuition for one person to attend Boost Biz is \$100 and the tuition for Baruka is \$300. Our goal with this partnership is to eventually bring economic empowerment to the regions where our church leaders serve. The gospel is better received on a full stomach! The pilot program in Tassia will help us determine if SOMO is the right partner for us. Your prayers are appreciated!

I would like to partner with The East Africa Project:

Name: _____

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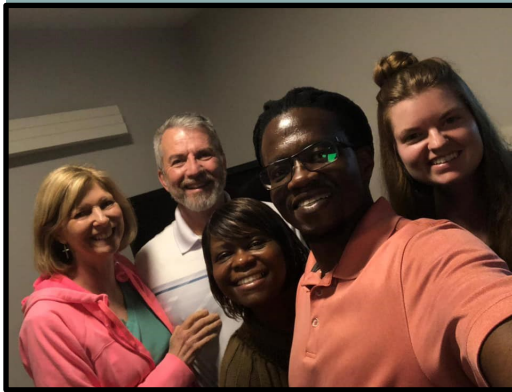
Amount: _____

Ways to Donate:

- ❖ Online at 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

Somo is the root of a Swahili word meaning “lesson”.

Somo exists to train visionary entrepreneurs in marginalized communities around the world.



**Right: The Muga Family!
Baron, Jackie,
Anderson & Maxwell**

***Baron & Jackie live in the
apartment next door to
Lauren!***



CURRENT PROJECT PRAYER LIST

- ♦ \$100—pays tuition for one person to attend the SOMO 'Boost Biz' 8 week basic business course.
- ♦ \$300—pays for tuition for one person to attend the SOMO 'Baruka' 12-week entrepreneur classes.
- ♦ \$500—provides storage shelves for The Rebecca House
- ♦ \$1500—provides an iron gate on the front entrance of The Rebecca House
- ♦ \$25,000—Phase II of the widow's center will include 2 more classrooms, an administrative office and training space for raising chicken & livestock. God has plenty!

“Go to the land that I will show you.”

It's New Year's Eve and you've sold most of your belongings. Everything you're going to need for the next 6 months has to fit into 8 suitcases. Your 2 sons, one kindergarten age and one in 2nd grade are about to have their lives turned upside down. And now you are saying goodbyes to friends you may never see face to face again. This was what Baron and Jackie Muga faced at the end of 2017. Baron was born in Nairobi but moved to the US to go to high school when he was a teenager. For 22 years he lived the American dream. He went to college, met and married a lovely Kenyan girl named Jackie, got a good job, plugged into a good church and had children. Jackie was also born in Nairobi but spent time in Germany and England before heading to college in Memphis. Life was comfortable and relatively predictable. But God had other plans!

Baron started to feel a pull back to his homeland. He began to hear from God that he was to take his family and begin sharing the gospel back in Kenya, but there was no specific missionary opportunity. He had been pondering attending seminary but had not made any decisions. After some prayer, he felt God leading him to move back to Nairobi to attend Africa International University to complete his Master of Divinity degree. Henry Blackaby famously said: "Watch to see where God is working and join Him in His work." The Muga's did just that, living on campus and trusting God for provision. It was truly a step of faith.

About 2 years ago Baron started working with the International Mission Board missionaries in Nairobi. It was such a natural fit that Baron is now working as a consultant missionary with the IMB and is a member of the Sub-Saharan Africa Evangelism & Discipleship team. That team has been travelling around East Africa doing training in evangelism and church planting. Oh, and he's been doing all that while finishing his degree, the last semester of which included him taking both Greek AND Hebrew at the same time!

Locally, Baron has been working with his new church family at Ridgeways Baptist Church in Nairobi. They have a Missions program and are looking to send missionaries out from their church to other parts of Africa. There is a shift in Christianity's cultural center from the West to the so-called global South. By 2025, it is estimated that at least 50% of the world's Christians will be in Africa, Latin America, and parts of Asia; in 1950, an estimated 80% of the world's Christians were in Western countries. So Baron's influence is not just on Kenya, but on the world!

Abraham followed God's simple but life-altering command, "Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father's family, and go to the land that I will show you." (Gen. 12:1). That act of obedience was the birth of a nation. Baron doesn't think he's birthing a nation, but he does believe God honors obedience. Will you commit to pray for Baron & Jackie and their boys Anderson & Maxwell?

The East Africa Project Newsletter

Jeff Moser - President
9160 Hwy 64 Suite 12-262
Lakeland, TN 38002
www.theeastafricaproject.com



The East Africa Project

THE EAST AFRICA PROJECT NEWSLETTER

Inside this quarter's newsletter you can read about the opening of the widows center in Kakamega, about one of God's choice servant couples on the front line in Kenya and about our upcoming partnership with SOMO Africa. SOMO is a small business training and business incubator organization that targets marginalized communities around the world!

WHAT IS SOMO? READ INSIDE!

SOMO Africa – Entrepreneurial training and support

- **Somo Academy**
 - **Boost Biz** – 8-week basic business program
 - **Burka** – 12-week training program focused on social entrepreneurs that is tailored to the needs of each entrepreneur and driven by market research.
 - **Chanuka** - Chanuka is coaching provided by other Somo portfolio companies, Somo team and our volunteer advisors
 - **DigiSomo** - a set of digital business training tools that are available through WhatsApp, YouTube and a toll-free number.
- **Somo Invest**
 - **Inuka** - non-repayable investments for the initial capital expenditures necessary to launch their ventures.
 - **DigiKua** - This is a USSD and WhatsApp platform that allows businesses to record their transactions in real-time.
- **Channels**
 - **Tengeneza** - A shared production facility that provides entrepreneurs with access to equipment, print services and standardized processes
 - **Somo Duka** - Somo products are sold through both Somo's and third party's online and physical channels.

