



The East Africa Project Newsletter

Rejoice! And again I say Rejoice!



The first graduates of the SOMO Business Training classes!

“Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what he did for me.” Ps. 66:16 NLT

The path God leads us down is not always linear! When The East Africa Project was launched last year there were six primary areas I felt we were supposed to focus on: Childhood Education, Economic Empowerment, Medical Care, Resource Development and Partnerships, Spiritual Growth and Clean Water. Then COVID hit and all the plans I had evaporated. But God had plans I never knew about! Most of the stories you will read about in this newsletter were not on my radar 18 months ago. BUT GOD! This newsletter will attempt to recap the ‘projects’ that were completed this year. I can’t emphasize enough the impact these things have on the lives of our friends and partners in East Africa. This is a celebration of what God has done through you and your support of The East Africa Project. Your generosity and obedience to the Lord’s prompting in your lives have made this possible. Enjoy the read!



The Rebecca House

On October 23, Rebecca Khasoa cut the ribbon and the people literally danced their way onto the grounds of “The Rebecca House” in Kakamega, Kenya! Twelve treadle sewing machines are now set up in the building, along with 2 overlock machines and a knitting machine. The tables and chairs are in place and the tailoring classes have begun. If God allows we will bring some ladies from Bellevue in March to encourage the women at the house. They have bigger plans for the future including classes on raising chickens and goats, table banking, small business skills and of course, discipleship!



The impact of an ocean-going container full of bibles!

This is a recent email from pastor Christiano Mboyi in the village of Kenyena, Kenya:

“Last week, I’ve been training our young evangelists how to present the gospel in a simple way to younger generations in both primary & high schools... We reached over 15 schools, distributed 4600 bibles and saw many pupils pray to ask Jesus into their lives in response to the gospel. I also encouraged the schools’ teachers to be using the Bibles during CRE or pastoral programs during Bible clubs sessions. This will see the students disciplined by them. This was a life

changing experience for our young ministers in our Training Center.”

Pastor Chris is training young men and women for gospel ministry. We are currently working on a plan to bring a Vo-Tech training center to the Kenya School of Ministry, starting with welding classes. We have a grant that will match your donations up to half the total cost of the project. The project plan for land, building, startup capital and first year operating capital is just over \$23K. If you are looking for a good place to make an investment in furthering the gospel in Kenya, THIS MIGHT BE IT!

“On behalf of our entire team at CARE for AIDS, thank you thank you thank you for sharing some of your materials with our Tassia center. It will be a huge blessing to our staff and clients.” - Melanie Passions, Engagement Mgr, CARE for AIDS

Pastor Harrison’s church is situated in the Tassia neighborhood of Nairobi. That area is basically one step above the Mathare and Kibera slums. For many of his members, economic security is unknown. Twenty three members of his church attended one of two basic business courses conducted by SOMO Africa. SOMO Africa is indigenously Kenyan and is striving to make a difference in the economic life of a country where 35% of the people live in poverty and 80% of the jobs are in the ‘informal sector’, meaning individuals with small businesses. The East Africa Project piloted these two courses in Tassia and will be seeking to expand to Mathare, Kenya and Kakamega.

Small Business Training in Tassia



TRAINING



Buruka
Training

Our basic business program that focuses on existing small businesses to help upscale current operations. During this training we teach practical skills like reporting, profits and loss, customer relations, and pitching.

3-month training program that teaches business skills, storytelling, and financial literacy.

Problem-solving, ideation, market research, business planning, financial modeling, digital literacy, finishing with capitalizing a business and a presentation.

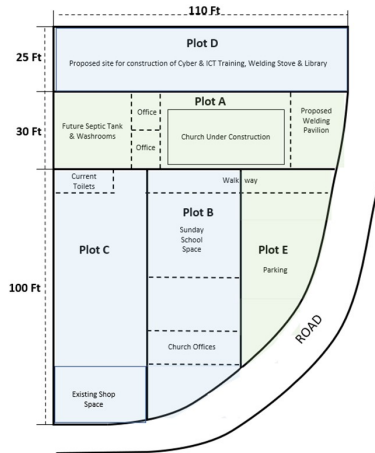
Boost Biz
Training

Planning for what's next



As young people in Kenya feel led to gospel ministry they often face a significant challenge. Where can they go to obtain holistic and hands-on pastoral training that equips them with ministry training, yet also provides them with income-generating skills to sustain them? It is likely that the local churches and communities where they will serve will not have the resources and capacity to support them. Most pastors and other ministers in Kenya must also hold down a full-time job. This hurdle has caused many would-be pastors to abandon their theological training to pursue gainful employment. Those that do continue as pastors do so with very little biblical scholarship. It is estimated that as many as 80% of rural Kenyan churches are led by untrained pastors who often have only high-school formal education or lower.

One of our ministry friends, Wade Akins, has begun adding vocational training to their existing pastoral training schools. With his blessing, we are proposing to follow his model in the village of Kenyeny, Kenya where Pastor Christiano Mboyi has started a school of ministry. The plan calls for Vo-Tech training in welding, tailoring, basic computer skills, barbering/hair styling and small business skills. The total cost for Phase I will run around \$23K which includes purchasing some land they are currently leasing, building a welding pavilion, outfitting the school with the needed materials and operating it for one year (paying the teachers and an administrator). The plan is for the school to generate enough income after one year to be self-sustaining. We have a supporter who will match your donation up to 50% of the total cost of the center! Your partnership will not only equip young men and women to support themselves, but more importantly give them the theological foundation to teach the gospel and make disciples!



Other projects in 2021

- Provided a baptistry pool for Pastor Samson's church in Turbo.
- Assisted Pastor Samson with construction of rental housing on his property to provide additional income.
- Provided new cooking utensils for the school in Tassia run by Christine, the wife of Pastor Harrison.
- Attended the "Global Missions Strategy Workshop" put on by the 410 Bridge.
- Susan & I travelled to Kenya in July to meet with some of our partners in Nairobi and to connect with the IMB missionaries there, specifically Baron & Jackie Muga and Lauren Milewski.
- Met with a company in the US. to discuss the potential of selling items made by the ladies at The Rebecca House. This is likely a longer term project.
- Provided funds for some ministry expenses for the church in Kissi.

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
- ❖ 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

CURRENT PROJECT PRAYER LIST

- ♦ \$50—pays for supplies for one student to attend Kinyozi (Hair styling) classes
- ♦ \$100—pays for welding gloves, safety boots, overalls, mask and eye protection for one student learning to weld.
- ♦ \$300—pays tuition for one person to attend the SOMO 12-week entrepreneur course.
- ♦ \$11,500—50% of the startup costs and first year operations cost for the Kenyeny VoTech school (donations matched!)

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The East Africa Project



23 - Different members of Pastor Harrison's church in the Tassia neighborhood of Nairobi who attended an 8- or 12-week course of business lessons with SOMO



966 - Square Feet of multipurpose meeting space for The Rebecca House, situated on just over 1 acre of fenced land



1,793 and 1,555
The number of PACKAGES of bibles, bible study material & children's literature sent to Kenya in 2 different shipments



12 - Treadle sewing Machines, along with 2 overlock machines and 2 knitting machines purchased for The Rebecca House to train ladies in Tailoring skills

BY THE NUMBERS

- Some of the things God has allowed The East Africa Project to help facilitate this year.



15 and 4,600
Schools visited and Bibles distributed to students by Pastor Christiano and his team in the villages of Kenvena and Kissi.