



Partnering with the African Community to facilitate transformation



AC NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 2022

***“Which of these three do you think proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?”  
“The one who showed mercy to him,” He said. Then Jesus told him, “Go and do the same.” Luke 10: 36-37***

### **OUR FRIENDS IN KENYA ARE SUFFERING...**

These are tough days for many people, but poverty in Western nations cannot be compared to that of Africa, and especially in a slum; this is particularly true at this time. Rising costs of living, for many, mean only one small meal of vegetables daily. The bean harvest was dismal due to weather patterns, making them scarce and costly; maize flour, a staple of the poor, cannot even be found on store shelves. Oil, gas, and milk remain very high. Wyckliffe, our head social worker stated bluntly, “Kenya is a hungry nation.”

Election Day in Kenya is Tuesday, August 9, pitting the same opponents against each other that were involved during the 2008 election violence that took many lives; the memory lingers. Prayers for peace are fervent, but tensions are high, as political parties align with different tribes, competing for the influence and benefits that come with victory. Please pray that the election will be fair and peaceful, and will lead to responsible governance.

One benefit of election politics was a recent announcement of a big reduction in the cost of maize, a relief that is yet to be realized on the street. In fact, maize flour, the main staple for the poor, is completely unavailable in Kitale stores; beans, oil, and millet are still very high. We will wait until the maize harvest in October to buy the greater amount of the maize needed for the preschool, but we need to purchase some beans and maize now.

#### **❖ URGENT NEEDS:**

- Bulk food for terms 2 and 3 in the preschool, at a cost of about \$1400; \$750 is needed immediately.
- Building projects and development are being generously supplied, but we are struggling to meet the monthly costs of the preschool and empowerment programs, especially with all costs steeply rising. Please consider an undesignated gift to help us pay the Kenyan staff, feed the kids and keep the lights on!

***You can give by check to Africa Connect, PO Box 598, Lee, MA 01238, or Paypal at [www.africconnect.org](http://www.africconnect.org)***

#### **❖ CONNECT CHAPEL IS READY TO EMPOWER THE POOR FOR GOD’S GLORY!**



The new Church/Empowerment building is finished! A simple but very well constructed structure, it will hold 100 people, and includes office and storage space designated for Empowerment projects. Nothing is more empowering than the gospel of Jesus Christ, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and relationally. Pastor Apollo stresses the importance of spiritual and practical empowerment in the context of healthy community. As members grow in Biblical



understanding and application, they can overcome inner obstacles and learn to manage family relationships, finances and business, and also have opportunity for personal growth in practical life skills. Never has there been such a hunger for such growth among the families we reach; Connect Chapel is drawing a membership diverse in class, age, education, and tribe through solid Bible teaching, God’s love in practical action and a message of Jeremiah 29:11 hope; hope for a future, both in this life and in His Kingdom to come. The dream is now coming to pass in visible reality!

## ❖ THE TAILORING PROGRAM

A generous donor gave a matching grant for BOTH the Church/Empowerment building AND the soon to be constructed TAILORING ROOM! Soon we will be able to move the program to the site, saving rent and transport costs and centralizing our programs within one community. In our last newsletter, I mistakenly quoted the cost



as including a Training Room, Office and Storage, and Production Room; however, the Production Room, which will be necessary to embark in business, was not included. We have decided to allow the current training program to get established on site before adding a Production Room and the additional staff associated with that. We did, however, receive a generous gift for the machines and supplies needed for expansion and business! And the preschool students now have their uniforms, sewn by our own seamstresses!

## ❖ VOCATIONAL TRAINING:

Two of our IMS sponsored High School graduates, Susan Upendo and Joseph Makomi, desire training in a trade, and need help reaching their goals; Classes are beginning at Kitale National Polytechnic in September.

- Susan will be training in Electronics, a 2 ½ year certification program. Her total expenses will be divided into 3 years, at the cost of \$500 Per Year. Due to the cost, we would be open to Susan having 2 sponsors.
- Joseph would like to be a plumber, a 2 year certificate program, \$525 total cost per year.

***Susan and Joseph are intelligent, upstanding young people; if you would like to sponsor one of them, or would like more information, please write us at [africaconnect.empowerment@gmail.com](mailto:africaconnect.empowerment@gmail.com) . Thank you!***

## ❖ ANSWERED PRAYER, AND TRANSFORMED LIVES:

- ELIUD WENT THROUGH A 12 HOUR OPERATION SUCCESSFULLY, AND IS IN RECOVERY! HALLELUJAH! Eliud returned to Kijabe Hospital for a checkup, and all is well. During his 6 weeks of follow up AC is supplying his family with food, transport, and medicine thanks to a generous gift dedicated to him.
- JOEL PAPAI: We met little Joel in early 2020 as a new preschool student in “Playgroup”, formerly Baby Class. Sue Choquette and Joel’s teacher took note that he couldn’t hear, and the parents reluctantly had to search for the appropriate facility. Two years later, he was given the opportunity to attend St Columbans School for the Deaf in Kitale, but his parents couldn’t afford a boarding facility. Joel needed a sponsor. Thankfully, an IMS sponsor whose child recently left the program was happy to support Joel. Such a blessing!
- HARUN MUTALI: We met Harun at a rural clinic in 2016 suffering from



rheumatic fever, as well as abuse in the home. We got him to a hospital in Kitale and added him to our IMS sponsor program, but couldn’t provide the urgently needed medical care and follow up. Theresa, our “Good Samaritan” host in Kenya, took Harun into her family and sacrificially arranged for the complex heart operation. She reports: *“6 years ago I really thought we might lose this young man but his heart surgery saved his life and he made a great recovery. He had a lot of catching up to do having been so sick that he had missed more than 2 years of schooling, barely speaking English and having a lot of cultural and family issues to deal with. After many struggles and (understandable) behavior issues, he is now top of his class, school president, thoughtful and compassionate, polite and cheerful and just last week his teacher said she could not be prouder of any student seeing how he had changed. We are proud of him too and ever thankful to a particular heart surgeon and God!*



- ❖ Our goal for this year remains to construct a permanent preschool so we can use the current temporary structure to begin primary classes in January 2023. Cost has risen to ~\$43,000. Please pray for a miracle!

*Every life touched through your prayers and giving over the years is, to the Father, loving your neighbor as the “Good Samaritan”. What an honor to partner together with God as He transforms lives for eternity!*

LuAnn Herring, for the AC team