



Partnering with the African Community to facilitate transformation



SUMMER  
NEWSLETTER  
2022

*“Listen carefully, I am about to do a new thing, now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it?*

*I will even put a road in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.” Isaiah 43:19*

## WELCOME TO BARAKA HSS ACADEMY, SCHOOL YEAR 2022!



52 precious preschoolers now grace the new campus in Lessos, Kenya, and soon it will be 60! These children come from families who face desperate situations and have little chance of entering the Kenyan school system. However, this preschool represents not only an educational opportunity, but hope for a changed life. Unlike an orphanage, these children return home at night, so true long term change can only come through transformation of the family and ultimately, the community they grow up in. Africa Connect sponsors business and empowerment programs, as well as solid Bible teaching and discipleship classes in the context of a vibrant faith community. Applicant families are vetted extensively to determine the caregivers' willingness to participate in the programs offered. For 3 years, the children are nurtured in their academic, physical and spiritual growth, and upon graduation may be sponsored to a Christian primary school and even high school.

### WE'RE GROWING!

The Lord has blessed us miraculously with the two beautiful plots of land adjacent to the current site! The



owner was done waiting, ready to sell to someone who had offered more; an AC supporter called offering to match donations, but we had no time to get the word out. But God knew, and without advertising the funds came in over the next 24 hours to complete the deal! Amazing!

The importance of acquiring this land cannot be overstated; with the prices of food and essentials skyrocketing, shortages

of gas, fertilizer and wheat, and global economic instability, **it has become urgent to bring this project to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.** A major key to this is the ability to grow their own food. The beans and kale are already planted!!! Also key to this goal is developing the empowerment programs to become self-supporting, and to begin our own primary school program, on site. With God, ALL things are possible!

### Empowerment Programs:

- ❖ During the recent 7-week school break, our staff conducted 2 food distributions to our kids' families; however, this is not sustainable; the care-givers need to be empowered to feed their families. Rose reports a greatly increased hunger this year to learn trades and business practices. We now have 11 mamas participating in the Business Boost program, but we need to include the men in training as well. Prayers were answered when a young man joined Connect Chapel who teaches business and empowerment in a local college, and offered to help. He has produced an extensive business plan including various projects in skills training with a long-term plan for project self-sufficiency. More information on that is coming soon.
- ❖ Tailoring: The two classes are full with 17 students, and sadly, for the first time we had to turn away 5 of our mamas who wanted to learn. There is also no room for production, which is necessary to make the program self-supporting. Rent is high, and the distance from the school makes transportation costly and difficult for the mamas. To build a secure cement Tailoring Building on site with 3 rooms, for Classroom Training, Production, and an Office/Storage space is \$8,100. In Kenya, Tailoring has a consistent market, and creating a profitable business is realistic if you have the building and equipment; we have 9 machines plus specialty machines, and also have a Lead Seamstress who is business savvy, and has an exciting vision for the program. If you would like to help with this endeavor or would like more info, please contact us.
- ❖ Vocational training: We will be using Kitale Vocational Training Center as a resource for our students who cannot attend high school or university, as well as parents who qualify. Sponsors are needed in this area.

### Spiritual Growth:

- ❖ Connect Chapel is growing quickly, with more members added every week. This past Sunday, six new parents gave their lives to Christ! This creates a wonderful problem: the preschool building where they hold services is no longer adequate. Two of the classrooms are used for services, the third for storing the preschool furniture over the weekend. There is no place for Sunday school, so the children are in the service with adults. Wednesday prayer meetings are also well attended.
- ❖ Parent Empowerment and Discipleship meetings are also growing; the parents meet each Friday for Empowerment, and for prayer, worship and Bible instruction the last Friday of every month. We need to raise a structure to use as a church, but also as a venue for Parent meetings, so the Preschool can be used for Sunday School. A simple wood and tin building with cement floor and storage area would cost \$7, 100. Please join us in prayer that God would raise up help in this area.

### Ian Memorial Sponsorship Program:

- ❖ We now have 77 students sponsored, 62 in primary and 15 in High School, including Zablon, who was the top student at Seed of Hope! We are so grateful for the fantastic, loyal sponsors God has given!

### Other prayer needs:

- ❖ Food prices are rising worldwide, and Kenya is no exception. Our programs are expanding, and we had to raise the staff salaries to compensate. We appreciate your faithful support in these challenging times!
- ❖ Our goal for this year is to construct a permanent preschool so we can use the current temporary structure to begin primary classes. Cost has risen to ~\$43,000. The staff, and parents, desire to keep the kids on site for Grade 1, expanding one class per year until we can construct a primary school. ***A primary school would not only bring the project to self-sufficiency, but would enhance long term involvement in the kids' and parent's lives and significant growth in the spiritual community. Please pray with us in this matter.***
- ❖ Please continue to pray for Eliud, who again has been put on the waiting list for surgery...
- ❖ Please continue to pray for all of our staff, kids and families, and for the Board of Africa Connect.

We are so grateful for each one of you, partnering together with us in obedience to God's Great Commission!

LuAnn Herring, for the AC team

***Donations are tax deductible, and can be made by check to Africa Connect,  
PO Box 598, Lee, MA 01238, or through Paypal at [www.africaconnect.org](http://www.africaconnect.org)***

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