



fall 2013

Harvesters

International Ministries

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In June, 47 church planters graduated from the Bible training centers in Kinigi and Katala outside of Goma in eastern D.R. Congo.

Danger from rebel fighters and often impassable roads did not deter the celebration of the hard work and dedication of the graduates.

Their first request was for Bibles to use in their ministries.

Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra INDIA



Kamlesh and Ranu are excited about the progress being made on the new classrooms. Students reported back at both schools for the start of a new school year. Help is still needed to complete the additional classrooms (\$30,000) and to purchase the school bus (\$25,000).

The ministry is thrilled and proud of Ranu for recently being recognized by the government for her empowering the poor and the school's high academic standards. Not afraid or ashamed of the Gospel, she shared the salvation plan with some of the government officials visiting the school.

Pokot Outreach Ministries KENYA



More than 2,000 women gather at 5 locations through Pokot for the annual women's conference. The multi-site approach was taken to give more women the opportunity to study God's word, be renewed in the Spirit, and fellowship with other believers.

Kodich Children's Choir won second place in the National Music Festival held in Nakuru. Disappointed that they were not able to defend their title, it has given the children an opportunity to win it back next year.

Kongelai Training Center welcomed a new class of students in June. The 11 students will be taken through a rigorous curriculum over the next two years as they are equipped to become church planters and evangelists.

The community of Mbaru, near Kauriong Children's Home in western Kenya, celebrated the completion of a new mission station. The new church and clinic are being heralded as God's provision and example of what God can do, even in the rural areas of Pokot.

The Chemolingot Children's Home will soon have space for another 60 girls when their new dorm is completed. Work is nearly complete on the building and furniture is being made to make the new facility feel like home.



To Africa With Love UGANDA



The children of Kerith Children's Home will soon move to their new home as work nears completion on the newly constructed dorm facility. Sam has experienced challenges with the water well on the site but is moving forward by faith.

Fellowship Bible Church MYANMAR



Eight new students arrived at Myanmar Bible College in Yangon to start on their four year journey to become missionaries. They join 23 other second and third year

students that have already made that commitment.

Amos returned to Asia Christian Academy in India to continue his studies in Theology. On school breaks and after graduation, Amos returns to Myanmar to minister there with Ben and the students of MBC.

Myanmar orphan children have returned to school proudly decked out in new school uniforms, umbrellas, and backpacks.

Omega Ministry PAKISTAN



Shakeel and Christopher are encouraged by the significant growth of the ministry over the last year. Church planting has been expanded with the help of 25 pastors and 1 evangelist. They have been blessed with four church buildings, with the remaining fellowships meeting in homes.

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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.

Empowering the Women of Pokot

by: Jen Todd

When I came on my first mission trip to the Pokot a few years ago, my heart broke and God turned my life upside down when I witnessed how the women of Pokot were treated and the impact that had on families, children, and throughout the community. The women of Pokot ministry was born from that heartbreak and the hope of education and empowerment in January 2012. Thanks be to God and partners like Harvesters and Kensington Church, the seeds of change from the Holy Spirit have been growing across the generations of Pokot girls, teens and women and is spreading like wildfire in hearts everywhere. Here is a glimpse of what God has been doing...

Bright Futures For Girls

Every time I visit the Kodich Children's Home and see the smile of my little love bug, four year old Ronda, I am reminded of God's love for children and His bigger plan. Through the NoChild sponsorship program (nochild.org), girls like Ronda get so much more than just basic shelter, food and water for survival. They get the precious gift of knowing God, being loved, and getting an education that will dramatically change the course of their future. I instantly tear up imagining Ronda's bright future as a godly woman with the skills, income and self-worth to take care of her family, live her purpose and bring the light of Jesus to the community.

New Possibilities For Teens

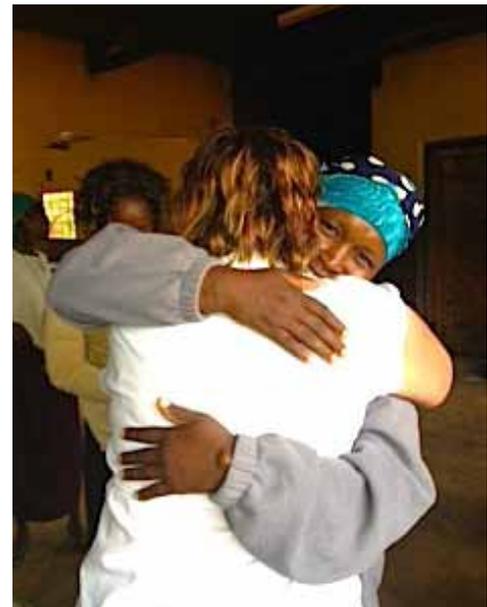
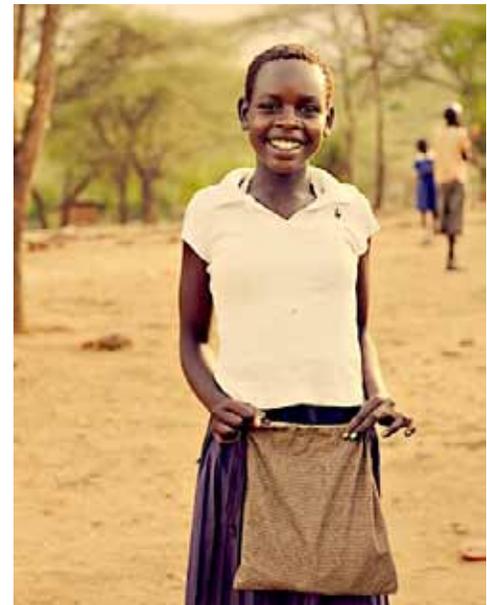
Young teen girls in the Pokot, 9-15 years old, are encouraged and often forced to participate in early marriages and a cultural rite of passage to adulthood called female genital mutilation (FGM). This practice causes serious physical, emotional and spiritual damage. In partnership with Pokot Outreach Ministries and talented local Kenyan trainers, we have brought critical education to 1,900 women, men and teens in an effort to eventually put an end to these detrimental practices. The girls were OVERJOYED to get reproductive health training and 6,400 sanitary napkins given their lack of resources that results in the inability to function and weeks of missed school each year.

Spiritual and Business Growth For Women

The women's empowerment program that started a year and a half ago has now expanded to three women's group at Kodich, Kauriong and Chemolingot, totaling over 250 women! Sewing and beading skills training has supported their business growth and they are selling more goods and jewelry than ever before. We have been pouring into the women spiritually on our mission trips bringing the love of God to reinforce their value in Him and build self-esteem. But what has been most impactful is what God is doing through the relationships across the miles through our Prayer Partner Program. U.S. and Pokot women are being impacted in incredible ways by praying for each other and sharing their lives, love and encouragement through pictures and letters.

I recently received a letter from my dear prayer partner, Mary Twala, the first woman I met at the Pokot who inspired me to start the ministry. She said "The Bible verse you gave me that says everything is possible with God, has been a strong tower of my faith and today I have peace of mind and hope that the future is bright. Remember this work you are doing is not only to empower the Pokot women, but you have made tremendous changes in my worldview and how I handle my daily struggles."

Mary is right, this ministry is about so much more than empowering Pokot women. The role of the woman is so critical to the well-being, development and future families that this is about paving the way for generations of Pokot to come. It's about lifting up the entire community and supporting them to live out God's purpose and plan for their lives. And in turn, we too get to live out God's purpose for ourselves - loving the least of these, being used for the Kingdom, and joining hands across the globe as sisters and brothers in Christ.



Join our community and learn more about how you can help at:
womenofpokot.com and at  /supportwomenofpokotkenya

Shine On

by: Ksenija Savic

The lyrics from Sara Groves are like a constant whisper in the back of my mind ever since I returned from documenting & visiting the Pokot in 3 remote regions of Kenya, Chemolingot, Kauriong & Kodich.

As I continue to process my time in Kenya, there are three things that are certain & clear:

- 1) When it comes to love & giving of yourself to others, there is no such thing as “not enough” or “too little.”
- 2) I saw what I saw, and I can't forget it.
- 3) The Pokot are people who shine like no other.

I have experienced overwhelming warmth & joy in the Pokot, of all ages. I have felt it in their handshakes & hugs. I have seen joy in their smiles & a sense of community in their lives that we do not have at home. I have watched countless children walk around holding hands, or arm in arm. I have heard them call each other brother & sister. I have seen 3 year olds pick up a crying one year old and carry them on their back. I have seen immense joy as they get their nails painted pink by one of our team members. I have communicated with the elders despite our great language barrier. I have watched their watermelon-sized smiles as they grab my hand & place it to their heart.

I have heard the children sing & it was as if I felt a sweet

piece of Heaven wrap me up. I have watched the children play for hours on end in the same area, with the same friends, with the same dirt & rocks to run on... yet all with endless smiles & screeches of laughter. I have walked by the children & felt their arms reach out to gently touch my skin. I have been asked ‘what my name is’ by what must be hundreds of beautiful faces.

I have had the ability to make others smile just by taking their picture & saying “roriya!” (smile!) in my broken Pokot. Their roaring giggles as I showed them their photograph on the back of my camera will be forever stamped into my heart. I have seen beauty like I have never seen before – there is no make-up, or hair accessories, or fashionable pick of clothing... yet the Pokot truly shine.

Above all this, I have seen God's undying love, grace & perseverance -- just by looking into their eyes.

The Pokot have redefined my definition of poverty. Their love & willingness to learn is like something I have never seen before. They have a richness that cannot be bought nor given.

It is in their soul. It is in their spirit. It is what makes them shine on.



“I SAW WHAT I SAW
AND I CAN'T FORGET IT
I HEARD WHAT I
HEARD AND I CAN'T
GO BACK
I KNOW WHAT I KNOW
AND I CAN'T DENY IT
SOMETHING ON THE
ROAD, CUT ME TO THE
SOUL

YOUR PAIN HAS
CHANGED ME
YOUR DREAM INSPIRES
YOUR FACE A MEMORY
YOUR HOPE A FIRE
YOUR COURAGE ASKS
ME WHAT I'M AFRAID
OF AND WHAT I KNOW
OF LOVE”

- SARA GROVES,
“I SAW WHAT I SAW”



From The Field

Pokot Outreach Ministry, Kenya

by: Julius Murgor

Dear prayer partners,

Greetings in the good name of our Lord,

We have enjoyed having Josephine home on summer break. She will transfer from Rochester College to Drexel University in Philadelphia. Rebecca, our second born daughter, will visit a couple in Hickory, NC where she may be homed while she goes to school there. We thank God for this goodness to us as a family.

Miriam and Jumboy are doing well. Jumboy whose favorite sport dreams that he will someday play in Chelsea, soccer club in England.

My wife Rachel is learning to cope without the kids until they return home every April, August and December. I need transportation; pray that God will provide for me to buy a used Toyota. I am facing a lot of challenges moving around for the work.

CHURCH PLANTING & EVANGELISM

The rain that has been pouring since January has subsided and has actually stopped completely causing a lot of worries as to whether drought is eminent, that being the case, our church planting efforts are also altered because we will surely be disturbed here and there east Pokot is already hard hit and movements are starting.

Talking with Pastor Yusuf, the pastors are already concerned among the 30 churches in Chemolingot area. We had a wonderful fellowship with pastors from Sigor with a team from Heritage church in Michigan.

They taught the Pastors on livelihood and healthiness of the church which will reach to her neighbors and to the world according to scripture. Now our Pastors zeal is renewed and are ready to reach out to areas like Kamanaw, Akiriamet and Nyangaita just to mention a few.

The Karamoja, Sabiny and Pokot of Uganda, who have been many enemies over the years are really opening up to the

gospel. To be able to penetrate into this area, there is need to hold more meetings to calm down the tribes in order to preach of the gospel.

A few weeks ago, more than 1,000 people from 11 participating churches gathered in Uganda to worship together. Talks will continue in September, October, and November and we are praying that God will meet the financial need for \$3000 a month for this outreach and for the gospel to gain.

SOUTH SUDAN

Pastor Reuben Meriakol and his wife, Loice, are preparing to depart for South Sudan. They are making progress on their house and are preparing to receive their first group in mid-September. We hope to reach Toposa one million;

Boya 200,000, Dielinga 800,000, Jie 200,000, Nyangatom 300,000 and all of these 2.5 Million are unreached.

ORPHANAGES

Chemolingot orphanage is going on well. The kids are enjoying teaching of the word of God in the children Sunday school, among the 400 kids Sunday schools around Chemolingot. We have just completed the gravity water from tap too the tank down to the dining hall to make it easy for the kids.

Kodich is adjusting to a new headmaster and recently won second place in the national music competition. We thank God for the children in colleges and universities because they are such an example to the young kids and a hope for us in the homes in many ways. It is an ongoing challenge to pay school fees for these children, but we are thankful that God has allowed us to invest in their futures.

Kauriong is developing into an Eden in this area due to the fence around the compound that is keeping out the animals and providing security for the children. A water system has also recently been installed that takes water to all of the buildings and will eventually irrigate a small garden.

WATER DRILLING

Praise the Lord that we have been able to drill 20 wells already this year. We are so thankful for the provision and the involvement of so many people through the Hope Water Project in Michigan. We are praying for safety and good results for those running in the Detroit Marathon to provide water for the Pokot.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry in Pokot. We are so blessed to be partnered with you in ministry.

From The Field

Grace Outreach Ministry, Kenya

by: Phillip Ochieng

My dear partners in the Lord's work Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and savior Christ Jesus.

We can never adequately appreciate your role in coming along side of us to do what we are doing and have done through your sacrificial support both in prayers and in finances. Since my wife and I were in states last, where we were spiritually nourished and encouraged, the Lord has been able to move us in ministry from one level to another and for this we are so thankful to the Almighty, I now wish to give a brief update on the progress here so far.

The Church:

The church has remained the core of our ministry from the very early stage. All that we do we always make the church our focal point. Other side ministries help us to reach out to the people easily and as we reach out to them we point them to Christ. We continue to grow in faith and maturity.

But that has not exempted us from trials and challenges of life. But one thing now has become real that as we go through trials we are not alone as the Lord Himself is carrying us along and in time we don't see them anymore.

We learn that challenges prepare us to higher level of spiritual maturity. And this is where all of us long to be. Please pray that we remain good students of the Word so that Christ may be seen in and through us.

Construction project

We give God glory for what has been done in this area which was one of our priority needs during our trip in March. The Lord enabled us to receive more than half of what was needed to complete the work. We have so far completed the roofing extension work, which was a great need. Plastering of the wall have been completed with the exception of one room.

What remains to be done here is the fixing of windowpanes, inside doors, electrical, painting and the ceiling work. However we are hopeful that the Lord at His right time will provide the \$3,500 needed to fully complete the work.

Children support ministry

The schools closed two weeks ago for August holidays and will resume next week after two weeks holidays. We have had very good reports from a number of our children in secondary schools who are normally away in boarding schools.

We are encouraged by their good work in school. We are indeed thankful to all for making this a reality through sacrificial support to keep them in school.

We have other children in primary or elementary school, who are staying in the orphanage, and are doing well. Our advantage with them is the opportunity we have to minister to them spiritually since they are with us most of the time. Please pray that they may all come to the salvation knowledge of the Lord.

Brian, an HIV case

Brian, now 12 years old has been living with the virus since birth. We have been with him in the orphanage since he was six and we have seen the Lord working in his life. About a month ago he fell seriously ill and was admitted in a hospital. He has been there for almost three weeks now. Indeed he is showing signs of good improvement. We are indeed hopeful that the boy will recover soon and leave the hospital. Please continue to pray for his recovery and discharge.

Farming project

Our harvesting this time may not be well following severe drought that was experienced this planting season. We have started on developing some farms now with hopes that it may not be the same again. Sugarcane, which is a two-year crop, has survived the drought. The machinery is working well and will continue to serve us well.

Yours in Christ Rose and Philip Ochieng

Justin Ling... the next Adoniram Judson

by: J. Lucarelli

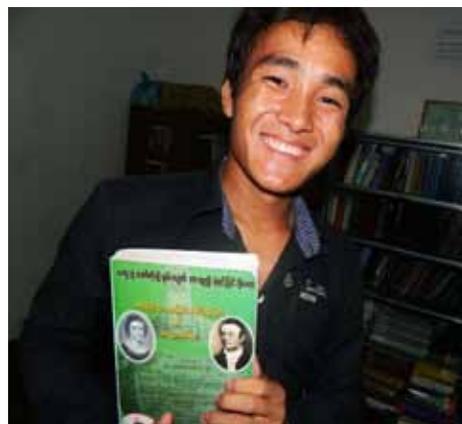
Justin says that he was not a good person before he came to know Christ. He was drinking and using meaningless things in his life. When he became born again in 2002, he was filled with unspeakable joy.

He attended Peniel Bible College and Seminary where he earned a theology degree in 2011. God blessed him and kept him under the shadow of His wings while he was studying God's word.

Justin was inspired by the missionary, Adoniram Judson and is preparing to become a missionary to Shan state in Myanmar. He is thankful for the privilege to be involved in ministry and has a vision to proclaim the good news of Christ to the unreached. He says that most people of Myanmar are hungry for the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ because they are spiritually dead and worship meaningless things.

His greatest ambition is to serve the Lord faithfully as long as he lives and as much as he can.

Justin is one of many that are ready to head into the unreached areas of Myanmar and need your help to make the journey through your prayer and financial support.



Empowering the Poor through Christ

by: Dr. Jacob Devasagayam

Dr. Jyotsana Prasad (Ranu) of Good Samaritan Sewa Kendra (GSSK) in Ujjain, India, was recently honored as one of 10 non-government teachers in the state of Madhya Pradesh “for empowering poor village children with education, other components of rural development, maintaining high academic level, with strict discipline and eliciting willing cooperation from her staff members, with exemplary cleanliness in the school premises.”

We, as a family, are very thrilled!!! We want you to praise God for this recognition and award. And we hasten to thank each of you because it is your prayers and sacrificial giving that makes this all possible.”

When they started considering Ranu for this award, quite a number of high officials from government education department visited the school frequently to verify the glowing reports of the lower officers and finalize the list of awardees.

The highest among them went from room to room specifically looking for something. Finally, he asked Ranu, “Madam, how come you don’t have a single painting or idol of goddess Saraswathi?” Saraswathi is the hindu goddess for learning.

Ranu grasped the opportunity and informed him, “Sir, this is a Christian Mission School- the Lord Jesus Christ alone is everything for us!” She gave him God’s plan of salvation in a simple and concise form.

Pray for that officer and the ones who were also present. Please join us in celebrating this recognition of distinction for Ranu and the beacon of Christian light that both schools are in their communities.

Ranu has a doctorate in education and has dedicated her life, along with her husband, Kamlesh, to sharing the love of Christ with her predominately Hindu community through the ministry of two schools that serve hundreds of students.



To Russia with Love

Hope for Life Homes & Orphan Care

by: Ed Hirshman



Joye and Jeff Ballard with their children, Abegail (11), Matthew (8), Andrew (15), and John (not pictured-18)

Several years ago, I met a young, energetic couple, named Joye and Jeff Ballard, at a missions conference at Grace Community Church.

Joye & Jeff oversaw a ministry in Vladivostok, Russia called Hope for Life Homes & Orphan Care (HFL). Their vision was to partner with and equip national Christian couples in Russia with a heart and spirit to care for abandoned children and raise them with the love and care that they provide for their own children and in the ways of the Lord.

God has richly blessed their efforts and today they have been able to purchase three homes and sponsor thirty abandoned children and conduct summer camps where even more children experience of the love of Christ.

Since their initial meeting, Ed had met with Joye and Jeff a few times. Knowing that Harvesters’ various national ministry partners throughout the world provide care for more than 1,000 children, they asked would Harvesters consider partnering with HFL Homes and Orphan Care.

The board of Harvesters unanimously approved the partnership at our last meeting. We praise the Lord for the way that He has led and pray that God’s people will respond by praying and giving to not only support the current HFL Homes but catch the vision of ministering to the abandoned children of this part of the world!

Can you find Vladivostok, Russia on a map?

Did you know that Russia does not allow orphanages that are not state-run?

Finish the Race by: J. Lucarelli

"I run with purpose!!" That is what I am more than 1,400 other people that are running for water in the Detroit Marathon are saying to ourselves and others as we train with Hope Water Project. It is even plastered on the back of our jerseys.

Why do we run and why do we subject ourselves to near constant pain and invest the time it takes to train for a marathon? I have asked myself that question a number of times lately and have come to the conclusion that it doesn't really have any to do with the race.

For me, I run because there are people that need Jesus and they need water and if I run, I can be a voice for those people and help raise awareness and funds so that they have an opportunity to see the love of Christ lived out through the love and compassion of me and my teammates. I run so that clean water wells can be drilled and churches planted in areas that need them.

It hasn't been easy and a number of people are battling injuries. Others people who wanted to be involved in the initiative weren't able to run, so they raised money and came out to support and encourage those that are able to run.

A community has formed as a result of this initiative- one that I am even able to be part of living several hundred miles away. It is a community that loves and encourages one another- and holds each other accountable. What a great example of the body of Christ in so many different ways!

The community has gone international, too. The community of Kodich heard what was happening in Michigan and that so many people were running for them, the Pokot. So, they hosted a run of their own. In August, more than 300 people gathered in

Kodich to show their support of and appreciation for the Hope Water team and ran in the Great Kodich Chicken Run.

Doing something for someone else makes it easier for me to press on, even when I want to quit. I have learned a lot about myself during this training process. Preparation is key, laziness catches up with you, and you can't fake-it-til-you-make-it through a marathon or the race of life. Sorry to be cliché, but it is true.

Not many people saw the "I Run With Purpose" slogan on the back of my jersey the day of the Chicken Run because I was one of the last to finish, as will likely also be the case in Detroit. However, I have resigned myself to the realistic position that I will not win the Detroit Marathon, but with God's help and the encouragement of my teammates, I will finish the race. We have all realized that it is not an individual initiative. We are all working together to provide the hope of a better future through the love of Christ to hundreds of thousands of Pokot that still need to drink of the physical and spiritual water to save and sustain them.

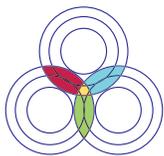
Please pray for me and the other members of the Hope Water Project team who are trying to finish the race. Their efforts are already making a difference in the lives of thousands of people both here in the U.S. and in Pokot. If you would like to follow what going on with the initiative or feel led to give, please visit hopewaterproject.org.



Join us on an upcoming team.

Please contact us for details

kenya / jan 4-18 / work & evangelism
kenya / jun 6-22 / eye care & evangelism
kenya / jul 7-26 / vbs
kenya / sep 13-28 / medical & evangelism



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