

# What's Happening at The Josiah Foundation!

Summer 2011

By Dave Penner, President

## Mission Kenya

In June, I made my third trip to Kenya. My time there was packed with ministry opportunities, most of which you may read about below. I know a number of people were praying for the Lord to accomplish His purposes during my time in Kenya, and I clearly felt those prayers. All that was accomplished was done so by the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Lord deserves all the credit for any accomplishments;

### Slums of Kwa Njenga

Once again I had the joy of ministering together with Pastor Jeremiah Openda and his wife Carol, pastors of the Kingdom Life Ministries church in the slums of Kwa Njenga. Together we visited over 25 homes where we sought to encourage these dear people as we listened to them sharing from their hearts. Problems were frequently related to the need for a job or marriage issues. We were able to encourage them from the Word and through prayer. Many of the homes were in the tin-roofed “slums”, while some homes were in the multi-story flats that overlooked the slums.



Looking down at slums of Kwa Njenga; note the open sewer and garbage everywhere



Jeremiah overlooking Kwa Njenga

Pastor Jeremiah had invited me to come and hold a teaching ministry this year. As a result, I spoke on four different occasions in the Kingdom Life Ministries Church. The messages were well received, and I had the opportunity to pray with a number of folks who requested prayer following the services.



**Jeremiah translated into Swahili**



**Worshipping together**

A man who appeared to be heavily under the influence of alcohol and demonic spirits wanted to come in and find salvation. His actions were somewhat bizarre. At first he didn't seem to be able to get up and walk in; he was just down on his knees and in seeming distress. Jeremiah bid him come to the front, which he slowly did. He had trouble looking at Jeremiah, and at one point asked him (Jeremiah) to not look at him so "quickly". He would pound the concrete floor with his fists. But he eventually did profess his faith in Jesus Christ. One of the church leaders standing nearby made the comment while Jeremiah was ministering to him that that is what some of us used to be like. Wow, what a transformation!



**Children singing**



**A desperate man seeks help**

### **Ark School in Slums of Kariobongi**

I was invited to participate as one of the honored guests at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Ark School's new first floor building expansion. What a privilege it was to attend the opening ceremonies for the new Ark School building expansion! I was asked to be one of three ribbon cutters to the new first floor. It was quite a ceremony with a wonderful program by the students and several of us giving short speeches.

The first floor contains classrooms for Grades 4-7 and has electricity and running water/plumbing (something the old school rooms do not have). The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the

expansion project is about half finished and the hope is that sufficient funding will come in to enable it to be completed by year's end. The goal also is to construct a 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in the future.



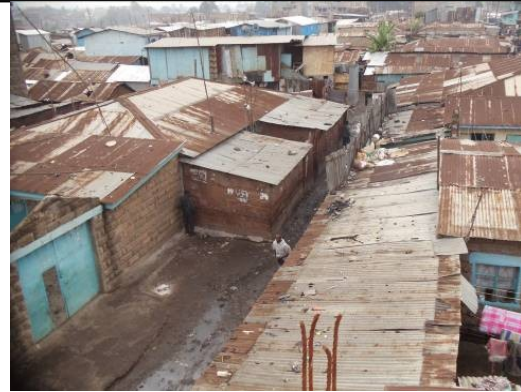
It's amazing to think that just two years ago, when I first visited the Ark School, the enrollment was around 110-120 students (in addition to adults who receive literacy training in the evenings) and all the students were crammed into the five classrooms with no electricity or running water. Now there are over 200 students with room to grow. I don't believe that The Josiah Foundation has another ministry with a greater impact potential!



In addition to attending the ceremonies, I was able to deliver funding to help the ongoing school expansion project. After the ceremony, I was asked to meet with and encourage school board members and school staff. We had a great time in sharing with one another and praying together.



**Children in new class room**



**View of the Ark School neighborhood from the roof of the new school building**

### **Possibilities Africa:**

Jeremiah and three of his church leaders (Jacob, Benjamin, and Margaret) accompanied John Elias and myself as we traveled with Possibilities Africa (PA) personnel to visit rural Kenya communities in Mbeere. Possibilities Africa is a Christian organization whose mission is to mobilize and equip Christians to be agents of spiritual and socio-economic transformation in Africa. Our goal was to learn firsthand the principles that they are using to generate transformation there. We hope to employ these principles initially in Kwa Njenga and eventually elsewhere.



**Camels on the road to Mbeere**

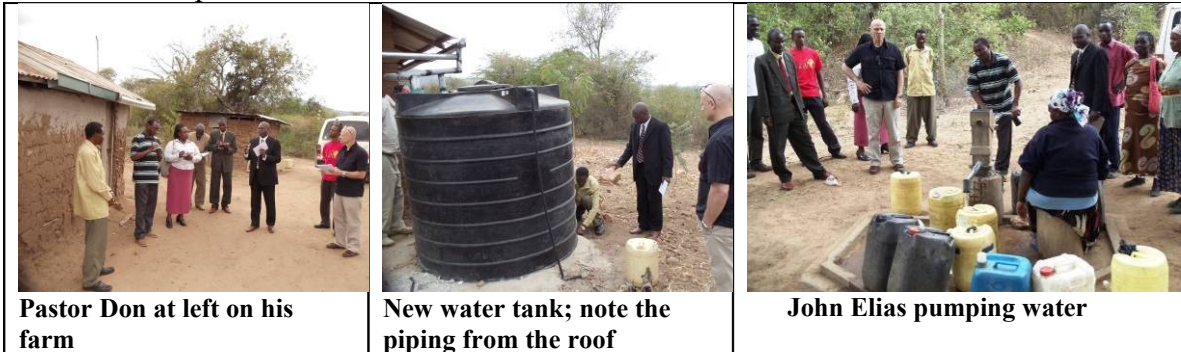


**Jeremiah and Margaret with Pastor Festus' wife in center at general store**

In Mbeere, we met several individuals that have been helped by the ministry of Possibilities Africa. Pastor Festus, pastor of the Grace Gospel Light Ministries first met PA personnel 3 years ago, and was inspired by their vision of transformation, i.e. holistic transformation impacting the spiritual, economic and social fabric of the community. Thanks to a loan from Possibilities Africa, Festus and his wife now have a general store. He indicated that he does a lot of ministry at the store as people come there.

Next we met a most impressive leader, Pastor Don. Don works with Pastor Festus and also has started a school. Pastor Don has a relationship with PA that goes back 5 or 6

years. Don was helped to start a poultry project. He is able to sell eggs as well as chickens. At present he has 28 chickens.



Don also had a donkey that he hires out to people hauling water buckets to the one “bore hole” (water well). The donkey can carry up to 5 large buckets. In addition, PA has installed a large water tank at Don’s home. It is set up to catch rain water than runs off the roof of his home. Don also hauls water from the well and puts it into the tank, and then sells water to those who don’t want to go all the way to the well. This is a pilot project for PA; they will monitor the impact and consider for future projects.

We visited the water well. It serves about 400 families and is an absolutely critical resource. It is under the control of a local water committee. The well is unlocked at 3 AM so that people can begin to come and obtain their water. There is always a water committee member there to supervise and ensure the well with its manual water pump is protected.

I believe we were all encouraged by what we saw and learned in Mbeere. I am looking forward to hopefully applying some day soon in Kwa Njenga what we have learned from our good friends at Possibilities Africa.

#### **Other Ministry Opportunities:**

1. The Lord enabled me to visit/encourage a number of other dear Kenyan friends:
  - a. Fellow Josiah Board member John Elias.
  - b. My friend Isaac Kiva, an electrical engineer in the Kenya Ministry of Energy - Renewable Energy Resources Department. Isaac is a strong Christian who I first met at the Haggai Institute in Hawaii some years ago.
  - c. Mr. Harrison Mmaitisi, Managing Director of Kuenea Harry’s Fresh Produce Ltd. Harrison is a good friend of Jeremiah’s and is an Apostle with oversight of a number of churches in Nairobi. Harrison started an exporting business in February, exporting fresh produce to the U.K. Harrison has indicated a willingness to assist in future business ventures, especially in putting together business plans and studies.
  - d. George and Linet, a couple with two sons with whom I have enjoyed a relationship for several years. Although struggling greatly to make ends meet, they continue to rely on the Lord for their daily needs.
  - e. Obadiah and Margaret, good friends of Jeremiah and Carol. Obadiah works for Kenya Airlines and has proven to be a great friend with a heart to serve others!

2. Had the privilege of sharing a brief message at the Gospel Assembly Church during Sunday morning services.
3. Delivered funding for the Jamii Ministries feeding/teaching program for children in the slums of Kibera.
4. Led the SIM team's weekly Bible study at the SIM office.
5. Possibly the greatest impact may come from the growth of our ties to a network of connected Christian leaders there in Nairobi.

## **What's Ahead?**

The Josiah Foundation Board of Directors plans to meet in the upcoming weeks to consider what God has been teaching us, and how the Lord would have us specifically engage in ministry opportunities. Of special consideration will be the ministry opportunities in Guatemala and in Kenya.

### **What's Ahead for You?**

Do you have a desire to reach the poor in Jesus name? To share the love of Christ in tangible ways with those who are hurting? Consider the following possibilities:

#### **Upcoming Short Term Mission Trips - 2012**

- Guatemala – dates and specifics to be determined. Please contact Dave Penner at [dave@josiahfoundation.com](mailto:dave@josiahfoundation.com) if you are interested in being on a team in 2012.
- Kenya – Plans are underway to minister with Fresh Start minister to many pastors, leaders, and church members who are in need of healing of the heart. For more information on Fresh Start, please visit their website at [www.freshstartforallnations.org/](http://www.freshstartforallnations.org/).

#### **Volunteers Needed for Fund Raising Events**

We are in the process of putting together a Fund Raising team to plan and carry out fund raising events/activities. We have two or three individuals already committed, and are looking for two or three more. If you would be interested in working with a team to put together fund raising activities throughout the coming year, please contact Dave Penner at [dave@josiahfoundation.com](mailto:dave@josiahfoundation.com). No experience necessary! Just a desire to share the love of Jesus with others!

#### **Prayer and Praise Items**

- Pastor Jeremiah, wife Carol and family as they minister to many who are hurting and living in deep poverty in the slums of Kwa Njenga.
- John Elias, Josiah Foundation Board member living in Nairobi with his adult daughters while wife Eunice is studying in the U.S. (nursing). Pray for resolution of his visa application to return to the U.S. and be with his wife, and for the family's daily needs as they await said resolution.
- Pat Duff as she ministers in Guatemala. Check out her blog at <http://www.guatemalagrandma.com/>.
- God's guidance for Board of Directors as we seek the Lord's direction to maximize the effectiveness of our ministry.

- Volunteers to assist with planning fund raising events.
- The Ark School in slums of Kariobongi. Especially remember the staff who are so vital in reaching these precious children. *(Note: on this trip I learned that although the Ark School is generally said to be in Kariobongi, it actually is located in a tiny slum named Kia Miko that is located adjacent to Kariobongi. Kariobongi is a large and well known slum, and so is generally used as the location for the school.)*