



Partnering with the African Community to facilitate transformation



JUNE 2025  
NEWSLETTER

*“And their offspring shall be known among the nations and their descendants among the peoples. All who see them will recognize and acknowledge that they are the people whom the Lord has blessed. And they shall rebuild the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former desolations and renew the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.” Is. 61: 9,10.*

## **BUILDING IMPACT & INFLUENCE IN THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY**

### **Connect Premiere Schools are Rocking the National Music Competition!**



June was a busy month, as the entire Connect staff and student body prepared for the highly competitive Kenya Music and Dance Competition. In costumes sewn by the Connect seamstresses, the kids traveled to the Sub-county competition, and won in 7 categories! Two weeks later, these preschool and primary kids from the slums competed against 300 other schools, most of them larger, with more funding and notoriety. 50 students in 3 groups (1 preschool, 2 primary) have qualified to compete at Regional level on July 8! The kids are so excited, and the Kenya team are believing God to go all the way to the National Level!

“This competition offers a unique platform for young artists to showcase their skills, gain performance experience, and connect with peers and mentors. For our school, participating in and potentially hosting or leading this event will not only empower our students but also place our institution in the spotlight as a hub of artistic excellence and cultural leadership.” We will keep you posted; please pray, and help us to defray the high costs, if you are able! Needed: \$2600.

### **Connect Radio Expands its Reach!**

**Imani Radio has recently expanded its cell towers, and our radio programs are now estimated to reach 6 million listeners**, now reaching to Nairobi as well as deeper into Uganda! In addition, Apollo's recorded radio messages are also now broadcast on the Connect Chapel Facebook page; give it a listen, at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082874155886>. We are in need of a monthly sponsor for \$50 to \$100/month to support this vital and effective outreach; if you can help it could impact many eternally.

**Impact Leadership Bible School** was officially launched April 24 with a class of 15, but quickly grew to 28 (plus 3 teachers) in June, attracting students from other churches. This will be an intensive two-year course.

Apollo states, “The Bible School has the aim to encourage and challenge the participants to allow their lives to impact the people they come into contact with. It's been very encouraging to see the saints giving themselves to learn God's Word. We consider the school as not a forum to add head knowledge but to practically encourage the participants to get out to the community and present the gospel of hope.”



**Community Cell Groups:** The Kenyan team and Connect Chapel have internalized the vision for transformation of their communities, and are actively pursuing that goal. There are now 9 active cell groups in different areas, each studying the same discipleship material, with a goal to raise up leaders to expand with more cell groups.

**As the project expands, so does the need for more Accountability and Reporting.**

**Parent Evaluation:** We have created a system for the field staff to track the parent's participation in Empowerment programs, church, and their child's education, and their financial status as well. This will enable

the staff, as well as the US team, to evaluate the progress our families are making through our programs, and to make recommendations as to their progressive ability to contribute in some way to their child's education. Our staff reports that most parents are making great improvement in their participation with their child's education, and most primary parents are now involved in empowerment and church. Many can now buy food for their children and pay rent, but as yet cannot pay school fees. We appreciate any progress in their lives!

**Program Financial Tracking:** To help to track the progress of each program's goal of becoming self-funding.

### **Ian Memorial Sponsorship Program:**

2 High School Students still need 2<sup>nd</sup> sponsors to help us cover their expenses. The cost is \$475/year, but this would be a short-term sponsorship. Please contact [ianmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:ianmemorial@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Empowerment and Relief Programs:**

**Tailoring:** With an addition of more machines and tables, we now have 18 machines for 18 students; we also received 2 badly needed electric machines for the Production unit, enabling more seamstresses to be added. In order to meet our goal to make the Tailoring program completely self-funded by the end of this year, we need two more large investments: an Embroidery Machine and Presser (\$1300) which can make school logos for uniforms to get school contracts, and a Knitting and large overlock machine for making school sweaters. (\$1500).

**Computer:** Thanks to a kind donation, we added 15 tablets for the primary students to the current 8 desktop computers, and hope to get 15 more this year. The primary building, when completed, will have a computer lab.

**The Emergency Food Store** was launched to assist families going through difficult times, as well as our chronically ill caregivers. This replaces the holiday food distributions to all of the families, and instead focus on those in greatest need. Funding on a one-time basis or monthly giving toward this is appreciated.

**Medical Relief:** The Medical Fund currently has adequate funding, and we have received a gift to assist our parents to register for the new health insurance for low income families, which will be a real money saver. This picture is of Alice (Mama Maggie) sharing a testimony of thanks to God and to her Connect church family. Donated blood for her transfusions, as well your financial giving helped to save her life. She is doing well, and is currently receiving dialysis two days per week.



**Farming and Husbandry:** The Connect family has now expanded, as our two new milk cows have each birthed a heifer calf! This means plenty of milk for the kids and the chronically ill parents, as well as milk to sell. It also meant hiring Mr. Pelipeli to care for the cows and the 200 chickens we just added, plus the ducks. Apollo is looking at incubating the eggs, to sell chicks at a discount to parents hoping to start a poultry business. By the fall, we will have maize husks for feed, and he expects the program will be supporting itself. As for now we have to purchase the animal feed.



Additionally, we hope to purchase 5 goats, (\$445), for meat and for milk, and start bee-keeping and teach the parents to do it. (\$222.50).

### **IMPORTANT EXPANSION UPDATE:**

For years we have spoken of the goal of having our own primary school building. Our students in grades 6-9 are currently scattered around the county, making it difficult to monitor their spiritual and educational progress, and to effectively include their parents in the Connect community and its programs.

With the expansion of our usable land in 2024, we envisioned having a new building for Grades 1-6 completed by the end of this year. However, that land has been largely taken up with cows, chickens, farm training plots, and a playground for our preschool kids. This multi-use approach meant we were forced to build a two-story building, which is much more expensive, and involves a complex planning and permitting process. In addition, placing the building so close to the other buildings creates construction deadlines to align with school holidays, and the necessity of tearing down the temporary classroom by November. This would leave no options and translates to a lot of financial pressure. All of this has given the AC board pause, not wanting to pressure our donors, rush the process, or have the building project detract from our primary goals of educating and nurturing the children and empowering their families.

In a beautiful answer to prayer, we learned that Apollo was recently approached by two different neighbors who are willing to sell us land. **Surprisingly, the cost of 4 plots of land AND building a one-story school building is significantly less than building a two-story building, saving us \$75,000 to \$100,000!** The Kenya team is carefully reviewing the two options of purchasing land, determining the benefits and detractors of each. However, the cost of either piece of land is the same, as the standard current price would total **~ \$50,000 including legal fees.**

We could then plan to build the new school in 2026, and if necessary divide it into two phases, into 2027. The completed building will house both Primary classes Grades 1-6 and offices, and Junior Secondary classes 7-9 plus computer and science labs, Home Science room and library. Because the building will not be near the current temporary classrooms, there will be no need to demolish that building. However, we will need to add another classroom for Grade 6; the cost of building that classroom for the upcoming Grade 6, with furniture, is **~ \$4200.**

**Why our own Primary school? Not only is this step a necessary move forward to supply our students' educational needs, but it also is a necessary step in our goal toward project self-sustainability.**

1. We need to draw in more local parents who are able to pay school fees, to cover the costs of the school administration and operations; this assures we can continue access for our needy children.
2. The school will be attractive to the local community because it offers a superior educational experience, in a Christ like atmosphere. Its presence gives visibility, and speaks of long-term stability and quality.
3. The availability of clean water, solar power and healthy farm fresh meals is also highly attractive.
4. Connect Premiere schools have recently been registered with the government as national and regional testing centers. This is an attractive feature to parents who would pay fees.

Every step this mission has taken through the years has been by faith, through the miraculous provision of God. We can't thank you enough for being His channel of provision. Let's pray for another miracle!

#### OTHER PRAYER AND SUPPORT NEEDS:

- ❖ Ecclai has completed two ear surgeries, with significant improvement in her hearing. However, in the process she has missed so much school (and they don't allow repeating grades), she is looking into vocational training of some type. Please pray for her adjustment in this time in her life, and for her to succeed.
- ❖ We have 8 High School students graduating this November. Please pray for them as they venture into their next phase of life, that they will thrive spiritually and pursue God's leading in their lives.
- ❖ Connect now has 23 staff employed that are paid by AC. Please pray for all of the administrators, teachers and staff, for their continued faithfulness, wisdom, and unity, and continued protection for their families.
- ❖ We will need to purchase beans for the feeding program in August, as only maize was planted. **\$2140.**
- ❖ We finally have 2 playgrounds, one for the preschoolers and one for primary and Junior Secondary. We have a great need for playground equipment (tires, swings, badminton) and table games for the children: **\$2000**
- ❖ For the children's protection, spiritual and physical health, and for continued increase in the parents' desire to participate in church and in AC programs that can dramatically change their lives.

As you can see, the needs are many, and can be overwhelming at times. As we learned early on in Kenya, all we can give is what He puts in our hands, and that is true for our partners as well. But faith is what truly pleases Him, and our prayers of faith are powerful! He has always been faithful and will answer as He wisely sees fit.

We love you all, and cannot thank you enough for all you have done for these children and their families.

LuAnn Herring, for the AC team US and Kenya

**Please contact us at [info.africaconnect@gmail.com](mailto:info.africaconnect@gmail.com) if you have questions or would like to join our mailing list. Mailing Address: Africa Connect, PO Box 598, Lee, MA 01238. The Africa Connect website (with Paypal) is [www.africaconnect.org](http://www.africaconnect.org). You can follow us on Facebook at <https://web.facebook.com/africaconnect.us>.**

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