



# Harvesters

International Ministries

fall 2012

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# on the ground

## Union of Baptist Churches CONGO



Conditions in eastern Congo have continued to deteriorate since our last report. Rebel factions have raped and pillaged the citizens and villages in and around Goma, where Habimana and the Union of Baptist Churches are headquartered. Habimana reports that rebels raped the wife and 14 year old daughter of a neighbor in Goma, forcing him to flee with his family to Rwanda. He says that what is happening in Goma is beyond imagination.

Habimana returned to Goma to evaluate the situation and to encourage those who were not able to leave.

The work in Rwanda is growing in leaps and bounds. People are coming to know the Lord almost weekly. 17 people were baptized in early December and a second church has been planted.

## Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra INDIA



Students at both schools celebrated the addition of desks for the school classrooms.

Around the time we in the US were celebrating Thanksgiving, the senior citizen outreach of GSSK held a thanksgiving service to celebrate the Lord's healing

for many in the congregation.

Progress is being made towards the purchase of a school bus. The students are currently transported to and from school in motorized rickshaws, which is often dangerous. Plans are to use the bus on the weekend for evangelistic campaigns in outlying villages. About one third of the \$21,000 needed has been raised.

## Omega Ministry PAKISTAN



Christopher and Shakeel have been so encouraged by the response received from the article in our last newsletter in support of the continuation of their father's legacy as they minister to their predominately Muslim community.

When asked if it was safe with all of the Christian persecution in Pakistan, Shakeel responded by saying that "In the early days of the Church, the circumstances were not good for sharing the Good News, but they did it. These circumstances encourage us to do some thing for the Lord and are a tonic for us. They keep us on our toes to do something for Him."

"We are not afraid of attracting radicals. We are only threatened if we do not do something for the Lord's people. How would we show our faces to the Lord Jesus Christ? He gave His life for us, but what have we done



for Him? This is the only threat we are facing now. We conduct Sunday meetings and a big celebration during the Christmas season. God keeps us here to spread the Good News. We are not afraid for that."

## Pokot Outreach Ministries KENYA



Kodich children's home defended their national choir title in three categories and added wins in two new categories to eliminate any doubt of their talent. Unexpected opportunities for outreach have resulted from the numerous requests for the choir to perform at community events.

A long-awaited mission station at Cherangan was dedicated in September. The community celebrated God's provision of a well that was installed in 2011 and has already had a significant impact on the health and stability of the community.

More than 1,000 participated in the annual women's conference in

Kapenguria. Women travelled from all over East and West Pokot for a week of encouragement, study, and equipping.

In November, six POM ministry leaders attended Willow Creek's Global Leadership Summit in Eldoret. Those same leaders are preparing for an upcoming leadership conference of pastors and evangelists in January where an estimated 100 men and women will map out a strategy to reach the rest of the Pokot tribe with the Gospel and to cast a vision for ministry beyond the Pokot.

## Fellowship Bible Church MYANMAR



The ministry is celebrating the graduation of the first orphan child from college. Debbie (not her real name) came to the home seven years ago and has excelled in her studies. Her goal is to complete a master's degree and to return to the Bible College as a teacher.

The ministry is also celebrating God's provision of five computers and a projector for use at the Bible College. When made aware of the need, members of Grace Community Church responded by giving more than \$4,500 to provide essential tools for the training and equipping of national missionaries.

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## NEW ADDRESS?

Help us stay in touch by sending us your updated address



Harvesters International Ministries is a faith-based, nonprofit organization that participates in the

Great Commission by encouraging, assisting, and supporting national missionary initiative. The three rings of our logo represent the ripple effect that Harvesters, the Church, and national missionaries have on the lives of others as we work together to bring lasting and meaningful change through the love of Christ.

# the ripple effect

by: J. Lucarelli



If you throw a stone into a lake in the middle of a starless night, will there be ripples? Will those ripples eventually reach the shoreline? Even if you can't see them in the darkness?"

When we share Christ with others and when we perform acts of compassion and kindness, we are tossing our words and actions into the lives of others; and we can be sure there will be a ripple effect, even if we can't see it. When we serve Christ, we're doing much more good than we know and usually in ways that are difficult to measure.

As I have spent time with our partners, both here in the US and abroad over the course of the this year, I have witnessed the incredible impact that we have on the lives of each other, even when the impact is not immediately evident or realized. We do what we do in the name of Christ and as a testimony of His love in our lives. And it is usually in the darkness where there will be the greatest impact.

I am often asked if what we do for others really has an impact- is "is it worth it?" An investment in the life of another person in the name of Christ is always a wise choice. The ripples of us casting ourselves into the lives of someone else will reach the shore, even if we never see it. Is it worth it? You better believe it is.

Sometimes the Lord does let us see some of the fruit of our labors. Knowing that we need encouragement, He allows us to see the partial results of our words or work for Him. The full results, however, can only be seen in heaven; and so we serve Him by faith, always abounding in the work, for we know that our labor is not in vain.

It is rejuvenating and encouraging seeing how God uses our compassion and generosity to encourage and bless our partners and the people to whom they minister.

There are 23 students in Myanmar Bible College that are immersing themselves in the word of God so that they can reach the unreached with the love of Christ.

More than 800 children in Kenya are being cared for and loved on in a Christian environment.

More than 2,700 people in Kenya heard about the salvation that can only be found in Christ through mobile medical clinics.

More than 15,000 people received polio vaccinations through the Kapenguria medical clinic.

An estimated 10,000 people now have clean water from the six wells drilled in Pokot with another 25 wells on the way.

The eternal return on these investments will not be immediate or easily measured, but we can celebrate what God has done through the compassion and generosity shown by His people.

We never know how God will use us in the life of another person. Likewise, we don't know how God will use someone else in our own life. Nearly 130 people visited our partners on various teams throughout the year. All went to serve and share their lives with others. They all returned different people and were impacted by their experience in the field.

For some, it was the 300 children that we loved on during a VBS at Kauriong.

For others, it was meeting the children they sponsored through the NoChild program.

For even others, it was investing in the lives of ministry leaders so that they could be more effective in ministry.

Whatever form it comes in, when we pour out ourselves in the names of Christ for others, there will be eternal impact.

A young African man had become a Christian after hearing about the forgiveness of sin and redemption that comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This young man was so excited about his faith and concerned for a friend that he walked two days without food or water to share his faith.

The friend was resistant to this new faith, but after more than a week, the friend also came to know the Lord.

The young African man, the first Pokot Christian, invested in the life of a friend by sharing his faith. That friend, the second Pokot Christian, is Julius Murgor, director of Pokot Outreach Ministries.

The ripples of that investment are still making their way to the shore, but illustrate how God uses even a single opportunity to impact the lives of others.

For those of you who have gone, given, and prayed, thank you for allowing the ripples of your compassion and generosity intersect with us and our partners around the world.

# Break Me For The Nations

## *A Veteran Missionary's Renewed Purpose*

by: Elizabeth Gee

When I woke up one morning, the idea I had was so crazy that I knew it had to be from the Lord. After confirmation with leadership and friends, we began planning a 5-week vision trip to parts of Asia, that included Myanmar. Even though I've served the Lord for 16 years in different parts of Asia, this was a trip the Lord would use to redefine this precious season of my life.

We thought we were prepared for what the Lord might have for us in our visit to Pastor Benjamin and the work of Fellowship Bible Church. Our first surprise was that Myanmar doesn't use ATM cards. Our next surprise was being asked to preach at their Sunday services the next day! But the greatest surprise, if you will, was our Sunday lunch, where Pastor Benjamin began to unfold his vision for his country—one being to equip and send out 100 missionaries into the fields that are white unto harvest.

We began to see that he and his co-laborers are men and women of great courage and vision, and have passionately answered the call to share the Word of God and to build His church.

In this predominately Buddhist country, Christianity isn't embraced, creating much persecution from the government. But they are moving ahead to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ through various ministries including house churches, orphanages, relief efforts, a literature ministry, and training new Bible school students. As I sat in our hotel for breakfast one

morning, praying over the city through the plate glass windows, my heart was gripped with the great need and urgency of the proclamation of the gospel, as this country is now opening up to the outside business worlds of India, China and Australia.

Adoniram Judson was the first North American missionary and served in Burma. Though warned not to go to Burma, he entered the country almost 200 years ago—in July, 1813, and there invested the next 38 years of his life preaching Christ where He had not been named. The cost was very high, but in God's perfect economy, his suffering had a plain purpose. Pastor Benjamin is now sowing and reaping where Judson first fell like a grain of wheat into this land, for the sake of the gospel.

"Lord, what do you want me to do with what you have allowed me to experience here?" Since returning to Hilton Head, He has opened doors to share this vision with our local fellowship and leadership. We have adopted them both financially and prayerfully, and are seeking more ways to mobilize resources for their timely work among the millions of unreached there. We can all be a part of this ripple effect that carries the message of Christ across borders and generations to touch thousands of lives.

What has the Lord been saying to you? Does it seem "far out?" Maybe not! I'm finding that my heart is going where I invest God's money, and that it's impossible to pray for these people without falling in love with them. In fact, we are already praying about spending the month of July 2013 there investing in the lives of the Bible students, who will be among the 100 sent-out ones.



# Repurposed Treasure

## Homeschoolers Help Kenya Orphans Go to School

by: Fred Hughes

Knowing that many Kenyan families live on less than a dollar a day, makes it easier to understand why education is not a priority.

John Loriono was in Chewoyet High School and one day he was sent home and told not to return unless he brought 5,000 Kenyan schillings (about \$62) to pay the balance of his schooling.

His father accused the government of chasing the boy away and he said "they don't like you any more." The father insisted that the family's remaining money was for food, not John's school fees.

This is an all too familiar story among the Pokot people.

Earlier this year, Julius Murgor, field director of Pokot Outreach Ministries in Kenya, spent time with about 50 parents and homeschoolers from Yancey and Mitchell counties in western North Carolina.

As he talked about his own childhood and answered questions from students, he told how difficult it was for most Kenyan families to raise money for primary and secondary school fees. It was even more difficult to find the funds to send a child from an orphanage to secondary school or college.

The problem for many children -- the same problem faced by John Loriono -- is that their parents do not see the need for education, or are faced with the stark choice between education and starvation.

Murgor's speaking engagement had been anticipated for several months. "We jumped at the chance to have an African national tell us about his people," explained Tammy Austin, vice-president of the 10-family Amazing Grace Homeschoolers.

The meeting originally was to be educational. It ended up becoming a unique teaching opportunity as well as a significant fund-raising venture.

"The hardships they face moved each one of us. We wanted to do something to help but didn't have money in our treasury for this. So, someone suggested a yard sale and the kids

jumped at the idea," said the mother of four home schooled children.

"All of us moms knew we had plenty of stuff to get rid of and the girls decided to have a bake sale too. A local businessman donated the use of his commercial building for us to use for storage. We were able to have the yard sale for two weekends and had an awesome time!"

Added Austin, "I don't think we have ever had more fun doing anything as a group and we raised \$1,600 for orphans in the process. It was a very rewarding experience."

The yard sale proved to be Christian training in action for homeschoolers from kindergarten through the 12th grade.

"It was the most rewarding thing our home school group has ever participated in," stated Abby Whitson, age 13.

"I think it's cool that you can help people in Africa while here in America," said Katie Austin, age 10. "I would love to visit Africa someday."

"It is a blessing to help those we've never met, but have come to love and care for in the Lord," commented Taylor Whitson, age 17. "I pray God will use it for the needs as He sees fit and to reach many souls for His glory."

"It was exciting to find out how much money we had raised to help other kids," added Isabelle Hughes, age 14.

According to Festus Tingaa, who is the program coordinator for Pokot Outreach Ministries in Kenya, parents would have to part with a lot of livestock for one of their children to "successfully finish one year education." A year of schooling for a Pokot student would cost the family about 6 cows, or 36 goats, or 50 sheep, or 360 chickens.

"Education among the community is not a necessity since they may not have managed to feed their families," Tingaa said. At the same time, education plays a vital role in the growth of the church and the development of the community. Currently, Pokot Outreach Ministries sponsors the education of nearly 900 children, including nearly 200 children in secondary and post-secondary schools.

The compassionate spirit and repurposed treasure of the Amazing Grace Homeschoolers will have an impact on the lives of these children as they experience the love of God through this gift and the opportunity of receiving an education.



# From The Field

*Pokot Outreach Ministry, Kenya*

by: Julius Murgor

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord

As schools start, our children are spreading all over.

Josephine just has left to go to college in Michigan. We were not able to afford for her to go to Kentucky State, but Rochester College has given her scholarship. But we still have to raise \$18,000 a year which we do need prayers for that God will provide.

Jared is very happy that he will soon join his sisters at Rift Valley Academy. He is specifically happy that he will have a lot of games to play, including soccer, which he says are not in the village school where he has been attending school.

Well that leaves our nest empty at times. Of course Rachel will not be alone in the home. There will be a lot of people at home as always, in addition to being busy with bible studies.

## CHURCH PLANTING & EVANGELISM

It was not long ago that I reported to you about Mbaru being one of our new churches that we just established. Today, it is a church that has over 200 people gathering in the middle of nowhere. As the word of God always says, you are the light of the world. That little lamp of believers has attracted the attention of the government to establish a school there near the church and has posted two teachers to track the Pokot children.

Do you believe in instant answer to prayer? As the local pastor was narrating how the Pokot people have responded to the word of God and that little mud walled church is already filled up and people have to listen to the preaching while seated on the ground outside the church, God was talking to a visiting pastor in the group from River Church when Pastor Prisk rose to speak, he said that God had spoken to them to not only finance drilling of a well, which we were there to dedicate and has provided a lot of water for Mbaru, but to also build a church and medical clinic in the same area so that Mbaru will have water, a clinic, a church and a school! Praise the Lord!! Mbaru is a strategic place to reach many other areas nearby.

The woman conference has attracted over 1,000 women this year. We thank God for provisions he made for their transport and food while they are attending the conference. Pray for a follow up by God on those that have received the word of God for the first time. Many have come from Uganda, Lomut and many other new areas. About 150 women came to know the Lord.

Please continue to pray God will bring about financial support for Reuben and Lois, who are ready to go to Kapoeta, South Sudan but do not yet have support.

## WATER DRILLING

After a successful drilling of two boreholes in the extreme north of West Pokot, at Mbaru and Nauma, we headed east to Chemolingot and Nyau Nyau. Unusual rain made our access across a seasonal river in Nginyang impassable. We spent days and weeks there for the level of the water to subside as we watched other vehicles get swept away by the raging waters. As our patience was being tested, the flow from the hills of Tugen went down allowing us to send the small truck

across with pipes and supplies to Chemolingot.

Our first drilling in Chemolingot was very attractive to the locals who turned up to see this miracle of gathering water from a dry and rocky land. We hit the first water at 60 meters with a lot of water. When we tried to push on the next day we discovered that the hole filled up or covered in by seven meters in the night and started caving in even faster, threatening to capture the hammer. We were forced to abandon the first hole and tried 3 meters away and got plenty of water for the orphan's home. We then moved to Nyau Nyau where, again, we attracted a huge crowd who turned up to watch the flow. We hit the water in Nyau Nyau safely at 60 meters and continued to drill and stopped drilling at 97 meters with plenty of water for the people in Nyau Nyau. We are now headed to Chepturu and Cherelio of Koloa area. By the way please pray for Pr. Job he has hypertension.

## ORPHANAGES

We had a hand of help in Kauriong from teams that came to work on desks and another one that came to work on the fencing of the girl's dormitories. The children are now enjoying the additional desks in their learning settings.

In Kodich the children performed at a regional music festival and won among many schools then it was time to go to nationals all the way near Nairobi. It was a huge adventure for Kodich village kids to travel that far. Needless to say, they felt so privileged to be able to explore what they could do with the talents that God has given them. These kids won many trophies and certificates of recognition.

We are very grateful to those of you who have been praying and supporting the kids. Their horizon has really opened up. Chemolingot kids are doing fine and some day when they grow older, they will carry on the same activities as the others.

We look forward to a time with the youth at December youth conference.

Pray that God help for the growth of the new converts from the women conference



Rebeun Meriakol, Pokot pastor and soon-to-be missionary to South Sudan, with Clint Dupin, Birmingham campus pastor at Kensington Church

# Unexpected Gifts

## *The Meeting of a Lifetime*

by: Stephanie Harris

Upon leaving for Kenya, I had few expectations and had set my mind to the task at hand; the giving of my mind, body and spirit, for the next two weeks, to the Pokot people. I knew, at some point, I was going to meet my sponsor child, but that was merely a bonus to me

We arrived at Karioung Children's Home on Tuesday and got involved with the children right away. After all of the excitement of such a warm and wonderful greeting, I realized – My sponsor child, Amos, is here! I began to ask for him and realized how awkward it may be for him with all of his peers watching, so I decided to wait until I could meet with him privately.

The next day, a meeting was arranged and I knew his eyes immediately from the pictures I had received. It was an overwhelming feeling to be able to hug this young boy after three years of communicating with him via letters and pictures. Amos does not speak English, so Luke, the manager of the orphanage, helped with the communication. Amos showed me where he attends school and where his home was located in relationship to the orphanage. Amos is a child that attends school during the day and returns back to his home at night and on weekends. Once in a while, he may stay the night, as he did that night to ensure he was there bright and early the next morning to participate in the day's activities and to be able to spend more time with me.

At first, Amos was shy and stayed at a distance, but it was so adorable to see him peeking around corners and gradually becoming brave enough to stay by my side and even hold my hand on occasion. I let him move at his own pace which allowed us to develop a very kind relationship by the time I left. Here, I thought it couldn't get any better...then it did.

On that same day that I met with Amos for the first time, I was attending the women's education seminar when one of the matrons of Karioung nudged me and asked me if I was Amos' sponsor. When I replied, "yes", she turned to the young woman sitting beside her and introduced her as Elizabeth, Amos' mother. I was delighted, excited, and speechless all at the same time. Elizabeth did not speak English so we did what any two mothers would do – we embraced each other and smiled that knowing smile. Not only did I get the honor of meeting my sponsor child halfway around the world, but I was then able to meet his mother and two of his four siblings. Furthermore, I was able to hear her story, in person, enabling me to better understand her needs and struggles as a woman of the Pokot tribe. What a gift! Now, I knew that by taking on this adventure I was opening myself up to learn more than I was ever able to teach, but this very special meeting went way beyond any hope or expectations I could have ever imagined!

The day we were leaving Karioung, we attended the final women's educational seminar and said our good-byes. Elizabeth found me through her friend and gifted me with a beautiful bracelet. Knowing her situation, it was hard to accept, but I knew it meant a lot to her to say "thank you". Little did she know that the gift she gave me lies forever in my heart with her, her son Amos, and her family. I have also developed a prayer partnership with Elizabeth which will allow us to communicate

through letters and pray for each other and the lives we live a half a world away.

A sponsor child is more than a photo and a profile. Behind the photo and the profile is a soul – flesh and blood – hopes and dreams; a child of God. They are grateful, resilient children that, despite their situation, know happiness and fulfillment through Jesus Christ. Their smiles are genuine and their song is joyful and constant.

Now I know that being able to meet my sponsor child is not the norm for a sponsoring family, but by becoming one of these individuals, I stand with the eternal experience of meeting these children and being touched by their incredible lives which has evolved into a responsibility to find families who will commit themselves to sponsorship.

For those of you considering sponsorship, you will be happy to know the impact is immediate – powerful. The children and families you affect are aware and appreciative of your efforts every day. The gift given will become the gift that will constantly be given back to you and me through the love of God. And for that alone, I am the one that will be forever grateful!

## NØCHILD.ORG

107 children still need  
the love of a sponsor



# WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE HAVE A NEED...

by: Ed Hirshman

In the Summer 2012 newsletter, there was an article entitled "A Plea For Help!" about our partner, Omega Ministry in Pakistan. We wrote that over the years it has been a wonderful journey to experience God's provision for our ministry partners, but that Pakistan had been especially challenging. But in the Lord's way and in His time God's people responded to that plea for help and we desire to give Him all the praise, glory and honor!

We at Harvesters have witnessed His provision repeatedly throughout the year in response to your love, prayers, and faithful support. We fully realize how difficult today's economy has made it for people to give and yet you continue to abundantly give! Thank you!

As a result of your faithful giving we receive report after report from the harvest field on the impact of your giving.

Pastors in the Congo have received Bibles and evangelism tools to equip the saints.

Some of the the poorest children in India are able to attend school and hear about Jesus for the very first time.

In Myanmar a baptistry was provided and new converts are making public professions of their Christian faith in a dangerous place. Sacrificial gifts have been received to sustain the Bible college and to purchase a projector and new computers for the students.

Farm equipment was provided in Kenya to help a ministry to become self-supporting in caring for its orphan children and widows. The ministry will soon bring in its first harvest with the new equipment.

Six months rent was given for a new church plant in Rwanda and the church is now a thriving community that is baptizing new believers and just planted a second church.

The desperate need for water in Pokot and six new wells this year!

So many times in so many different ways we have witnessed that God is our provider.

Thank you, God's people, for responding to the needs of God's children around the world!



are YOU  
READY?

*Join us on an  
upcoming team.  
Please contact us for  
details*

**KENYA**  
*eye care/evangelism*  
**MAR 28-APR 7**

**KENYA**  
*work/evangelism*  
**JUL 13- 27**

**KENYA**  
*medical/evangelism*  
**SEP 14- 29**

**ASIA**  
*vision*  
**OCT 19-NOV 2**



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