



*Witness Always. **MERCY FOREVER.** Life Together.*

CHRIST'S CARE FOR CHILDREN:KENYA/PROJECT 24



Ground Breaking Ceremony

This month, we celebrated the ground breaking of our new Project 24 site in Nyamira Diocese. Having just been established as a new diocese, Nyamira is now part of the church project, building their first Project 24 site. Several LCMS missionaries, the bishops of each ELCK dioceses as well as the acting archbishop Dr. Rev. Joseph Ochola attended the ceremony. It

was a beautiful day in Nyamira as we took a tour of the grounds that were donated for the new site. The architect as well as the contractor were present, enabling the ELCK leadership and the community to meet them and encourage them in their work. We are grateful for the partnership between the ELCK and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. It is through these two church bodies that the Gospel continues to be shared throughout Kenya. Bishop of Nyamira Diocese, Bishop Aranda said "To me as a bishop, I'm very much blessed and there are some children who are our neighbors and don't get food. Today I have seen the hand of God, and I thank God that we can reach our helpless neighbors."



Acting Archbishop Dr. Rev. Ochola handing the plaque to the bishop of the Nyamira Diocese. Acting Archbishop breaking ground. John Kissinger greeting the guests and the community.

Thank You

This last month, we received yet another thank you from one of the students who was a part of the 1001 Orphan program. This program was one of the original child sponsorship programs started by the ELCK and the LCMS. This is the last year, as we are graduating our last class and we have now started our Christ's Care for Children: Kenya program, which specifically sponsors the children in our Project 24 sites. We are grateful that the children in the 1001 Orphan program have completed their education and have been hired into new positions. Here is a portion of Henry Auma's letter to the church:

With great joy I type this mail...Life had posed setbacks but that was normal because in some instances one gains confidence...I'm greatly happy to the Lutheran church that offered me this journey to this point. Academic hope almost slipped out of my hands but today, I am greatly empowered, as I type this mail ...I'm now a graduate from Chuka university and in possession of Bachelor's degree in Agricultural education and extension-second class honors upper division. I'm now registered with the teacher service commission. I'm a classroom teacher of Biology/ Agriculture sure of supporting himself thorough the support you gave me. Your compassion was amazing and my passion for excellence is indeed ignited even more ..May God bless the church ..May God bless the sponsors ...I pray for you all.

You are Welcome

We will be hosting our annual State of Project 24 Forum next month, February 22-3rd at the Rongo Project 24 site. This is a time for the ELCK leadership as well as the site managers to share about the activities that have taken place in the last year. They will also report the plans for the new year. All supporters from Kenya and the United States are welcome to attend the forum. We hope to see many of you there.

Making it Beautiful and Welcoming



As the children were away on holiday, the site managers and their boards continued to work, improving their sites and creating a great environment for the children. Seen here: Rongo's milking Cows. Othoro's newly painted buildings and plants. Lenkishon's refurbished dining hall and wheelchair ramp.

Beyond 24 Youth Camp

In November, our Project 24 site in Udom hosted our first Beyond 24 Youth Camp. As the children graduate from class 8, they continue on to either secondary school or a technical school. They no longer stay at the Project 24 sites but board within their new schools and are considered to now be in our Beyond 24 program. The children are still part of our Christ's Care for Children: Kenya program as they continue their education. The sponsorship pays for their boarding and education. Even though the children are away, it is important that they remain connected and receive religious instruction. One of the ways to help do this, is to have the older students come together during their school holidays and participate in a youth camp. For one week, 61 students were instructed by local pastors, evangelists, deaconesses and site managers. Their courses were not necessarily easy topics. Some of the workshops included: roles of youth in the church, Pentecostal influence in Kenya, handling the teenage years, and can youth be missionaries? Overall, the camp was a success and a wonderful way for the local church to continue to reach out and teach the children on relevant subjects. We hope to continue these gatherings in the new year.



Sustainability Projects



Each Project 24 site has been growing their sustainability projects within their compounds. They have become creative as well as tenacious when it comes to starting these projects. There have been some ups and downs, but now they are beginning to see their projects become fruitful. Such projects have included purchasing milking cows and planting their own crops. We are happy to report that the site managers have added a few more projects in the last month: flour milling and building guest rooms. Tumaini now has a milling machine that can help grind flour for the site as well as for the surrounding community. Udom is adding guest rooms to their site to enable visitors to come and stay there. We applaud the site boards for continuing to be innovative and bringing their new plans to fruition.