



# News from Kenya

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u.ten.go (Swahili): a refuge, shelter

December 2010

## Schools for the Deaf Await Water Tanks

We often take for granted the ability to turn a handle and immediately receive cool, clean water. Things are quite different in many parts of Kenya. Even when water is close by, it may be contaminated by pit latrines or the cleaning activities of others upstream, which fuel diseases such as cholera and typhoid.

Clean water is key for students and residents of all abilities, but deaf students are especially vulnerable to problems related to retrieving water. They often travel overgrown or little used paths and are at a higher risk of harm, particularly the female students.

On our visit to Nyakome (nee uh KO may) School

for the Deaf, Headmistress Selina Nyaboke explained the obstacles these students face:

*“It is a long way to the water [pointing to a row of trees far in the distance]. You can imagine how hard it is for the deaf students when they go to the water and there are other people there to get water. It is hard for them to communicate and sometimes people treat them cruelly because they are deaf. And we are also very concerned with their safety when they go to and from the water.”*

Besides Nyakome, Utengo is helping to bring improved health and safety to another school for deaf students: Gianchere (gee un SHAY ray). Tank construction is already underway at Gianchere, while more help is needed before work at Nyakome can begin. Remember that the local community contributes 20% of the \$4500 cost to build the 43-50,000 gallon tanks, leaving \$3,600 of additional support needed for each tank. You can view some tank pictures by selecting the ‘Photos’ tab at [www.utengo.org](http://www.utengo.org). Please contact us if you can help with some or all of the tank cost.



Students at Gianchere School for the Deaf

### The Cost of Clean Water

Contributions needed	\$3,600
Local community portion	\$900
<b>Total cost</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>

## Bugo and Ritiro Tanks Operational!

After months of construction and weeks of waiting for rain, we are happy to let you know that the water tanks at Bugo and Ritiro Primary Schools in Keumbu are complete and being used by the staff, students, and the community. We thank each of you who helped bring these projects to successful conclusions!

## Donated Bibles Support Church Growth

Whenever we visit the town of Maua in northern Kenya, we feel the hints of spiritual conflicts around us. Despite the beautiful scenery, Maua is a hot spot for the growth and trade of *Khat*, a mild narcotic which has been outlawed in several countries. The Maua region is also a gateway for Somalia and affected by the civil strife and Muslim influences from that country.

### Planting...

Pastor Julius Kubai is one of the dedicated Christians serving in the Maua area. Pastor Kubai had a desire to strengthen his churches in the study of the Bible. He has since started two Bible study groups in local villages. The group in Mukweyone (muk way O nay) studies the book of Acts and has anywhere from 30 to 50 people attending twice a week. The group in Barenta studies Timothy and has, on average, around 40 attending, but sometimes reaching up to 80!

Pastor Kubai shares that the “Bible study helps our people understand the Bible and grow strong spiritually. It teaches new, young disciples to commit themselves fully to the work of God.”



Market in Maua

Following each Bible study, the group goes into their community to share what they've learned with others. Along with spreading the Gospel, this helps Pastor Kubai identify “the most courageous disciples who can preach and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. These young disciples will form new Bible studies and maybe join Bible school and become pastors.”

### ...and Harvest

One eager man, Festus Ntongai, shares this of his outreach experience:

*Before I joined the Bible study, I could not understand the Bible; but now I understand, and I can also teach others. I visit the youth in our village, and teach them the Bible, and they agree to follow Christ. I have led 11 people to the Lord and continue on. Our church is really growing in a mighty way!*

This growth is possible through the power of the Holy Spirit, the strength of God's unfailing Word, and generous support from Utengo sponsors. Thank you for contributing towards the purchase of Bibles for people like Pastor Kubai and Festus Ntongai!



### OUR MISSION

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

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