



News from Kenya

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u•ten•go (Swahili): a refuge, shelter

As the Christmas season continues into the new year, let us remember the hope and redemption Jesus brought to mankind. This is the message we share as we go to serve "the least of these".

Tank Construction Continues Despite Drought

Kenya is in the midst of one of its worst droughts of recent times. The impact of water-borne diseases like cholera and typhoid become even more pronounced as water sources dry up.

The good news is that the water tank construction continues. In the village of Kisii, Utengo is installing several tanks, each one bringing 50,000 gallons



Despite drought, Nyakome School for the Deaf begins construction on their water tank

of storage capacity. Construction is under way at two schools for the deaf, but at a slower pace than anticipated. The shortage of water directly impacts the mixing of mortar and cement, thus slowing the construction pace.

At one of the deaf schools, Nyakome (Nee uh KOE may), Headmistress Selina Nyaboke can't wait until the day when her students no longer have to make the long round trips to retrieve water from distant streams. "When the tank is finished, our students will be safer and healthier. And they will be able to spend more time in school instead of carrying water containers to the river and back."

Like Noah and his ark, our partner schools are building in anticipation of the heavy rains that come amidst the drought pattern. Your gift towards a water tank can help ensure that the tanks are ready to serve their purpose when the storms finally arrive.

You're Invited: Summer 2012 Trip

Come with us and experience what God is doing through Utengo!

Our dates are set for a return to Kenya in the summer of 2012. Activities will include Bible teaching, youth activities, and a review of current and proposed projects. We will also make a short visit to the Masai Mara game reserve. It is always a joy to have others accompany us to share their gifts and talents. Email us at info@utengo.org if you might want to join us.



New Hope at New Heart Church

New Heart Changing Church is a Utengo ministry partner and recipient of Bibles. James and Elipsha and their three children are members. Read how God has radically changed their family.

I (Elipsha) am the oldest of nine children. I grew up in a family that consulted witchdoctors and gave us charms. Our Akambu tribe is one of the most feared in Kenya because of our power through witchcraft. [Growing up,] I refused to practice those things, and my parents said I was rebellious. My siblings hated me. I was constantly mocked.

God Heals Our Children

Eventually I fled, met my husband and was married. Because of my rebellion, [everyone said] I would be barren. Around this time I gave my life to Christ, and God blessed us with a first child, Samuel. Our second son, Abraham, was born with feet turned upside down (*a physical disability*). My in-laws wanted us to perform traditional rituals to heal him. I opposed and believed God would heal our son, who was still struggling to walk at 2 years old.

During that time, I heard of a Christian organization, APDK (Association for the Physically Disabled of Kenya). I approached them for help, and they said it might be too late to start Abraham's treatment, but they would try. They encouraged me to pray, also, and sure enough, in two months my son's feet were corrected! He used braces for four years [to learn to walk], and now he is completely OK. When our third child, Shallom, was also born with disabilities, we followed the same procedures. he, too, is fine and using braces to walk normally.

A Struggling Marriage

As a born-again Christian with an unbelieving husband, life was very difficult, which eventually led me to want to leave my marriage. I stopped going to church and started laying down a strategy to get out. During this time, a friend invited me to New Heart Changing Foursquare Church, and we be-



James & Elipsha with their children, Samuel (8), Abraham (5), & Shallom (3)

gan to attend as a family. James had stopped his heavy drinking but was still using drugs.

We become members, but I was still planning to leave my husband. Around this time we were invited to a church conference. I went with all the children, intending to proceed to my parents afterward, never to come back.

But as the teachings went on, I felt convicted and asked God to forgive me. When I returned home, I shared my feelings with the pastors who prayed with me and encouraged me. My husband and I met with them and saw much healing in our family. Soon after, James gave his life to Christ and has continued to this day.

A New Family Legacy

I believe that God is taking our family to another level. Our pastors help us grow spiritually, and I have learned to declare positive things even when all around me is negative. I am committed to God's work as the church secretary and intercessor. My husband is the leader of the men's fellowship. We have seen God provide for all our needs. Last month our parents and in-laws even began saying positive things about us. I know this is just the beginning of what He is doing in our family.



OUR MISSION
To faithfully manage contributions to support Christ-based Kenyan ministries and schools

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