

The East Africa Project Newsletter

Progress Report - April 2024

This past year has seen its challenges, but God has been faithful to bring about growth and progress in the ministries we partner with in East Africa. Seeds Ministries continues to minister to hundreds of children and is now sending 60+ (soon to be 80) children to University or trade school. Pastor Harrison in Tassia recently launched a VoTech program, teaching welding and carpentry. The Rebecca House graduated another class of ladies in vocational programs and officially opened the catering kitchen. Pastor Kennedy celebrated the construction of a new kitchen at the school. Pastor Samson added carpentry and welding to the Tentmaker Complex in Turbo. VoTech programs are planned in Kissi and at the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry. Five young pastoral students are also learning the welding trade in Kenya under Pastor Christiano. Thirty different "Table banking" groups on Mt. Elgon and in the village of Munduma (where the Rebecca House is located) are improving the economic and spiritual condition of those communities. Oh, and did I mention there are now 10,000 Swahili New Testaments now being read by new Kenyan Christ followers? Christ said: "In this world you will have trouble. But be of good cheer, for I have overcome the world!"



Seeds Ministries

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” John 14:18



Grace (name changed to protect her identity) recently wrote this: “I was born in a poor family and was raised in a slum where nobody cared for anybody. Violence and crime were part of our daily activity. The only clothes I had were torn and ragged. I have lived a life witnessing people fighting and others losing their lives in the fights. As a child I never really understood

what this was all about, but poverty is the main reason. I used to eat trash food from hotels and from the dustbin. Sometimes I laugh at myself when I remember how I looked for food in a place near soiled diapers. The story you heard from Mamma Hellen is true and that child was me and my sisters and even our friends. But who is God? For sure he is the protection, he protected me from sickness, and I have never felt sick. I never lack a reason to thank God.” (paraphrased)



Seeds Ministries was founded and is led Pastor Richard Makani and his wife and co-laborer, Hellen. From Seeds Children’s Home to Seeds Academy to Seeds High School, the Makani’s have taken in, fed and/or educated literally thousands of children just like Grace. These are children who otherwise would face a dismal future. Children who can, despite their difficult pasts, say: “I never lack a reason to thank God.”

Richard and Hellen began by feeding one or two children in the Kipsongo Slums on the outskirts of Kitale. Statistics say that left in the slums, a child born in Kipsongo has a 1 in 5 chance of surviving to 18 and an even slimmer chance of getting a good education and a good job. Feeding children led to taking in orphans. Taking in orphans led to the Seeds Children’s Home. Educating children led to Seeds Academy. Seeds Academy led to Seeds



High School to educate and care for teenagers. Today, there are over 60 (soon to be 80) children IN COLLEGE who have been ‘rescued’ from those slums. Some of them have witnessed horrors we could only imagine. Some have been abused in ways that are hard to speak about. Heaven only knows the eternal impact the Seeds ministry in Kitale has had and will have on the lives of these children!

Mathare School



Nairobi is a study in contrasts. You can drive down certain streets and see high fences behind which you glimpse literal mansions. Then you can drive just a few miles further and enter a world reminiscent of a 'Mad Max' movie. The Mathare slum is Nairobi is the second largest in Kenya and is home to an estimated 900,000 people (give or take a few thousand). Dry, dusty alleyways pass for streets. Hot 'iron sheet' (tin) buildings tumble onto each other. Open

sewers run parallel to the 'streets'. Drug and alcohol addiction is apparent everywhere you look. Men gather around a 2- or 3-foot square wooden tray, throwing dice in makeshift games of chance. It is in this location that God placed Pastor Kennedy Muleke and his wife, Phastine.



Fifteen years ago, when God called them to plant a church in the Mathare slum, Kennedy wondered if he had really heard God correctly! Was God joking with him? Start a school? Here in this neighborhood? But God clearly answered, "Yes, right here!" And so, they obeyed and bought a 10X10 sq. meter tin shed and started teaching.

Recently, our team taught, sang songs, and laughed with the kids in "The Miracle in

Mathare". Where that hot 'iron sheet' 10X10 building once stood, a beautiful 4-story school rises above the squalor! Just a few months ago they finished a brand-new kitchen, allowing them to trade their three rock stoves for brand new giant cooking pots. Several hundred children now eat two meals a day and are thriving in a new school, all because Pastor Ken and Phastine said 'Yes' to God.



TURBO — Pastor Samson and his wife Beatrice have been slowly growing their ministry and their business that supports it. In addition to growing corn, making bricks, cutting timber and operating a store, they've now added a welding shop and a carpentry shop. These businesses now help them to support their growing church in the Turbo Region.



THE Rebecca HOUSE

The Rebecca House is now in its third year of operation and is going strong. Over the last year over 35 ladies have been disciplined in biblical principles, expanded their financial literacy and have put business learning into practice by starting small enterprises. Some of the ladies are

running micro farms, growing things like bananas, mangoes, sweet potatoes, corn, ground nuts (peanuts), sugar cane, paw paws and many others. Some are raising chickens or goats. 12 ladies have now been trained in tailoring and have received a treadle sewing machine. Twelve new machines are on order to replace those. Several ladies have learned 'beading' where they make purses, bags, jewelry and decorations using beads (see the picture at the right). There has been a real mindset change among the ladies so that they now see themselves as



'producers' rather than 'receivers'.

During our recent visit we were blessed to be able to 'cut the ribbon' on the new catering kitchen. We are still waiting on Kenya Power & Electric to connect us to electricity (solar proved to be too expensive) and the kitchen will be fully operational! The line is there, the meter is there, now if we could just get a technician from KPE to connect it all! We do

have gas though so we ate a meal prepared there! We have tents and chairs to be able to provide a full package event. As the catering business begins to grow we will need to add a firewood kitchen to be able to cook larger quantities of rice and beans and we're exploring the idea of adding a commercial bread oven. We believe we could sell up to 500 loaves of bread a day out of RH, but there's a pretty substantial up-front investment required. But the most important thing I saw on our visit was the absolute joy on the ladies faces! For the first time in a very long time, these ladies have hope! God is good!



From Assassin to Evangelist:

When a man named Jackson came up to me after one of our morning teaching sessions he was beaming. "These teachings are good; I am learning so much and am so encouraged!" We had been teaching from the book 'The Titus Ten', including topics such as Assignments, Doctrine, Investments, Dominion and Fasting. Jackson had spent the morning studiously taking notes and soaking in every word. What I didn't know when we met after the session was that just a few short years earlier I might have been met by Jackson with a gun in his hand!

"I was a killer", he started. "There is not a gun in Kenya and Uganda that I have not used. During the elections of 2017 I killed many people on this hillside. I was a killer for my tribe, but then I heard about God. Now I'm an evangelist!" If you read many books about Christian life, you will no doubt hear about spiritual transformations among different people. But here we were, standing before not just one former killer, but three living, breathing examples of God's extreme redemption! Jackson, Moussa, and Alex were all former tribal assassins. Tribal warfare has a long history in Kenya (as it does in many other countries). But one day Moussa heard about Jesus, and it transformed his life! He returned to tell Jackson and Alex and they all three gave their lives to Christ. Today they travel the same hillside, this time sharing the life-giving gospel of Jesus Christ! The church where they minister is standing room only on Sundays! They are just a sample of the men and women being trained at the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry.



"The LORD your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!" Deut. 30:6

Some examples of the small businesses started through Table Banking groups include growing produce, tree farming and raising chickens.

Economic Empowerment

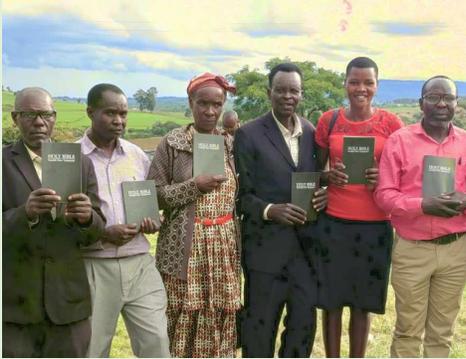
Real economic change is starting to take place in the communities around the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry and around The Rebecca House, thanks in large part to the establishment of Table Banking groups. Table Banking is a group-based funding system where members of a group meet weekly and make weekly savings deposits to form a kitty. Members can then borrow from the kitty. Each member's contributions are recorded in their passbook and referred to as their share. The minimum contribution per week, which can be as low as Ksh 25 (\$1.8), is set in the group's constitution. The constitution is written by the group itself, and the contributions are set with the members' incomes in mind. Members can contribute any amount they choose at or above the minimum set. The constitution also covers matters such as election of officers, arrangements for audit of the ledgers, term of loans and interest rates, and group sharing of interest paid. While the vast majority of table banking groups are made up of women, there are some instances of men's groups as well. Between the two communities over 30 groups have been created involving around 500 people.

At the weekly meetings, business issues are discussed, fines paid (eg for lateness or non-attendance) and loans repaid. The cash collected on the table (i.e. this week's savings and loan repayments) is then immediately loaned out to members who can present the group with a viable business plan for their use. If more than one member wants a loan, the group will discuss and come to an agreement about which should have it. Loans can be short term, i.e. repayable within one month with an interest rate of 10%, or long term, typically over 36 months at an interest rate of 1% a month. At the end of each meeting, if all the cash has not been loaned out, the balance will be taken by three members to be banked in the group's bank account or put into the group's Mpesa account (mobile banking).

The East Africa project has been active in providing training and support for these groups and is exploring options to expand to other areas.

In progress & Upcoming Projects

10,000 Swahili New Testaments!



You may remember that last year we had a second container of, among other things, 10,000 Swahili New Testaments headed to Kenya when the government passed their new import duty changes. We didn't have the funds for the new customs fees as the container approached the port of Mombasa. But God provided! Those bibles are now making their way into the hands of rural Kenyans! If you look closely at this picture from last fall you'll recognize Jackson from a story earlier in this newsletter. God will make a way when there seems to be no way!

Tassia VoTech

Pastor Harrison has 4 students each enrolled in the Welding and Carpentry vocational programs at the new Kuenea VoTech school. We will shortly be adding a tailoring class to the curriculum to the school. New skills mean good paying jobs, which improves the economy and improves the church. Oh, and since they had a little space, Harrison's wife Christine is raising a small menagerie of animals, from goats to rabbits to guinea fowl! Never waste a space!



2024 Investment Opportunities

There are always new opportunities to expand the ministry of our partners throughout East Africa. Below is a representative sample of projects where your generous giving can be invested. Some of these are 'needs' and some are 'plans for the future'. All of them are projects designed to support our indigenous partners who are sharing the gospel, caring for widows and orphans and ministering to those around them. May God bless you for supporting The East Africa Project!

- **Seeds High School:**
 - Annual curriculum for one student: \$50.
 - Bookshelves for library: \$350 ea.
- **For the Kuenea Vo-Tech center tailoring program:**
 - Electric serger/overlock machine: \$200.
 - Iron/Steamer: \$200.
 - Electric sewing machine: \$250.
 - Three treadle sewing machines: \$350 ea.
- **For Christine's goat 'herd'.**
 - Male buck goat: \$320.
 - Feed shredder for goats: \$400.
- **Replace cups and plates at Christine's school: \$500.**
- **Rebecca House:**
 - Coordinator salary: \$200/mo.
 - Motorcycle for the Rebecca House—to transport supplies and to market their products around the village: \$1,200.
 - 'Firewood Kitchen' addition to the Rebecca House—to allow cooking of larger quantities of rice and beans: \$3,100.
 - 2024 on-site training and consulting for Rebecca House: \$3,000.
 - Bread Oven & associated appliances: \$12-15,000.
 - Good used TATA pickup truck: \$15,000.

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



**The East Africa Project
Newsletter**

Jeff Moser - President
9160 Hwy 64 Suite 12-262
Lakeland, TN 38002



The East Africa Project



**2024 Project
Status Update**