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*Utengo faithfully manages contributions from caring persons  
to support Christ-based Kenyan ministries and schools*

## **Kenya Ministry Trip July-August, 2006**



We thank God for a fruitful and exciting trip to Kenya with two ministry partners Vanessa Cook and Kobie Wilkerson. Our travels were focused around two areas: projects at Christian schools in Keumbu, and ministry programs at churches in Maua. Within each project there were a host of related activities. For example, in Keumbu we were thrilled to visit with orphans supported by gifts to Utengo. These youth were firmly established and successful in school or in new jobs. During the ministry and training in Maua, a number of youth and adults made commitments to Christ and others were healed of various ailments. We saw how the bicycles donated to several pastors reduced 1.5 hour walks to a 20 minute ride. And the impact of distributing the donated Bibles and Leadership Bibles will remain with us forever. After supplying the Bibles at one church, we learned that the members had been fasting and praying for a way to get Bibles for several months before we arrived. Praise God for answered prayer! Below you will find a few stories, out of many, from our trip to Kenya. We pray that they will give you a sense for how God can use even the smallest gift to change someone's life forever.

- Leon and Verwray Scott

### **A Boy and a Bible**

The young boy looked to be 8 or 9 years old. His name was Jackson. We noticed him as we set up for a pastor's seminar in Maua. He was headed downhill, apparently to get water for the two empty cartons he carried. But something seemed to capture his attention. He watched intently as we set up, and continued to observe throughout the morning as the instruction proceeded.

At lunch, we saw Jackson looking hungrily through the window as we ate the hot stew and rice. We waved him in and he came to the wooden bench and sat down. After dividing our food to share with him, we watched as he devoured one plateful, then another.

During the afternoon, Jackson sat in the front row, fixed on every word echoed by our translator. At the day's end, we wrote words of encouragement in a new Meru-language Bible and asked a local pastor to give it to him. Jackson stood up and we watched the conversation in a language we did not know but somehow understood. After a few moments, Jackson's eyes filled with tears. He shook his head in astonishment as he received the Bible.

Soon we headed to our van to return to the lodge. Jackson, with tears still falling, came to us. With an incredible look of gratitude, he shook our hands. Then he tucked his Bible under his arm, and headed back up the hill with his empty water containers.



*Orphan Dennis stands outside the hut  
where he raises his 3 siblings*



*Kobie Wilkerson with Jackson*

## New Hope for Keumbu Community

Schools in Keumbu share similar problems: a lack of resources and limited options for students after Secondary School (High School). In this area, families take their entire earnings from the crops that can be grown on a small plot of land to pay for school fees. Utengo is working to establish a brighter future for these students by supporting selected Christian schools and the most impoverished students who attend them. Current projects include:

### Books

15,000 used library and text books are en route to Christian schools in Keumbu with the support of two U.S. organizations, "Hands Across the Water", and "Textbook Recycling Inc.". Delivery is expected by September.



*Construction of Water Tank at Boruma School*

### Water Tank

Boruma Secondary School is completing a 30,000 gallon water tank that will soon provide filtered, treated water for the students and surrounding community.

### Vocational School

With the limited number of 4-year colleges in Kenya and only a few scholarships available, Secondary School graduates often return to their small farms with little hope of suitable employment. For only \$270 per year, many of these students would be able to take advantage of more abundant vocational training opportunities to establish a better future for themselves and their families. Some students have gained full employment after only a year of vocational school. Other disciplines require 2-3 years. Utengo sponsored two students in 2006 and plans to help others in 2007.

## Who Are My Brothers and Sisters?

The Living Way Children's Home is a miracle happening before our very eyes. A second building completed this year now houses separate sleeping areas for the boys and girls. The small orphanage has grown from 9 children to 15 with 2 more expected soon. As their reputation has grown, Pastor Shahasi and wife Rebecca are now having to turn down placement requests from government agencies because of their limited facilities and resources.

The Shahasis were candid about the challenges of their ministry. But what was very clear was their faith in God and their determination to provide a new, God-centered family for the orphaned children of Kenya. The smiles and laughter of the children let's us know how strong the family is becoming. Pastor Shahasi stated:

*"...the children are happy to know that though they may not have their real parents, sisters and brothers, there are people all over that they can call their parents and brothers and sisters."*

Living Way Children's Home has three current priorities: 1) Complete the digging of a well so they no longer have to carry water from a nearby stream; 2) Purchase a van so they can provide transportation to the students to and from school and to qualify the orphanage to take disabled children; and 3) Establish child sponsorships to cover the expenses of youth that join the home in the future.



*If you would like to assist with these or any other projects sponsored by Utengo, please use the enclosed form or call or write using the information at the top of page 1.*