

## A Divine Connection

*November 2003: We had finished a workday at Riodonga Primary and went for a walk in picturesque Keumbu. We veered off the dirt path towards a school spotted through the trees. The headmaster, Mr. William Ombati, greeted us warmly, offered the customary afternoon tea and told us about Boruma Secondary School. He shared his vision for the school, including a plan to bring clean water to the community. So began our work with this wonderful man who oversees the Utengo projects in Keumbu.*

A recent letter from Mr. Ombati:

“It was at Boruma that I first met Leon and Verwray in 2003 and it seems like a miracle! I know it was blessed by God because in all the years we have been in partnership, many activities and projects have been successfully completed. Each project has promoted spiritual development, education, health, and poverty reduction in the community and at Boruma Secondary in particular.

One of the projects has been the underground water tanks with an office or other structure on top. These have attracted the attention of many stakeholders in our region. The tanks enable us to collect rain water in large scale and therefore bring other important benefits: they prevent the use of female child labor as they are usually the ones who fetch water from far downstream. The girls are very happy because they are no longer treated like beasts of burden. The students are healthier because the water collected is free from salmonella, typhoid, bilharzia, and cholera. And during a recent drought, the tanks continued to supply rainwater to the students. These benefits have raised a lot of demand for water tanks and

many now come to me to ask about them.

Other projects have improved the facilities and student performance. Classrooms have been built. Leaking roofs have been replaced. Floors have been plastered, preventing barefoot students from catching parasites from muddy floors. Textbooks shipped to us by Utengo have become learning resources for students and community members who are studying for trade school or other such academics. Also, computer literacy and student preparation for the required national exams is now much easier because of donated computers.

It seems that the students and entire school community are affected by the regular visits of Leon, Verwray, and company. They bring a lot of joy, warmth, motivation and blessings to us, especially through their sharing of God's Word. I don't think it is coincidence that we have not experienced the student unrest that has affected other areas of Kenya. It is not that we don't have problems that



*Mr. Ombati oversaw the construction of a water tank for these Bugu Primary students*

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can lead to such, but God is working in the students and us all to arrive at his desired ends. Our school vision is to produce an all-around balanced person who will serve the community and God well. I think this is being achieved.

My words alone cannot fully describe the impact Leon and Verwray have made on us in Keumbu. We thank God for Utengo and for the work that He is doing through Leon and Verwray. Forever will I be thankful for our meeting several years ago. I pray that we will have many more years to work together."

*William Ombati*

*Headmaster, Boruma Secondary School  
Keumbu, Kenya*



*Leon with Mr. Ombati (center) and construction foreman (left)*

## Answering Prayers One Bible at a Time

One of our greatest rewards is seeing how God uses Utengo to answer the prayers of persons who, by looking at their physical circumstances, had little cause for hope that their prayers would be answered. Often we find ourselves in similar situations. We pray desperately for something that seems all but impossible. As we cling to the last threads of hope, we connect with someone or something that God uses to answer our prayer. And we find out that God was orchestrating a solution during the entire time. Thank God that he is not limited by our circumstances!

This scenario occurred on an earlier trip to Meru, Kenya. We felt led to carry Bibles to a very rural church we were visiting, having no idea that, months before, the church had begun to pray and fast that God would provide a way for them to receive Bibles. Imagine the

rejoicing when we arrived!

We consider each gift to Utengo as the answer to someone's prayer. As a pastor kneels on the floor of a simple church, or a person prays in their mud-walled hut, there may be little in their physical reality that would suggest that their prayers have a serious chance of being answered. But by faith they believe. And by faith, kind hearted persons thousands of miles away hear and respond to the call that God places on their hearts. And then, miraculously, a prayer is answered.

Will you help us answer a prayer today?

**Psalm 17:6.** *I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer.*



### OUR MISSION

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

### CONTACT

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