



Harvesters
International Ministries

SPRING 2011

a threefold cord...is not easily broken

what about mary?

bringing god's love to the forgotten women of pokot

by: jen todd

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

~Galatians 3:28

Driving through northwest Kenya on the bumpy dust filled roads for hours on end, I had no idea what I might experience. A mere two weeks earlier God called me out to the remote bush to meet the women and girls of Pokot.

I met a woman named Mary under a tree at the Kodich Children's Home. Mary has seven children with her husband that she wed through an arranged marriage in her early teens. They immediately began having babies, like many of the twelve-year old Pokot girls. As part of the cultural traditions of many indigenous tribes, Mary underwent a practice in her early teens called Female Genital Mutilation (otherwise known as female circumcision), a ritual that signifies her readiness and faithfulness for marriage.

For years Mary has worked tirelessly night and day in the harsh bush climate to find ways to feed and care for her children and survive with little to no income or support from her husband.

Though Mary shared a multitude of problems about the hot dry arid climate, remoteness of the area, rampant diseases with little medical access, lack of clean water and sustainable sources for food and reliable income, those were not the worst problems for her.



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Mary with three of her seven children at the Kodich Children's Home

The most painful thing for her to share was her deep disappointment about the lack of support from her husband or any Pokot men for that matter. When Mary wed her husband he gave her one goat to take care of, though like most of the Pokot men, he never cared for the goat, or their children or the household in any way.

Mary's husband does not work and will not bring income of any kind into the family. Her husband, when he did show up, was abusive and dismissive to the whole family.

Mary got silent and angry when she added the final point to her story. This husband of hers (of which she never even told us his name) had just left her for a twelve year old girl that he planned to marry and have more children with.

Some of Mary's children now stay at the Kodich Children's Home. She prays daily for someone to sponsor her children through Kensington Community Church's sponsorship program so that they will have food, water, shelter, and education. Mary has not reached the point of total desperation because of the loving Christian environment of the Kodich community...at least not yet.

This story, unfortunately, is not uncommon at all. The purpose women in the Pokot society serve is to provide a marriage dowry to their fathers, bear children and do labor. Child forced marriage, lack of education and respect for girls, female circumcision, overworked girls and women raising large families themselves, absent and unsupportive husbands, polygamy, rampant diseases, maternal and reproductive health issues, starvation, and deep cycles of poverty, are the just norms of daily life among the Pokot.

Despite these challenges, Mary says there is good news. God is at work bringing women together in community to change their situation. When we asked Mary about other women to talk to, we found out that through the local church, there is already a group of 30 women who have bonded together to collectively supporting each other emotionally, spiritually and economically. This women's group gets together weekly for ministry, fellowship and collaborative creation of income to feed and take care for their families.

I learned that the group Mary is part of has a treasurer to manage their collective money, five community goats, and creates income from selling honey and beans. When I went to the Kauriong Children's Home, which is even more remote, I was surprised to find an even larger group of 62 women there.

The Kauriong group makes and sells beautiful beaded artifacts, evangelize in neighboring villages. They also support each other in prayer, singing and fellowship.

These women have great determination, ingenuity and aspirations. Both groups shared similar dreams of launching additional income generating projects such as sewing and selling clothes, making jewelry and baked goods and starting a rental guest house business.

Their dreams will require training, equipment and minimal capital for supplies to make their dreams a reality. They already know the value of sharing their knowledge with others, which would provide the girls at the children's homes an opportunity to learn practical skills for their future.

As I left the women's group at Kodich, I finally understood why God sent me there and why we all need to care about this plight. The women were singing and dancing in their native tongue with great gratitude for us coming to talk with them. When I asked what they were saying, I heard they never had a white woman come and "just love them for who they are." These words will be etched in my heart forever.

The women and girls of Pokot deserve to know the love of God and live out the plan that He has for them. To feel valued for who they are is the foundation to inspire a change in their situation. We, all of us, can give them that by supporting the training and resources needed for sustainable income, valuing who they are regardless of gender, and most importantly, showing them they are worthy and loved in the name of Jesus Christ.

Around the world, developing women and girls has been recognized as a critical strategy to break the cycles of poverty. When we educate girls, they have opportunities to contribute to their communities, generate income and raise healthier and self-sustaining families. When we empower women, we transform communities.

Please pray for God to reveal to the Pokot the value of girls and women and bless them with the sustainable support and resources they need to prosper and thrive.



Mary and Jen Todd discussing the opportunities of the Kodich Women's group

Mary (far left) meets with several members of the Kodich women's group that have bonded together to support each other emotionally, spiritually and economically



Healing the Heart

by: Michelle Prisk

God is in the business of healing hearts - molding, shaping, and refining us for purposes far beyond what we can comprehend or imagine. Isn't it interesting that throughout this process God leads us to places that we resist the most?

I have had a heart for serving the poor since I first came to know Christ as my savior. It seemed natural to allow the grace and love flowing into me to pour out into others in need of the same hope and healing. I began serving on mission trips in both Mexico and Ecuador.

I loved it and I witnessed God work among his people but I still had a bit of holy discontent, knowing that God desired something not better but different for me. I continually heard God speak to me about Africa, and, in typical human fashion, I consistently turned him down.

In the summer of 2008, I could no longer deny the stirring in my soul. I traveled to Chemolingot, Kenya for the first time with Harvester's International Ministries, and I was ruined for the people of Africa. We were mutually broken. Their plight became my plight, their burdens my burdens. The task of God's people is rooted in Christ's mission. Very simply, Christ preached the good news of the kingdom in word and in deed, and he particularly delighted in loving the hurting, the weak, and the poor. It is my privilege to follow my King's footsteps into places of brokenness to do the same.

God recently provided for me to serve at Chemolingot once again. In October I traveled on a medical mission team composed of an incredibly talented group of Americans and very generous Kenyan nationals. For two weeks, we rose

before the sun and traveled deep into the bush to set up mobile medical clinics to treat members of the Pokot tribe, the very poorest of the poor.

In my mind, these people are the true treasures of Kenya. To define the travel as off road is grossly reducing the difficulty of reaching these people. Folding chairs under trees emerged as makeshift exam rooms, and plastic tables with rope barriers became pharmacies. At times it was disheartening and difficult. We saw many injuries and afflictions that could have easily been prevented in the United States.

I cried and prayed over an infant on the verge of death as I held her in my arms. Yet - victory! God proved himself bigger than our convenient American medical technology, more powerful than our brightly colored packets of medications, and mightier than the goals we set out to accomplish. God was present. Because of his presence, countless wounds were successfully treated, illnesses diagnosed, medicines dispersed, and hearts healed. Yes, hearts were healed.

Many Pokot who walked miles to receive medical treatment also heard the life-changing message of Jesus Christ for the very first time. Our evangelism team cleaned ears, put drops in dusty eyes, but most importantly, they linked the provision of medical care with the hope that can only be found in the Lord. One of my favorite characteristics of the ministry of Harvester's is the distinction that American teams strive to work with, not for, the national people.

At each clinic, the Pokot were connected to an indigenous pastor who will continue to build into the nationals and provide spiritual instruction on an ongoing basis. I praise God for the leaders he has put in place in Pokot to carry forth this vision.

At Chemolingot, the growth and progress of the church and orphanage was encouraging. I witnessed firsthand the ways in which our efforts and support from the USA are making a tangible difference in the lives of many. On Sunday morning, the church was filled to the brim with faithful worshipers, hanging on Pastor Yusef's every word.

Our team had the opportunity to provide and serve a filling meal to each and every child residing in the orphanage, as well as the general

church population. Watching children realize with wide eyes that plenty of seconds were available, while sipping their very first soda, made my heart burst with gratitude for those generous donors who made such an event possible.

Buildings that were mere dreams in progress during my last visit are now dormitories holding children who sleep peacefully, knowing they are safe and cared for. A school has been established to educate these kids and opened doors now lead to endless possibilities.

There is great joy and restoration occurring at Chemolingot; however, there is still much work to be done. The aforementioned dormitories require additional beds and mattresses in order to accommodate children waiting to move into the orphanage.

The school is a temporary building and children sit on rocks or even just the dirt floor to learn to read and write. The dining hall is still empty of tables and chairs. The need is great, but our God is greater. My prayer is that our actions and response to these needs will stem directly from God's leading.

My words are not big enough and simply cannot adequately describe my heart and vision for the people of Africa. For my fellow team members, and myself, two short weeks in Kenya have again proven to cultivate many years of heart-altered living.

The red dirt that was packed beneath our feet as we traveled the roads and paths of Kenya lingers. It is caught in our photographs and smudged into the fabric of my backpack. Best of all, it stained several of my t-shirts. This vibrant hue that pops up at odd times and in inconspicuous places makes my heart smile wide and causes me to love folding laundry, which really says something.

If you have not had the opportunity to travel and minister with a

Harvester's mission team, I encourage you to pray about it. You'll impact the lives and hearts of many, and who knows, you might just end up with a healed heart of your own. I did.

"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.." Isaiah 58:11

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Michelle Prisk with a child at the Chemolingot Children's Home

Celebrating Our Inability

2010 Chairman's Report by: Fred Hughes

Ever wonder how Joshua felt as he gazed at the massive walls surrounding Jericho? In his mind's eye, he was certainly considering a military campaign. Perhaps, a siege?

But suddenly God appeared and promised Joshua a different kind of victory. I suspect the look on Joshua's face would be priceless as he listened to God's battle plans: March around the city for six days with seven priests carrying trumpets. On the seventh day, have all the people shout after hearing the trumpets blow. Then watch the walls of the city collapse.

In all honesty, God's instructions were weird. "Did I hear that right, God? Perhaps, I should get a second opinion?"

David Platt describes this episode with Joshua in his best selling book, *Radical, Taking Back Your Faith From The American Dream*.

"In direct contradiction to the American dream," Platt writes, "God actually delights in exalting our inability. He intentionally puts his people in situations where they come face to face with their need for him. In the process he powerfully demonstrates his ability to provide everything his people need in ways they could never have mustered up or imagined. And in the end, he makes much of his own name."

Myanmar: In Myanmar, Pastor "Benjamin" is helping to support the ministry with a pig project; he has sold more than 50 pigs since its inception. He has no money but he's praying about starting a Bible College/training center in Yangon to equip people to preach the Gospel and train them how to go and do it. Surrounded by huge Buddhist temples, he travels widely under threat of great personal danger to tell others about Jesus.

Pakistan: In Pakistan, Pastor Bashir and believers have been dealing with severe flooding, yet their outreach efforts have not missed a beat. They carry forth the Gospel with the least amount of financial support. Yet they consider these challenges exciting.

India: At Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra in India, Kamlesh and Ranu are effectively reaching families with the Gospel through the children who are educated in the Christian schools, despite the fact that the school buildings are overcrowded and there is a critical need for a school bus so the ministry can expand its impact in the villages. They see overcrowding as a blessing.

In India, the Christian Youth Services Center continues to minister to different groups in Andhra Pradesh despite erratic funding. Edwin continues to place emphasis on the Widows Ministry, educating children through Bible studies, and teaching girls and older women vocational skills. God has made provision for a library of 6,000-plus books.

Congo: In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pastor Habimana of the Union of Baptist Churches Goma reports that many people are coming to the Lord and the number of churches is growing. Numerically, there have been more than 134 church planted, and the ministry reaches out to orphans and widows and operates 18 schools plus a Bible school.

Uganda: In Uganda, Pastor Sam is thankful that To Africa With Love Ministries is able to witness the Lord's provision in church growth, and the training of pastors, all with a meager amount of funding.

Kenya: In Kenya, there's a waiting list for children to enter the orphanage at Grace Outreach Ministry. The church is mindful to look after widows. To supplement their diet, Pastor Philip is overseeing a farm project that grows maize and sugar cane, and a fish project where fingerlings can be harvested in less than eight months. And a new school is underway. Sticks and mud for now. "We only started by faith and by faith we shall grow," the pastor says. God made provision for a tractor last year that makes the farm project much more effective. Now, Pastor Philip is praying for a pickup truck.

The newly opened Chemolingot Children's Home in East Pokot is straining to house all the orphans, and another dorm for girls is already needed, says Pastor Yusef.

The Kodich Orphanage is utilizing solar water pumping for its attempt to grow some of its own food using drip irrigation in its small garden project.

The Kauriong Orphanage is utilizing solar power to charge and operate a DVD player with sound and a projector so Pastor Solomon can extend his ministry into northwest Pokot. He uses the Jesus Film in the Pokot language as well as the God Story and several other videos in the Swahili language.

At all three orphanages, the children learn about Jesus Christ, and they develop a passion for sharing Him with others. A formal training session for orphanage managers and pastors was held in January. It's the first time these men have been together in the same room and was a great opportunity for them to dialogue with each other.

The Lomut Secondary Mixed School faces all the challenges of funding for existing students and the additional pressures created by increased enrollment.

In East and West Pokot, Harvesters continues to drill water wells as the Lord provides the funding. Each borehole 'investment' has eternal benefits. The fresh, clean drinking water brings stability to thousands of nomadic tribesmen, which makes it much easier and faster to reach them spiritually. Spiritually, until we all come to the well, we wander.

The Water Fall Project that started nearly 10 years ago in West Pokot is now complete. A steel pipeline brings clean water from the mountain more than 13 miles down into the Rift Valley. The plan is to implement a Pilot Farm Project near the pipeline and prove an ability to produce fruits and vegetables in this arid land that will begin to mitigate the starvation that is so rampant.

The transition to first-time farming is a big step for these nomadic tribesmen. They've never had easy access to water before.

When the Pokot begin harvesting crops at the Pilot Farm Project, then we're believing that God will provide millions of dollars for the full-size Drip Irrigation Project, an investment that literally can break the cycle of hunger in East Africa and rapidly open the door for God to powerfully demonstrate His provision.

This is a natural extension of the original Water Fall Project.

But first, we understand that Harvesters must be tested in the little things before asking God's people to endorse such a monumental project.

The people are still struggling to overcome the challenges facing the Goat Project. Wood fences and buildings will not last because of the ferocious termites. Using other materials, like steel and concrete, present a new set of challenges and expenses.

Construction is beginning at the new Cherangan Mission Station. It's never easy to coordinate the availability of funds with the availability

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Burmese man that was part of an evangelical outreach to an area in Chin State, Myanmar.

of materials and a competent crew. Yet, God has faithfully provided for the construction of boreholes and mission stations since 1997. God Is In control.

Our ministry partners in Myanmar, Pakistan, India, Congo, Uganda, and Kenya are proof positive that the church is growing elsewhere on the globe. The growth is not measured in bricks and mortar, or parking lots and pews, but in souls. As mortals, we can build just about anything. But only Jesus saves.

At Harvesters, we realize that God is divinely orchestrating the outreach of this ministry so that in the end only He can get the glory for what happens. As Platt writes in Radical, "This is how God works. He puts his people in positions where they are desperate for his power, and then he shows his provision in ways that display his greatness."

Harvesters International Ministries remains a conduit for churches and individual believers to put legs on their faith.

A single individual gave \$50,000 as seed money to build the first mission station in Kenya. A single individual gave \$135,000 as seed money to build the Water Fall Project starting nearly a decade ago. A single individual has pledged \$100,000 for the Pilot Farm Project.

Individual churches and foundations have given from \$25,000 to \$100,000 for specific projects, either as seed money or full payment.

In addition to sizable one-time gifts, a significant portion of Harvesters' donations come in the form of gifts ranging from \$5 to \$100, from individuals, Sunday school classes and churches. I can tell you with absolute certainty that God has multiplied every dollar hundreds, perhaps thousands of times. I don't understand how He did it, but He did it.

And not one dollar has been sent to the field without asking God to multiply it and use it for His glory. And not one project has been discussed, much less started, without many seasons of prayer.

Will you pray? The lives of individuals and families can be changed for eternity. These are the "fruits" of our labor. But only Jesus saves.

From the Field: Union of Baptist Churches

< Goma, D.R. Congo by: Athanase Habimana

It is with great joy to have this opportunity to share with you this update from our local churches. The Union has 134 planted churches, is committed to evangelism and church planting according to the great commission in Matthew 28: 19-20, and to promoting social activities such as supporting orphans and widows in their difficult situation, agricultural development through churches members, healthcare and education.

Eastern Congo is a difficult place where war and insecurity have destroyed everything. The consequences of it is that many orphans, widows, and maimed persons are seen everywhere without any assistance, and they do not have hope to live. The Union with its little means tries to help widows and orphans in order to give them hope and show them God's love.

Currently, there are 45 orphans being cared for, but there are so many others crying for help.

Last month we baptized 78 new believers and we have 7 new places where we will plant churches. Please pray for churches without building which are worshipping under rains and sun.

As you know that we don't have theological men, the Union sent Pastor Ndiho Pascal at Uganda Baptist Seminary for training, please pray for him.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support of the Union.

From the Field: Grace Outreach Ministry < Migori, Kenya by: Phillip Ochieng

Dear Partners in Ministry,

I bring you greetings in the wonderful and saving name of our Lord Christ Jesus from our family and the entire Ministry in Migori, Kenya. We want you to know that we highly appreciate your partnership with us in the field.

Family: As a family we are fine in Christ. Debra is now eight and in 3rd grade. Moses is seven and in 2nd grade. He needs prayer as he got seriously burnt last August. It looked like it healed but a growth is forming up in the burnt area which is quite itchy and continues to grow. Pray that he recovers from this health problem. Sheila, our third born is in kindergarten and loves singing and drama a lot. She is now five and looking forward to joining her brother and sister in grade school. Zachary is our youngest, now a year and a half and just learning to speak. Rose continues to suffer back pain. As she works on her medication and exercise we need your prayers.

Orphanage: The children we minister to are all well and in school. Five are now in high school with others waiting to join. The Lord has graciously been providing for the needs here and we continue to have faith in Him.

Due to an increased workload we need a full-time administrator to look into the details of the day-to-day activities. Pray that the Lord will send us the right person or family for this task.

Church Ministry: The church continues to grow more in spiritual soundness. Believers are learning to trust the Lord in their daily concerns and we see a maturing body with a Christ-centered life; they will draw others to the Lord by their faith.

Farm Project: With the provision of farming equipment, we have increased the acreage under farming. We are currently doing 40 acres. 25 acres are in sugar cane with the remaining in corn, beans and potatoes. The food crops help in feeding the children here while the cash crops are sold to raise funds for school fees. The farm tractor and trailer have made our farming more effective. We look to that time when we shall be self-sufficient.

The fish pond and bee keeping are other income-generating projects that we are working in. The government recently stocked our pond with 1,000 fingerlings and we look ahead to a good harvest later this year. As we get involved in these activities they become a training ground for the children here by instilling in them the concept of dignity in labor rather than depending on handouts.

School: The school land is reserved by a simple structure but we continue to look to the Lord to provide funding to get the construction work going. The school is intended to provide Christian based secondary education at affordable rates as there is no good Christian School in the area.

Prayer Needs:

- As we get involved in these activities that we will remain focused to minister spiritually to all who come into a relationship with us.
- That the school project may get funding
- That the children we care for will grow in the salvation knowledge of Christ
- That we complete the remaining stories of the building and get the needed dorms and to get the vocational training center going.
- For good health for Rose who is suffering back pain and Moses who suffered severe burns and has complications healing.
- For more sponsors to care for the children on the admissions waiting list.
- That we share the love of Christ with all we interact with and lead them to the saving knowledge of Christ.

From the Field: Pokot Outreach Ministries < Kapenguria, Kenya by: Julius Murgor

Dear Prayer Partners:

Greetings to you from my mobile situation, as I go from home to home, and road to road. I have been in the U.S. for three weeks now. I asked Ed to start my program from a "normal" weather down south and work it upwards towards Michigan so that it will be a bit warmer for me when I get there in mid-March.

Our kids are doing fine in schools. I was able to spend some time with Josephine and she is doing well. Her school work is going great and she is beginning to think about what college to go to. You may want to pray for her and us for wisdom as we help her make choices about college.

Rebecca, age 12, is also doing well in boarding school. She enjoys school very much. Miriam, age 10, who spoke Pokot and Swahili to the other missionary kids who could not understand any words of either Pokot or Swahili two years down the road in school, now speaks very good English. In a year or two, Mom's boy (7), Jumboy will also join boarding school. He is offering to take his mom and share his room in boarding school so she won't be lonely if she stays home in Pokot village.

Church Planting & Evangelism: Uganda held their national and general election in February, 2011 and it was full of irregularities. In the Pokot part of Uganda the army forced people to vote for Museveni as president, even though the people did not want him for president. The army involvement really disturbed the people and caused movements as people tried to get away from the army. Our churches, too, were not spared in areas like Karita, Cheptapoyo, Kalowani and Kanaroyon. Pray that the disturbance will stop so that our churches can continue to settle and mature spiritually.

December Youth Conference went well with over 800 in attendance. Over the years, God has given us abundance of fruit in the previous meetings. Celebrate with us that 115 young people came to know the Lord in the one held last year. Most of those that came to the Lord came from Turkwel and Lomut areas.

Kapenguria Church in Makutano, aided by Kensington to construct the church building a few years ago is thriving well. We sought help so we could have a multi-purpose facility in running activities in the church. In addition to many activities in the church, the members are reaching out and are establishing satellite churches in the area. Nateleng, Korokow and Marich Pass are the congregations that the Kapenguria church has established in just a few years. The new congregations are also encouraged to reach out as well to their neighborhood.

Orphanages: The new orphanage in Chemolingot is coming along well. The kitchen and dining are working well and the kids are so happy to have a home where they are loved, fed and really taken care of. They are also learning well. Beds, mattresses, and bedding needs are generously half-met for the three orphanages. At this point, we have mattresses and bedding for 320 kids, but are still 330 short to meet the total need. It costs \$70 to buy a high density mattress and blanket for one student bed.

Kodich kids did well in their national exam and we now have additional numbers of students in secondary schools. We are very thankful to Kensington Church for shouldering the need for food in the orphanages. It was really very difficult for us to monthly be able to provide the daily food needs for these kids and very stressful for us in the leadership of the organization.

Our stressing need now is school fees for the 35 orphans in secondary schools at the cost of \$1,200 per year and \$2,500 a year for each of the 21 colleges and university students.

The other item to urgently pray for is replacement of the vehicles that we have. They are now old and stall on the way through the bush in the middle of nowhere. Children in Kodich and Kauriong need transportation also. Over the last three years, three orphans have died in accidents while using public transportation.

Water Drilling: We are very grateful to those of you that have been praying for God's provision for to drill boreholes. This year seems to be starting well. By the end of March we will have drilled five boreholes, already. It is like God lives in a village that has a borehole and therefore good supply of clean water.

Whenever we have a ceremony on a borehole inauguration, the Pokot women who are hard hit when there is no water liken the availability of water in a borehole to God being in the hole or just a supernatural power in water provision. So continue to pray for this "next to God" thing to be available in the villages.

You may want to know why water is really important for these people. Imagine that there is no running water in your house. Imagine that even the rivers, the lakes, the ponds and any source of water reachable and near you is not there. How will you survive? That is the situation Pokot women, children and animals face every day. We are even excited that all the orphanages are likely to all have boreholes soon.

I had the privilege of marching to the village where I first started the work many years ago with three university graduates. It was a great joy to Cherangan villagers who in their testimonies reminded me how I used to recite Matthew 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God... all these things shall be added to you." In addition to university graduates being added to them, a mission station has been added. A church and medical clinic are coming up in Cherangan and that will be such a blessing to these villages as they receive these services in their own village. The borehole is already working well with a lot of clean water.

The God of miracles has just provided a commitment for the first phase of \$100,000 for the waterfall irrigation project. Phase II and Phase III, which are estimated to cost an additional \$200,000. The first phase is scheduled to be completed towards the end of the year.

Thank God that up to 50,000 people may no longer face the yearly starvation among the Serewo Valley people. May God bless and keep you as we partner together for His glory.

Prayer Items:

- That God will give us wisdom in deciding about college for Josephine.
- That God will provide for a replacement of the two vehicles that are getting old and stalling everywhere; and also the orphanage vehicle
- That God will settle down the troubled churches in Uganda.
- That God will provide for mattresses and bedding for the orphans, and the school fees for the secondary school and university students.
- That God will continue to provide funds for borehole drilling, each one costs \$21,000



The Kapenguria Church in Makutano has planted three churches and is reaching out to minister to its community.

From the Field: Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra <Ujjain, India by: Kamlesh & Ranu

Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings! We wish to share with you a recent meditation passage we read, that was a great blessing to us: "Remember that you are in the hands of the Master-Gardener. He makes no mistakes about His pruning. Rejoice! Joy is the Spirit's reaching out to say its thanks to Me. It is the new life-sap of the tree, reaching out to Me to find such beautiful expression later. So never cease to joy. Rejoice and thank!"

Praise God For:

- The newly-started ministry among Senior Citizens. Once a month about 15 senior citizens gather for worship, fellowship & dinner. They are provided free transportation to and fro. They have a great time sharing their joys and problems - it is a support group and a great blessing to all.
- With good rains we have a 24 hour water supply.
- The Snedekar Christian well in village Kollukhedi has adequate water to meet the needs of the villagers (accessible to all castes) and our school students.
- Rosie continues to be on walker, but TOTALLY FREE from pain. This means Jacob is also FREE from pain.
- A few medical doctor friends volunteer their time attending to poor patients. We pay for lab costs, medicines etc.
- Jacob & Rosie take care of the ever-increasing paper work(!) and administration. Kamlesh & Ranu do all the outreach field work in the villages & bush.
- Jeevan Jyoti (Light of Life) School has 110 students from Nursery, KG to 5th class. There are 8 teachers in this School.
- Jagat Jyoti (Light of the World) School in village Kollukhedi has 145 students (there is a long waiting list here) from Nursery to class 7th. Here we have 10 teachers. Students get all text books, stationery, note books, sweaters, uniforms, tiffin-boxes all FREE, thanks to you. The students in both Schools receive Christian education, Christian choruses and Bible teaching. We are not able to take more students in due to lack of room. Jagat Jyoti School students receive a free good, nutritious, sumptuous lunch three times a month.

Prayer Items:

- Due to prevailing circumstances open-air preaching is not possible anymore. Worship services are held INSIDE the homes of village Christians. Christian work continues in both the Schools, in homes of village Christians and among Senior Citizens. Please DO PRAY.
- Funds are needed to add to the Kollukhedi School building & infrastructure to be able to take in more cobra children.
- To enable us to start a Vocational Training Center in village Kollukhedi.
- The funds for a badly needed School bus. Kids from the outlying villages are brought to and from in 3 tempos. (Tempos are three wheelers). They charge heavily and are not safe.
- Pray for us, our families, and for our safety.



From the Mouths of Children by: Sandi Roach

When we are children we often feel like no one listens to us. As we become adults and are often on the other side of the situation, we find that we often assume that the murmurings of young children are just babble. After all, we have busy lives and important things to do and we can't give our full attention to every conversation, right?

For our believers in Myanmar, even the young children have a lot to say, and in fact, what the children have to say is often more powerful than what the adults have to say.

In a recent report from "Pastor Benjamin" about an outreach the last week of January in a small village, we can see this exact thing. The event took place on a Sunday evening and was conducted by a local missionary, a Sunday school teacher and some of the youth.

This was the first time that the small village had experienced Christians and they loved the worship service and hearing about the love of God. The thing that touched them the most, however, was the teaching of a small child to other children. She had an entire lesson based around songs, dances and action songs. Not only did the children learn about the Lord, but the villagers were amazed, as they were when Jesus taught in the temple, at the teachings of this young child.

The next time a little one "babbles" at you, take the time to listen, they might be the Lord's anointed!

From the Field: Christian Youth Services Center <Eluru, India by: Edwin Kancherla

By His grace we are all doing well. My wife Anupama has recouping well from her hernia operation.

We associate with over 50 local churches and children Sunday schools to reach out to the youth and children in our area. At CYSC we attempt to place an emphasis on reaching out to the rural children/youth around Eluru. Today, we have a well stocked spiritual library of nearly 6,000 books. This facility is used by secular students, bible students and pastors in our area.

We teach tailoring and embroidery to girl students. CYSC teaches music, singing, playing instruments, and also English language. We have a monthly village gospel outreach program to distribute gospel tracts and stop at different locations to sing gospel songs and give brief message to spread the good news around Eluru.

We work with a local and rural churches to gather kids in their area for an evening of gospel songs, message, puppet show and short film. CYSC center is also a place where some of the students from secular & professional colleges and Christian organizations, like Gideons and youth groups, gather regularly to have their spiritual meetings.

We have weekly Friday Fasting prayers and each Thursday, we also conduct Senior Bible study. We support several students and pastors and senior/widow ladies financially on a regular monthly basis.

The soup-kitchen facility at Eluru for seniors and widows is run 6 days a week and is attended by about 30 ladies. After a morning of devotion and prayer, lunch is served at the premise and dinner is packed in boxes. By His grace we were able to provide them with new dresses (Saris) and blankets in December for Christmas. They are blessed and we are too, because they are our prayer warriors.

The Lord has placed a burden on my heart to build them a permanent facility where they can stay at the facility full time. We are praying about this.

The rural Bethesda Clinic at Srirangapuram village needs a regular doctor. At present we take a volunteer doctor from Eluru once a week to do look into the medical needs there and to distribute medicines. We are praying to have retired doctor who can stay at the facility full time and take care of the medical needs at the village and surrounding area.

Thank you for your prayers and support of CYSC Eluru. May the Lord bless you all

From the Field: To Africa With Love

<Pallisa, Uganda by: Samuel Mwesigwa

“We are hearing messages on radio that we are headed for a drought. They are telling us to store food and water. But the problem is the warning is coming too late. We sold out everything in the last harvest to raise school fees. What do we have to store,” says the father of nine Children in Kaboloi Village Pallisa. But he is not the only one worried. All over the country, life is not any better. Mr. Musa Ecweru, the state minister for disaster preparedness, describes the situation as ‘very bad’, which needs ‘urgent attention’. According to a report by the meteorological department, at least 36 districts have been affected by water scarcity caused by a prolonged dry spell As I drive into villages for Bible clubs and discipleship, Many people are helplessly staring at boreholes unable to pump a drop of water to use in their homes.

Although the government is encouraging people to store food, people have no food to store even seeds to plant in case the rains come. As a ministry, we are appealing to all of you that have in the past stood with our people and those that would want to help mostly the Children whose death number was high 2 years ago to send us support.

We are soliciting funds to buy enough and store it so we can feed the effected families during the famine period that is ahead of us.

What we have gathered so far: we have 600kg of maize flour, 200kg of beans. We still call upon you to send your support to this project. This is enough for our Children’s home and Pre- school but we are also thinking of other families.

The most important thing you can do for us is pray. We also need your financial support. Right now, each 100kg bag of maize is \$70 and a 100kg bag of beans is \$80. The prices of everything are going up each day and we have to drive to a bigger town in Mbale 40km away to purchase food. Thank you for your support of our ministry.

How Beautiful are the Feet of Those Who Bring Good News

by: Sandi Roach

I am always excited to receive communication from one of our partners and to read how the Lord is working around the globe.

A recent biography of a pastor in Pakistan touched me in a special way when I read of his dedication and it was a reminder to me of how blessed we are in our country in so many ways—spiritual freedom, material blessing and strong support of the Christian community.

I pray this message touches your heart and makes you think of the many blessings we so often take for granted.

Here is a Biography one of our Pakistani pastors, John*.

John was born in the very small and poor village of Jeongoria and accepted Jesus Christ in 1972. He was later baptized. John received adult education training in 1973 and taught reading and writing. He also received Bible training in 1981 and 1982 and spent 5 years in the field with a pastor. After receiving his diploma, he started full time ministry in Narowal city where he has served since 1983.

John has a wife and 5 children - three daughters and two sons. Due to extreme poverty, he could not afford college for his children. The owner of the house he lived in kicked the family out because of unpaid rent. He was not able to get another house to rent. John took his family and belongings and began to live in trenches, but did not give up the ministry.

He still has no home, but during the last three years he has established a new church in Shakargrh city that is very close to the Indian border.

The ministry has not been able to get a house for worship, which will make it difficult for the church to grow. Additionally, John’s life is constantly in peril as saying something against the Holy Koran or the prophet Muhammad could result in death.

Please pray for those who serve faithfully for the kingdom and consider financially supporting a pastor like John.

* name changed for security purposes

Trip Schedule

Jul 23-Aug 6 work/evangelism Kenya pokot outreach grace outreach	Oct 1-15 medical/evangelism Congo union of baptist churches	Oct 1-15 medical/evangelism Kenya pokot outreach	Oct 22-Nov 5 vision/evangelism India & Myanmar
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