



“For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie.

If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay.” Hab. 2:3

“He has made everything beautiful in its time...” Eccl. 3:11

WE STAND IN AWE AT THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD!

First and foremost, thank you!!! There was a beautiful reponse to the needs presented in the August newsletter! We, speaking for the US and Kenya team as one, are truly humbled by your heartfelt prayer and sacrificial giving over the years. God has truly raised you up as faithful partners to reveal His compassion.

ANSWERED PRAYER AND PROVISION:

- ❖ The need for bulk food for preschool for the remainder of the year was fulfilled!
- ❖ Susan and Joseph have been sponsored at Kitale National Polytechnic, and have started classes!
- ❖ Dr William Ruto was inaugurated Tuesday as president of Kenya. The initial results were contested in the courts, a final outcome was decided, and the nation as a whole, thankfully, has peacefully accepted the results. Please continue to pray the new administration will govern the nation wisely and responsibly.
- ❖ Thank you for your response to the need for undesignated funds, to fulfill pending budget needs.

Why this additional update? Because so much has happened since August!

Africa Connect incorporated in 2005 with a clear vision: to facilitate community transformation in a slum community through the power of the gospel, working with Kenyans who demonstrate integrity, godly passion and shared vision; to lovingly restore God-given dignity and worth to the poorest children and their families, using education, medical care, empowerment and business initiatives, all in the context of Bible community. God did raise up a faithful Kenyan team, and in 16 years of steady plowing we have together endured the preschool moving twice since 2019, and more recently, school closures, lockdowns and food shortages. Then *suddenly*, in the midst of those most difficult obstacles, we see the vision come to pass! *God gets all the glory!*

In March 2021 He provided a beautiful piece of land, and all the infrastructure needs – water and sewer systems and toilets - and a “temporary” wood and tin structure preschool and “permanent” cement block kitchen. In April 2022, we miraculously purchased an adjacent plot of land necessary for project expansion and sustainability. Pastor Apollo founded Connect Chapel, and now has a Church/Empowerment building to house that ministry; and even now the Sewing Training Center is being constructed, so we can relocate our most successful empowerment program to the main site, which is expected to happen by the end of October.

We sometimes wonder if things are happening too fast...will it all get out of control? Then the Lord shows us, again, that He is indeed the One in control; this is His vision, and His timing, not ours. We are convinced that He is doing what is necessary to stabilize this project in the face of increasing global chaos and uncertainty.

Moving ahead of schedule? In Africa? We had planned to begin building the Instruction Room and postpone construction of the Production room (necessary to start business enterprise) until next year. As the workers prepared to lay the foundation, Apollo called in Ken, a church member who is an instructor of business empowerment and program sustainability. Ken had provided an excellent business plan for a Sewing Training Center that would become self-supporting. Upon seeing the site and size of the Tailoring Instruction Room, Ken suggested that rather than construct a Production room later, we extend the current room and use partitions, saving time and nearly \$2000. The donor that committed the 2/3 matching grant for the Church/Empowerment Building and Tailoring Room agreed to include that extension in the deal, and our remaining development funds fulfilled the balance. Though actual Business production will not begin until next year, we now have the facility to begin! **Additional supplies needed for Business Production: \$1500**



And God's timing is indeed perfect. Three years ago, we moved the preschool from the Graceway compound because a planned road widening project would result in demolition of the nearby buildings; that demolition never happened. We've recently learned that the road project and demolition is now in progress. This will remove the building that has housed our Tailoring program for many years; our new building is going up just in time! Though we marvel at God's provision, our hearts grieve for our friends at Graceway church and local business owners affected by this; we are trusting that God has a plan of provision for them as well. Pray!

THE NEXT STEP TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY: A PERMANENT PRESCHOOL BUILDING

WE HAVE A DONATION OF \$21,000 TOWARD THE PRESCHOOL! THE BALANCE NEEDED IS \$10,400.

The Goal: To complete the preschool building by the end of this year; that will free the 4 classrooms of the current temporary building for use January, 2023 as our first two classes of primary school. Class 1 will be the children graduating from the preschool, and Class 2 will be the Class 1 students currently sponsored through IMS at Seed of Hope. Each year another class will be added, giving time to carefully choose the staff and construct a primary building. This is a standard method in Kenya to encounter the challenge of starting a primary school, which in this case is *key to full project sustainability*. Having our own primary school will provide great opportunity to better monitor the students in their spiritual and educational progress, as well as monitor the increasing ability of the parents to provide for their families as they become empowered. Pastor Apollo is a professional administrator in the Kenyan primary school system; this will also empower him to hire quality Christian teachers that share the vision. 1/3 of sponsor funds are currently spent on student transport to Seed of Hope. Because the school will be local, the transport savings, added to income from other parents who are able to pay fees, will allow primary classes to be funded locally rather than through Africa Connect.

Please pray with us for this need to be met - we sense an urgency to finish out the year in this way.

OTHER NEWS:

❖ **Connect Chapel held their first service in the new building August 28th!**

❖ The house was full as Pastor Apollo and Rose, members and friends gathered to celebrate God's faithfulness and humbly dedicate themselves to His service.

❖ **Business Boost:** With costs continuing to rise, the small amounts we have been giving to assist mamas is no longer enough "boost" to feed their family and reinvest in the business. We would like to increase this program's cash base in order to give more flexibility and better enable success. As businesses grow, the invested funds will be returned to serve others with similar needs. **Desired goal for Cash Fund: \$750.**

❖ The on-site empowerment programs add traffic to the compound, legally necessitating a 2nd set of toilets for adult use. **A simple 5-door toilet using a stronger grade tin roof and walls is estimated to cost \$3250.**

❖ A water harvesting system has been installed on the Church/Empowerment building to save money and natural resources, and increase self-sufficiency in times of drought or other types of disaster. There are many potential projects being discussed that will help to save resources and enhance sustainability.

"Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him." Ps. 41:1 ESV

Thank you for all you have done and are doing in Jesus' name, and may He bless you and keep you indeed!

LuAnn Herring, for the AC team, US and Kenya

If you have questions or comments, please send us a note at info.africaconnect.us@gmail.com.

Our mailing address is below, and Paypal is available at www.africaconnect.org. Thank you for your loving partnership!



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