



Joining Hearts and Hands Update

February 14, 2008

Many thanks to all for your continued prayers for the dear people of Kenya. As of this writing, there appears to be an improved atmosphere of calm in Kenya. Kisumu, which was severely affected by the unrest, has a very long way to go. We are now in daily communication with John, our colleague in Kisumu. Previously it had been a serious risk to travel to the cyber café. While it is still a long way from pre-election calm, we are thankful for the much needed improvement.



Scholarship Students

School was delayed for nearly all of our scholarship students due to the unrest. Last week, presidential challenger, Raila Odinga sent the message to his supporters that children must attend school and that the schools could not continue to be shuttered. Fortunately, all heeded the message and our kids are back in school this week.

All of our current 35 students are back in school and due to your generosity, we were able to send 28 additional students to high school!! As a result of the current

turmoil, Joining Hearts and Hands has extended scholarships to students of families that have been displaced. We are providing scholarships from 4 refugee students from the Kakamega area (Western Province) and 2 scholarships from displaced students in Kisumu. We continue to have a connection with St. Oda's School for the blind and are providing 2 additional scholarships to their graduates as well as two scholarships from 2 destitute families on Mageta Island on Lake Victoria. Joanne has been working around the clock these past two weeks making sure our kids are safe, their schools are open and that next semester's tuition is paid. I don't know how she does it!!

Relief Efforts

Ordinarily, **Joining Hearts and Hands** does not engage in day-to-day relief efforts. This turmoil has led us to the decision that we must help the thousands of people that have lost their homes and livelihoods in some tangible way. We have established 3 relief programs in Kisumu and Kakamega. In Kisumu, through the cooperation of the Kisumu Kiwanis Club, food and clothing is being provided for displaced persons in the Kisumu City area. Also, in cooperation with **Reach the Children, Building Futures** and **PALS** a food relief program has been established for the school community of Mbaka Oromo Primary School. Mbaka Oromo is the school in Maseno Kenya where we built our first classrooms.



Joanne washing dishes at Kiwanis' Wastahili Food Kitchen, site of Joining Hearts and Hands relief effort

In Kakamega, 4 internal refugee camps have been established. There is a great need for medical care, food and clothing. Through our friends Nancy and John Akoto (public health nurse and physician who run our medical camps) we will be setting up food and clothing relief along with counseling for the thousands of people that have been forced from their homes. It is estimated that the 4 camps have as many as 40,000 people. Our efforts will clearly not be enough to meet the enormous need but we hope to make a small positive impact for the most vulnerable children.

Hannah's Hope

Clearly all good works in Kenya have been delayed and caution is the word of the day. Amazingly we have been able to continue with the approvals and construction estimates of Hannah's Hope in spite of the monumental physical obstacles. **John Mukolwe** (our project manager in Kenya—See his photo below!) has been collecting classroom construction estimates. This week we have been reviewing estimates for the classroom and latrine construction. High fuel costs and volatile political environment have skyrocketed prices for materials, supplies and fuel. These costs are slowly declining as calm returns. We will wait out this period of uncertainty to reclaim more reasonable price estimates.



Bill and Joanne with Christ the King Committee on future site of Hannah's Hope

Next Trip to Kenya

Joanne and I would have been in Kenya at this time. It is not yet safe to return. As soon as we are given the word by our colleagues in Kenya that it is safe to return, we will be back. We miss Kenya so much and cannot wait to visit all 63 kids who are attending over 30 secondary schools in Nyanza and Western province (and 1 in Nairobi!!).



Kenya needs your Prayers

Thanks to all of you for your prayers. They are working!! Please keep Kenya in your daily petitions!

Mungu Awabariki (May God bless you all!)

Bill and Joanne Cala

We hope that you find this newsletter informative and that you agree that there is much to do in Kenya for less fortunate than we. We send out quarterly E-Newsletters. If you would like to be added to our list, please send an e-mail to wcala@rochester.rr.com and put “**SUBSCRIBE**” in the subject box. Please feel free to share with your friends. If you wish to unsubscribe, send an e-mail to the same e-mail address and put “**UNSUBSCRIBE**” in the subject box.

Contributions can be made to: **Joining Hearts and Hands**

9 Fieldston Grove

Fairport, NY 14450

If you wish to give to a specific cause such as relief, scholarship or Hannah’s Hope, please put **RELIEF, SCHOLARSHIP OR HANNAH’S HOPE** in the subject line.

See more information on Kenya at www.joiningheartshands.org