



***"Because of the loving devotion of the LORD we are not consumed, for His mercies never fail.
They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!" Ps 113: 7,8***

Kenya National Music Competition: Disappointment opens doors of opportunity

Our Grade 6 students were full of excitement as they arrived in Bungoma to compete in the National level of the Music Competition. The bus had been hired, the costumes sewn, and hours of practice time and prayers had created a high level of joy and confidence in the kids.

However, as they prepared to go on stage, an official of the event announced that policy had been changed; rather than Positions 1 and 2 from each category in the Regional competition performing, only Position 1 contestants would perform. Everyone else could go home. As our students won Position 2, you can imagine their disappointment; it was an unfair decision, and its timing was cruel and costly. Many tears were shed from students and staff alike...



But then we remembered the faithfulness of our God. Throughout the history of this mission, the Father has had a way of turning every tragedy and disappointment into a new, and always more fruitful direction. We remember when Ian Kipkoech, a promising and dearly loved 11- year- old student, was killed through a man's cruelty during a political parade. No justice was served. That tragedy, however, was the birthing of Ian Memorial Sponsorship Fund, which has put many, many children like Ian through primary and High School, and even beyond. We are now in discussions with the Kenyan team about alternative, and more fruitful, ways these kids can use the gifts God has given them. Going forward, we will increase focus on cultivating each child's unique giftings, and opening ways for them to use those gifts to impact their community with the gospel. They are powerful little warriors for Jesus, perhaps raised up for such a time as this...we will inform you of more to come!

BREAKING NEW GROUND: THE NEW CONNECT PREMIERE PRIMARY SCHOOL!

Construction of the Primary school is moving rapidly, with a new finish date of mid-September!



Pastor Apollo reports that the work is high quality, as well as prompt. As soon as the building is complete, the Grades 1-6 students will be transferred from the temporary building, which will then be demolished. As you can see in the picture, the buildings are too close to each other. The Temporary building's absence will leave more space for the elementary children to play; much of the material will be saved for other projects.

Now comes our new challenge: Should we be able to raise another \$50,000, the Jr Secondary section, with labs, could be completed by the end of the year, to be put into use when the 2027 school year opens in January! Rather than waiting to build

it next year as planned, we could then put major construction projects behind us for a time, and focus on growth and solidification of our empowerment programs and outreach to the community. This will facilitate all of our students up to High School level being instructed on the Connect campus, to better monitor their progress and meet their needs. Additionally, their families would have ample opportunity to participate in the Connect community and receive ministry from that vibrant body of believers. *Please pray, and give if you are able!*

Other News:

Preschool and Primary students happily resumed classes this week, thrilled to be reunited with teachers and friends, and to eat two meals every day! The August break was a busy one, though, as Connect hosted staff training, VBS, a Youth discipleship gathering, Bible school classes, a Women's conference, computer training and more, even as the construction crew was busy assembling the Primary school. There's never a dull moment...

Outreach: Connect Chapel can now be considered an Outreach Center! Members have caught the joy and excitement of reaching out to the weak and needy in their community, and it can only grow from here! Schools, hospitals, homes, and radio, all are open opportunities to express the love of Christ and the hope of His gospel.

Continuing Education: The AC Board of Directors is currently processing applications from High School graduates to assist them in post-secondary training and apprenticeship opportunities. The Continuing Education Grants prioritize students from the IMS program and Connect Chapel family members, and encourage the student and their family to work and plan responsibly in order to contribute to their future. Please consider donating any amount to the IMS Continuing Ed Fund to help more post-secondary students reach their goals in life!

Empowerment: Emmanuel, the head of the Connect Farming and Agriculture Department, is now overseeing all Empowerment programs. Emmanuel has experience in Microbusiness and Empowerment, as well as training in Foundations for Farming. Lillian Armstrong, as AC Empowerment Liaison, is speaking with the leaders and instructors to rightly discern the obstacles for parents, help them to market their new skills, and better track the results of the training. Overall, more parents are participating in the empowerment programs than ever.



Eight **Baking Class** students have graduated, with each one presenting a decorated cake for their final exam. They now plan to form a business group to better market their talents to the community. To start, Connect Chapel will now be buying their celebration cakes from them!

The Hairdressing and Tailoring classes will also be graduating at the end of October, on the same day as the Preschool and Primary graduates! Parents will be served lunch and attend a Parent's meeting.

Sadly, the **Cobbling** teacher was dismissed due to inconsistency; please pray for God's perfect replacement.

Farming and Agriculture

Rains are now happening sporadically, but most crops in the area have failed. Connect will have some maize, but not a full harvest. The price will be high, with imports from Western Kenya. They are looking into replacing some of the maize with millet, sorghum, and soya beans, high protein foods. Please pray for provision.

Business: A large group of parents, after attending business classes, have formed a business group, opened a bank account and received their first business loan. Please pray for these parents as they endeavor to improve. ***Please continue to pray for our seriously ill grandmothers, and our children who are in dangerous situations.***

Thank you for reading, for praying, and for giving; your support keeps this mission going!

LuAnn Herring, for the AC team US and Kenya

 WWW.AFRICACONNECT.ORG PO BOX 598, LEE, MA 01238	DATE: _____ MY DONATION: _____	 AFRICA CONNECT
	UNDESIGNATED (AS NEEDED): _____ DESIGNATED _____ PURPOSE: _____	
MY NAME: _____ MY ADDRESS: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____		
THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE WORK OF AFRICA CONNECT!		TO GIVE VIA CASH, CREDIT, DEBIT OR STOCK, GO TO: https://donate.infinitegiving.com/berkshire-missions
DONATIONS PAYABLE TO AFRICACONNECT WILL BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. PLEASE CONTACT US AT info.africaconnect.us@gmail.com . FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK PAGE @ https://web.facebook.com/africaconnect.us .		