



News from Kenya

August 2008

*Highlights from June 2008 Ministry Trip
By Verway and Leon Scott*

u•ten•go (Swahili):
a refuge, shelter

Clean Drinking Water for a Community

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Clean Drinking Water 1
- Hope Offered through Orphanages 1
- Seminars & Bibles Make a Difference 2
- What is Disciple Support Ministries? 2
- Annual Golf Tournament: Update 2008 2

OUR MISSION

To faithfully manage contributions from caring persons to support Christ-based Kenyan ministries and schools

CONTACT US

Utengo Ministries
4585 Kinsdale Drive
Mableton, GA 30126
770.739.6786

www.utengo.org
info@utengo.org

We were anxious to see the 14,000 gallon water tank funded by Utengo. As we neared Boruma Secondary School, the first thing we noticed was a small pipe coming out of the side of the hill. Headmaster William Ombati walked to the spigot and with a quick turn, cool, clean water began to flow. Still under construction during our last visit in 2006, the tank now supplies water not only to the school but also to the surrounding community.

This project has been a Godsend to the school and nearby residents. Ombati shares, "Students no longer have to trek back and forth to a stream several kilometers downhill. And it has really helped the elderly people living near the school who had trouble carrying water."

Even the government is taking notice! The parliamentary representative for the region reviewed the plan and submitted a proposal for similar tanks to be built at two other secondary schools.

Clean Water

During our visit to several other impoverished schools, clean water was a constant need shared by school and community leaders. The government has little money to help the dozens of schools and communities who would benefit from a water tank, but Utengo can make a real difference.

We would like to provide two more impoverished schools—Gianchere School for the Deaf and Ritiro Primary School— with water tanks by the end of 2008.



Headmaster Ombati shows how the water tank works. The partially-submerged water tank is the large concrete structure in the back.

Boruma Water Tank:

- Capacity: 14,000 gallons
- Construction Time: 6 months
- Cost: \$4,200
(10% given by community)
- Fun Fact: Partially underground tank keeps the water at a cool 50-55 degrees

Hope Offered through Orphanages

Living Way

We are always encouraged by the laughter and joy that greet us at the Living Way Children's Home. For the past three years, donors have helped support the growth of Living Way from 8 to 31 children, creating an environment where youth are overcoming great challenges, learning useful life skills and receiving love and care in a warm, safe environment.



Children at Living Way

Faraja Home

The Kibera slums of Nairobi are home to one million people in only one square mile. Most tin shacks have no water, electricity, or sewage. Martha Moraa left teaching to care for the homeless children of Kibera. She is now a mother to 26 children at the Faraja Children's Home. We had a wonderful time of sharing and singing with Martha and the Faraja children.

Seminars & Bibles Make a Difference

Life after Violence

We wondered what we would find in Kenya after election violence earlier this year left 1,500 people dead and 250,000 displaced from their homes. Aside from an occasional burned out vehicle or a fire-scarred lot, we saw little evidence of the mayhem. To the contrary, signs of economic progress were clearly evident.

Life is improving, but remembering the violence brings painful recollections for many. A pastor from the Kibera slums shared how dozens of youth armed with machetes came to his house after he offered sanctuary to a fleeing member of another tribe. The gang told the pastor to come out or they would burn down his house and kill his family. His emotion was real as he recounted his frantic 'goodbyes' to his wife and children. He went outside to the gang leaders and asked for five minutes to pray to God. Their reply: "It is good for you to talk with your God because you are getting

ready to meet him." The Pastor bowed his head to pray. When he had finished, he looked up, and the gang was gone. With incredible passion, the pastor told us, "God delivered me! He saved me for a reason. And now I am going to tell every one of His goodness!"

The Living Word

Working with the Kenyan pastor team of Fidelis and Kalysa Wandera, we conducted three, 2-day Bible seminars in three separate villages. The teaching used the Old Testament Tabernacle to model our Christian growth. We challenged church leaders to examine their roles in guiding their members to the Most Holy Place. The sessions were well attended by pastors and church leaders. District Overseer Julius Kubai shares:

"These teachings were a deep revelation, and wherever I went into the small Churches, I found the leaders who had attended



Pastors and Church leaders discuss what they learn.

[the seminars] teaching other people. I was particularly challenged when I went home at night to find my wife and kids also discussing and meditating further on the teachings."

Sharing Bibles

During our travels we distributed 100 Bibles to Churches in the Meru area and were happy to see past recipients putting them to use. Utengo has distributed over 500 Bibles to church partners in this area and hopes to provide an additional 299 Bibles by the end of 2008.

What is Disciple Support Ministries?

We were privileged to spend time with Disciple Support Ministries (DSM). This small group of Americans is offering incredible Bible teaching to church leaders in Nairobi's largest slums!

We observed over 200 church leaders receiving quality Bible training that would otherwise be unaffordable. With only two regular instructors and a small

supporting staff, founder Paul Cowley explained that they are stretched to the limit to serve the current enrollment of 350 pastors between two sites.

DSM's mission is dear to our hearts. Please visit their website to learn more about their ministry.

<http://www.disciplesupport.org/>



Church leaders listen intently to Bible teaching from Disciple Support Ministries.

Annual Golf Tournament: Update for 2008



Funds from our 2007 golf tournament will help provide this deaf student and many others with clean water.

This time last year we were deeply involved in planning our first annual golf tournament to benefit the Gianchere School for the Deaf. After careful prayer and consideration, we did not feel that this type of event was a good fit for Utengo. Thus, our first annual golf tournament is now our last annual golf tournament.

The good news is that the \$2300 raised from last year's tournament will still be sent to Gianchere to help them put in a water tank to supply clean water to the school and the surrounding community.

Thanks again to all who helped make our inaugural event a success!