



spring 2014

Harvesters

International Ministries



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School materials were recently distributed to orphans in primary and secondary schools. Supplies were also delivered to the women who will be studying tailoring over the next six months.

Several of the 2013 school graduates are now working as teachers at the primary school. Please be in prayer for those still searching for employment.

Fellowship Bible Church MYANMAR



The Bible students are conducting evangelism outreach (some in very remote villages) leading Bible studies, prayer groups, and home church services.

Esther, an orphan served by FBC, has been called to the mission field and will be serving in remote villages in the Chin State in Northeast Myanmar. She will be sharing the gospel through children's ministry.

Missionary Noah Ling wrote to express his thanks for support to become a missionary in the Shan state, which is 99 percent Buddhist and animist.

Para Nan has joined the mission in Myanmar. He is a successful church planter with a heart for reaching lost souls for the Kingdom.

Seira Community Church RWANDA



A crusade was held in Nyaruguru and 28 people accepted Christ while another 38 committed to church membership.

Land has been purchased in Nyaruguru to build a health center. Cost estimates are being prepared. Please pray that the work on the building will go quickly and for the medical staff that will be needed.

Aphrodice is so grateful that provision was made for him to complete his first term of Bible College at Limuru University. He will need an additional \$3,000 to complete the year.

The ministry gave 36 goats to families in several of the church plants. They would like to purchase 54 additional goats this year (each goat costs \$50).

Omega Ministry PAKISTAN



Shakeel and Christopher traveled to Sargodha to teach with fellow pastor Munaway Bashir. Over 200 people attended and many accepted Christ as their savior and requested baptism. Bibles are desperately needed in Pakistan. Please continue to pray for their ministry.



Hope For Life RUSSIA



Alexey and Lena thank each of you who faithfully pray for their family. The children are entering their teen years, which brings new challenges. They specifically ask for prayers for the school-aged children that God would protect them and give them knowledge.

Misha and Lena recently welcomed a two-year old boy, also named Misha, into their home. He is adjusting well and is excited to be in a home with many siblings. Their weekly Bible studies are having a tremendous impact on the neighborhood. Please pray that God would use the seeds planted to reap a church.

Things are gearing up for the annual summer camp!

The goal is to help 80 children go to camp this summer.

Pokot Outreach SOUTH SUDAN



The situation in South Sudan is extremely volatile with continued fighting despite a ceasefire. Reuben will be traveling to Kapoeta, which is fairly safe, to prepare for his relocation there in early June. He is determined to let nothing weaken his passion for spreading God's word.

We're Back!!

You may have noticed that our website has been down recently. We've been busy creating a better home on the web. Check out our new website at www.harvesters.net. You'll find exciting new content, additional ministry partner information, and the ability to establish your own fundraising campaign. Don't forget to update your bookmark!

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We welcome your comments or address changes. Contact us at: Harvesters International Ministries, P.O. Box 22549, Hilton Head Island, SC 29925. Email us: info@harvesters.net. To request additional copies or to be removed from our mailing list, e-mail us or call (843) 689-6213.

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.

Live With Purpose

by: J. Lucarelli



What is blue and white and running everywhere they go? It is probably a member of the Hope Water Project team. In late March, around 900 team members gathered at Kensington Church in Troy, Michigan, to kickoff the 2014 Detroit Free Press Marathon team. Excitement radiated through the crowd as we celebrated what God had done through the 2013 team and eagerly anticipated even greater things for 2014.

Last October was a momentous and exciting time as 1,100 Hope Water teammates and I ran in the Detroit Marathon. Most of us had never run a marathon before, but we all felt called to do something beyond ourselves for the sake of someone else—the Pokot. More than \$1 million was raised from our collective efforts, which translates into nearly 50,000 people that will receive clean water as they experience and learn about the love of Christ.

Another exciting initiative is Lines of Hope, the brainchild of Nick Flora in California. Nick was a member of a team that traveled to Pokot last summer. He returned motivated to do something for the children at POM's children's homes. What started with some Etch-A-Sketches that he had brought for the kids to play with evolved into Lines of Hope. Nick and a group of marketing professionals donated their time and talents to this campaign and raised over \$25,000 to provide beds, shoes, and school supplies for the kids.

If you have read our newsletter over the last couple of years, you have probably seen the name, Jen Todd. Jen is a passionate entrepreneur with a deep desire to empower women and girls to live out their God-given purpose. Her passion has been contagious and now more than 600 American and Pokot women are prayer partners with each other, and more than 2,000 men, women, and youth have been educated on the consequences of FGM.

You might be wondering what all of these things have to do with each other. More important than the numbers and dollar figures is that each one of these initiatives happened when someone responded to the call of being the hands and feet of

Christ for the benefit of someone else. They saw the least among us - the at-risk child, the battered woman, the thirsty family - and saw something more in them. They saw what God sees when He looks at each of us, someone who matters and is important in the His eyes.

The impact of these efforts is still taking place, but children are being given a chance to thrive, women are regaining their dignity, and thirst is being quenched- all in the name of Jesus.

You too can be part of what God is doing- not just in Pokot, but with any of our partners and even in your own community. Let God use your passion to make a difference for Him. Visit our website - www.harvesters.net - to start your own campaign or contact us to learn more about how you can use your passion for God. We would love to talk to you and celebrate God working through you.



Hope Through Animals

by: Barb Foran

My husband and I first visited the Pokot in 2004 on a medical mission trip and have been leading teams each fall ever since. What an amazing journey the Lord has given us - learning about the Pokot culture, their hearts, their needs, and sharing it with new teams each year. I realize now that this is what He had been preparing me for my whole life.

During my veterinary training, He led this suburban girl to pursue mixed animal medicine. He opened the doors for me to work in the summers on both goat and dairy cattle farms, and my first employment as a veterinarian was a practice that specialized in sheep and goat medicine. When I discovered POM had a goat project, I immediately felt called to it.

The Pokot view their livestock very highly. Animals provide meat and milk for the family and serve as currency. Prestige is based on the size of a man's herd.

The goat project was started approximately 14 years ago as a way to introduce a goat breed that produced more milk and meat into the breeding program to improve upon the small Pokot goats. The people dedicated themselves to its success and benefited from improvements in the community health with a herd that had grown to 200.

We visited the project for the first time in 2009, and were told of its decline. It began when some goats became sick and died, while many were attacked by wild animals through the decaying wooden barn walls. They had no money to purchase medications or rebuild the barns. Water was not available, requiring them to walk half a day to the nearest river bed.

At the time of our visit, there were only about 30 goats left, but the people had not lost hope. They prepared a plan to fulfill their objective to make the project self-sustaining. They thanked us for not forgetting about them. Their faith is an inspiration to me, and I feel greatly blessed that the Lord chose to use me to help in rebuilding the project.



God is amazing, and we have been in awe watching His plan unfold as we visit the site each year. He has given provision to drill a bore-hole for water, to rebuild the barns with steel posts and wire fencing to prevent deterioration, to build a home and latrine for the manager, to provide a manager and have him receive training in animal health care, and to provide the donation of dewormers that has kept the remaining goats healthy.

We were privileged to be able to take part in the project dedication ceremony and hear of the great plans God has put in the hearts of the people for the future of the project. We were very honored that the community appointed us Pokot elders for our ten years of serving the Pokot and our commitment to the goat project. We are excited to see what God has planned for the future of the project and pray that we will be able to continue to play a part in returning it to its original success. Are you called to help others?



**Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies so that God will be glorified through Jesus Christ - to Him be glory and power forever and ever.
Amen.
1 Peter 4:11**

From The Field

Pokot Outreach Ministry, Kenya

by: Julius Murgor

Dear prayer partners,

Greetings from the cold country of Michigan! I have been in the US since mid-February and am ready for spring to come to your country.

Our family is doing fine. My wife, Rachel, is back home by herself, maybe feeling free and having time for herself before three of our children return home from boarding school.

Rebecca is getting ready to attend Hickory Christian Academy in August this year. While I was in North Carolina, I visited the school to check the status of her admission.

Josephine is doing fine in school and I have enjoyed the time with her in Michigan while she was on spring break. She hopes to return to Kenya this summer as a member of the June Eye Care Team.

CHURCH PLANTING & EVANGELISM

The death of pastor Job Rutto in East Pokot is a big setback for the ministry. Job died of uncontrolled hypertension, which compounded into several other problems. His wife, Miriam, and their children are still grieving, but doing well. We are praying that God will bring us a suitable replacement for Job, who was never weary of God's work and a good servant of God.

Drought is biting very badly- especially in the lower regions. Lomut's new churches are especially affected because people are moving away to look for pasture, food, and water.

Korokow Mountain in West Pokot is opening up for the gospel. We took our team there for a three-day "raid" of the area with the good news. Over three thousand mountain people showed up to attend and hear the good news, most for the first time. More than 200 of them indicated that they had received Christ during the meetings.

Uganda is also going great. Karita, Kanarayan, and Lemsuy are among our latest congregations. God has swung every door open in Uganda. Even the government officials that I met are very positive towards our work. We just want to present the gospel to every person as fast as possible because we never know how long the door will be open.

Kongelai Training Center just concluded their second term. The students are so eager to preach and share the good news using the new tools in their hands. Pray that God will call many more to be trained.

The civil unrest in South Sudan has delayed the departure of Reuben and Loice Meriakol. However, work on their home has resumed and should be completed soon. Kapoeta has avoided much of the violence that has plagued other areas of the country and they plan on moving there in the coming months.

WATER

In January, a water team from Harvesters and Hope Water Project visited several areas where boreholes have been proposed. We are happy that geological surveys are going on in these areas and others, and that clean water will soon be provided. Last month alone, Tunoyo, Merur, Somotwo, and Kongelai were blessed with new boreholes! These boreholes would not have been possible without the more than one



thousand people on the Hope Water Team that raised over \$1 million last year for clean water for the Pokot. We are so grateful for God's provision and their sacrifice.

ORPHANAGES

A very beautiful dorm in Chemolingot has been completed for girls at risk of female circumcision (FGM) and early marriage. They now have a refuge to run to. We are so happy that we are able to protect these children who otherwise would be forced to undergo FGM. We thank God for the sacrificial gifts that made this facility possible. Our future plans include building a similar facility in Kodich.

The children at Kodich, Kauriong, and Chemolingot are doing well and while their needs for food, water, health, and education are being met, we are faced with a big challenge to meet the needs of the children that are going to secondary school and college. The need between now and the end of this year is \$60,000.

MEDICINE

We thank God for the opportunity to share God's love, care and ability through mobile medical clinics. You see, when I first started the work, the Pokot people, whose lives have faced a lot of physical hurt and general health problems, have been asking questions as to whether God loves them, cares about them, and even whether or not He is able, but does not care.

Now that we have medicine in our hands to deliver to the people, it is practically answering those questions that they have been asking for years. Emboasis, Mokoyon, Katikomom, and Kakorron are places that are in the middle of nowhere. We see that God has done wonders in those places by restoring the health of women and children.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- peace in South Sudan and for Reuben and Loice to be safe and effective
- the new Ugandan work, that God will call laborers to disciple the new converts
- the new mountain people to stand firm in the Lord
- provision of a new refuge facility in Kodich
- God's provision for two vehicles needed for the ministry

Changing Culture

Anti-FGM Update



In early April, Rebecca Maru provided anti-FGM (female genital mutilation) training to over 300 people in the Wasat, Orolwo, and Chepturu villages in Kenya. The participants were eager to learn how they can be agents for change against this horrendous practice. As part of the program, boys sang songs and girls recited poetry.

The next meeting, scheduled for May, will be attended by 65 members of the county assembly as well as the county executive. The national chairperson for the anti-FGM initiative will address the assembly members on the effects of FGM. Please pray that the words of the speakers would stir the hearts and minds of these leaders that would lead to an end of FGM.



The Lord Provides... Soap!

by: Mark Foran

The farthest I've ever been from home is Rwanda, Africa, about a two-hour drive into the hills outside the city of Kigali. I said good-bye to my wife Barb and the medical team that I had spent the previous two weeks with, serving the Pokot tribe in northwest Kenya and eastern Uganda, and hopped the one-hour flight from Nairobi to Kigali. My role on this particular mission was essentially observing what the ministry was doing, and keeping my American traveling buddy, Jonathan, company.

After hearing about Pastor Aphrodice and the awe-inspiring work he's doing, I looked forward to meeting him. He took us to six of the eleven churches he has planted. It was impressive to say the least. They are all growing rapidly.

Several of the churches are even in the process of building their own buildings. We had a chance to visit them and meet the pastors. They are remarkable men committed to Christ and growing the church. Pastor Aphrodice has a very holistic approach, helping widows and orphans, some of whom are survivors of the Rwandan genocide, and reaching out to those who are poor and infected with HIV.

We planned to visit the Pygmy church planted by Pastor Aphrodice. Sometimes my imagination has a way of going overboard. I imagined all sorts of unpleasant scenarios. Imagine being in a far off African country where you've never been and agreeing to go to a Pygmy church. I didn't even know what that meant. Needless to say, Jonathan and I were extremely anxious about this visit.

The pastor suggested we bring gifts stating, "The Pygmies will be more receptive to you foreigners if you bring gifts". Good idea! I insisted we do that. In fact, I wasn't going unless we brought gifts! Pastor Aphrodice suggested we bring boxes of soap. Awkward! "Won't that be a bit offensive?" I asked. I was assured it wouldn't be, so we bought three boxes of soap.

The Pygmy church was amazing. The people were wonderful, joyfully worshipping the same Christ that I know. Their passion was contagious. We were told that the church had a prophecy the previous week that people from a far away place were going to visit. It's a bit humbling to be part of the answer to a prophecy.

When it came time to pass out the soap, we gave large bars (about the size of four or five average American bars of soap) to everyone. Men, women and children - everyone got a bar. As I started to see the bottom of the box of soap, I realized there were still quite a number of people that hadn't been given soap yet. I mentally began explaining why we didn't have enough. But we kept handing out the soap. When we were finished, I realized we had a full box left over. No way! I wanted to tell everyone to put their soap back in the box just to prove to myself that they would fit.

Pastor Aphrodice, under the leadership of Pastor Habimana in the DRC (Congo), has truly done some amazing work in reaching the lost and helping the marginalized and disabled in the past few years. I know his ministry will continue to be blessed. Not just because I believe that Pastor Aphrodice is working hard in this region, but because I believe Jesus is.

A Heart for the Harvest

by: Elizabeth Gee
Missions Coordinator, Grace Community Church

Three very different cultures, including ours, interacted deeply during the February mission's festival at Grace Community Church, Hilton Head, SC. We were challenged in new ways by what it means to have a heart for the harvest, which was our theme.

Pastor Benjamin (Myanmar), on his first visit to the US, and Pastor Julius Murgor (Pokot, Kenya) shared their love for Jesus and their passion for seeing their own people reached with the gospel of Christ. We were able to understand more of the heart of Jesus when He felt great pity on the crowds and saw them as sheep without a shepherd.

These men, although meeting for the first time, have been chosen by God and given the same calling to reach their people for Christ, the same role of being keepers of the vision, and of equipping, training, and sending faithful men to plant churches in their countries. Hung Ling's vision includes sending 100 missionaries into the provinces of Myanmar, a country predominately Buddhist.

Over 20 years ago, through Harvesters, Grace Community Church began its relationship with Julius and the Pokot (Pokot Outreach Ministries). The ministry was just beginning and the needs were great. The Lord allowed us to send medical and outreach teams. Our partnership and love for them deepened. We rejoiced as Julius gave a report at our mission's festival of all the Lord has continued to do, including three orphanages that serve over 800 children and planting 186 churches with 46 pastors and 138 evangelists. Also, there have been over 110 water drilling projects, which have been a primary tool to assist the ministry in bringing people to Christ.

Now POM has outreaches into Uganda. Reuben and Loice, who were trained by Julius, are the first POM missionaries sent

outside their own people group to the unreached people in South Sudan, in the midst of very adverse conditions.

Just as we have been privileged to be a small part of the development of the Pokot ministry through prayer, going and giving, we are excited about what God will do through our new partnership with Pastor Benjamin and the Fellowship Bible Church Ministry in Myanmar, also under the umbrella of Harvesters. About ten years ago, this ministry began under the leadership of Pastor Benjamin. He now oversees six church orphanage homes and a Bible school with 32 students, which will have their first graduating class in February 2015. Some of these students will be among the 100 he envisions sending out to the unreached villages around Myanmar.

We are learning of ways we too can partner with Pastor Benjamin by praying, giving and going. In 2013, two teams from Grace were able to go: one team taught English to the Bible school students while the other team went to get a deeper understanding of other aspects of the ministry, including the women in leadership. There are ongoing needs for teaching English, Bible, and computer.

Another pressing need is for a parcel of land to provide a safe, secure, and permanent place for the growing Bible school — safe from the hindrances of rising rental costs, robbers of the girls' dorm, and even lack of getting internet services. By God's grace, we are trusting Him to help provide for this need though us here at Grace.

God is calling us to go deeper with the Myanmar ministry as He did years ago with the Pokot. We are thankful to have this little part in seeing God's Kingdom come in both of these countries.

The harvest is so great, but the workers are few. So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest. Ask him to send out more workers for his fields. Matthew 9:37, 38



To Look or Look Away

by: J. Lucarelli

I just saw the critically acclaimed film "Nairobi Half-life" where in the closing scene the main actor, Mwas, is confronted with the double-life he has been living as an aspiring actor from a Kenyan village and a car-jacking thief who just witnessed his entire gang killed in a gunfight with the police.

The play Mwas was acting in was about the dichotomy between rich and poor, which is by no means a new idea. However, Mwas's character in the play was part of a group of thieves that broke into the house of the rich, piled up all their stuff in the middle of the house, but didn't "steal" anything - other than the owners' sense of security.

Mwas and his colleague were caught by a family that came home early. When asked what they were doing, Mwas responded that they were trying to get the rich to take notice of the poor around them as they lived their rich lives. His statement "you have to choose to look... or look away" resonated with me as I, in a split second, was confronted with a sudden wave of guilt.

As I exited the theatre and had a chance to reflect on this emotional response, I remembered a recent experience where I was walking along a street in Nairobi so completely unaware of what was going on around me that I walked right by someone that I knew. After flagging me down, he asked why I didn't pay attention to the sideshows around me. After I apologized and had a quick conversation with him, I continued walking.

As I proceeded, I realized that as I walked I rarely made eye

contact with people as I passed by them. I don't know if I was afraid or was so self-absorbed that I didn't want to look in to their eyes or engage anyone that might delay me getting to where I wanted to go, even though I was in no real rush.

These two experiences converge as I sit and write, realizing that as I walked through the streets of Nairobi, and in so many other instances in life, I choose to look away. Each person that I pass has a story, a family, and a reason for being. But in my ambivalence, I choose to look away. Not that I could engage every person or be part of their life, but it still makes me feel ashamed.

I realize that even in the area that I have gone to help, I often choose to look away and not engage with what is happening around me. I often feel overwhelmed by the needs and by being asked for "assistance" by so many that I encounter. By looking away, have I hardened my heart to the humanity around me?

Have I dishonored God by not responding to the needs of the poor (Prov 14:31)?

Haven't we all done that to a certain extent? We tend to live insulated lives, often building walls around us - literally and figuratively - to keep out the needs and suffering of others. Is this self-preservation, ambivalence, or a little of both?

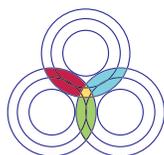
Looking back, many of the greatest blessings in my life have been a result of outreach to others. I pray that we all choose to look rather than look away and see how God refines us as we show Christ to others.

*Join us on an
upcoming team*

*Please contact us for
details*

kenya / jun 6-22 / eye care & evangelism
kenya / jul 30-aug 13 / child sponsorship
kenya / aug 12-23 / work & evangelism
kenya / sep 13-28 / medical & evangelism

myanmar & india / nov 1-15 / vision
kenya / dec 27-jan 9 / work team
myanmar / feb 9-19 / vision & graduation



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