



“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Matt. 13:44

“Come, my beloved, let us go out into the fields and lodge in the villages; let us go out early to the vineyards and see whether the vines have budded...There I will give you my love.” Song Sol: 7:11,12



Back in 2004, Tuwani Slum was the birthplace of this vision. In this filthy, degraded collection of dark mud houses and open sewers, we found a treasure, a rich treasure that moved us to invest our lives to uncover. The roads are now paved, via the World Bank, but the misery remains. In the midst, the children smile, laugh, and play in innocence, while parents still struggle to feed them and pay the rent. But quietly, lives are being changed. Not through big handouts and street campaigns, but through personal decisions and resolute action, supported by loving, stable community and the counsel of God and His Word. It's not easy walking those Tuwani pathways, lined with suffering; but we

are truly seeing yield from years of investment. And in this field, we are experiencing the joy of God's heart. If you are a Christian, and not involved in reaching out to people who are in need, you are really missing out.

2026 Missions Trip began with a rough start, as a snowstorm delayed the flights of the Herrings, causing us to have an overnight in Paris. We were separated from Lillian Armstrong, who was traveling from Kansas City, but were reunited in Nairobi and arrived at Karibuni Lodge, our home away from home, on January 29. Ironically, Sue Choquette and Kathy Rexrode's flights from NYC were also canceled by a blizzard, and they were separated; but Sue arrived Feb. 26 and Kathy will join us Saturday. They now only have until March 17, so we will be very busy! Bob and I will stay two weeks later, arriving home (Lord willing!) April 1. The time is moving fast!

Sue and Kathy are arriving just in time for our **4th Anniversary Celebration at Connect Chapel!** This vibrant church is experiencing rapid growth, and with the rains coming early this year, now was a good time to expand the building. They are expecting to host over 400 people. The church members are paying not only for the church renovation, but to feed all the guests. They are joyful to host and serve the kids, parents, and local community.

Outreach & Relief: Afternoon rains have hindered some home visits, but the entire team is persevering, as this interaction and evaluation of the children's home conditions is vital to the success of the ministry. It is always heartbreaking to discover 6, 8 or even 10 people living in small mud rooms with little to no furniture or bedding. Change is happening, but never as quickly as we hope. But God is faithful, and He is working.



School Ministry: We are really excited about many doors opening to minister to children in the local public schools, both primary and high school. Bob and a team of young men from Connect spoke to hundreds of kids at Kaloleni School in Tuwani, whose hunger was overwhelming. They shared the gospel clearly not only with the kids, but with 20 teachers, who were all enthusiastic and responsive.

Premiere Preschool:

The 2026 school year began January 6, for our 65 preschool students. We are thrilled that all of the parents signed up for an empowerment program when registering their child, and seem

motivated. The Parent's Meeting coming up will confirm registration and encourage the parents to be involved in the Connect Community, to better their lives and to provide for their children.

Ian Memorial Sponsorship Program: Friday, Feb. 27 we hosted 30 sponsored students, grades 9-12, plus many of our HS graduates, social workers and team at Karibuni. We are so thankful that Sue, the IMS director,

was able to join us this year, as she has such a loving investment in these kids. The lunch is a time of reconnection and encouragement, and an opportunity to write letters to their sponsors. They also receive counsel as to their next steps in life. Some of our graduates will likely choose to apply for a Grant for Vocational/Technical training, as attending university is nearly impossible without a hefty scholarship. The students always express sincere gratitude to their sponsors for their loving support. You who are sponsoring a child have really changed these students' lives. This year we have 101 students sponsored through IMS. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please contact Sue at ianmemorial@gmail.com. We still have two children in Grade 2 who lost their sponsors.



Expansion and Sustainability: It's so exciting to stroll around the campus and see all that is happening, as the vision continues to mature and expand. In addition to the Tailoring Program becoming self-funding, now the Husbandry/Poultry project is as well! We have 4 milk cows, and another on the way! There are 9 goats, and a mix of turkeys, guinea hens, and ducks wander around among the flowering bushes and banana plants. 56 mature hens are laying, and many young layers are housed in a building constructed from the sale of roosters. This building also houses the feed store, where our own feed is now being produced, soon to be sold. The new incubator has 540 eggs hatching, which will be used to train parents in raising poultry. The next batch will be sold to reinvest in the project. Best of all, our kids are having milk and eggs regularly, and the improvement in their health is visible. In mid- March, following Games Day with the kids, our team will join them in enjoying "kuku", (chicken); it is a very rare treat for them to eat any meat at all.



Farming: Maize will be planted soon in our "shamba", while the added land to the main campus produces vegetables needed for the school. The Foundations for Farming training is paying off, as the kale is 5' tall!

Tailoring, Hairdressing and Baking have started; Beekeeping, Cobbling, Poultry and Farming classes soon to start.

Baking class: Lillian Armstrong is pioneering new ground, teaching Kenyans Baking; it has not been an easy task, as much of the familiar equipment is not available here, and the oven, measurements and materials are all different from home. She's done an amazing job at adapting, and has created a workbook to train a Kenyan instructor. She has also converted all the recipes to metric and to Swahili. She has a full class, and a waiting list of over 20 already! Lillian is passionate, as are her students. We pray this can grow into a commercial project.

Medical: This year has already presented challenges with medical intervention, but thankfully donors have responded to the need. Natasha Nicole, Grade 1, is in the midst of a series of eye surgeries that will drastically improve conditions that have affected her sight since birth. Please pray for two of our mamas who have been diagnosed with cervical cancer, and there is no support at home. Peter, a Grade 2 student, had a bad break in his arm, resulting in expensive surgery, and another boy had a minor fracture. Other caregivers with chronic disease receive life preserving medicine on a monthly basis, as well as milk, eggs, and vegetables.

On March 7, Connect will be hosting a community clinic for our parents in partnership with Cherangany Hospital.

Current needs: Though we have received encouraging support in donations to IMS and Medical, please be aware we are struggling to keep our basic school operations funded. Regular, undesignated donations are the foundation that keeps our programs operating in order to bless these families. We appreciate your support!

- **Primary/Jr Secondary school!** We still need commitments to help build our own Primary/Jr Secondary School. **2026 Cost for the Primary stage: \$74,500. In 2027, Grades 7-9, costing \$62,500. Overall cost: ~\$137,000.**

Thank you for following us and more importantly, for following Jesus as He leads us into all the world!

LuAnn Herring, for the AC team US and Kenya

PLEASE CONTACT US at info.africaconnect@gmail.com if you have questions or desire to join our mailing list.

POSTAL MAILING ADDRESS: Africa Connect, PO Box 598, Lee, MA 01238.

OUR WEBSITE at www.africaconnect.org now offers INFINITE GIVING and PAYPAL donation buttons on the "Get Involved" page. Please follow us on FACEBOOK at <https://web.facebook.com/africaconnect.us>.