

Kenya Connection

"A Big School Like You've Never Seen"

Inside this issue:

God Provided an Abundance of Food	2
Christian Athletes Do More than Teach Sports	2
Can You Help Ruth and Edwin?	2
Faithful Sponsor Extends Her Love Beyond Life	3
Gideon's Message: Attempt the Impossible	3

We have got a good road and a big school like you have never seen here in Kenya . . . when you come, you will see me, and you will enjoy so much.

—Simon Karanja, a sponsored high school student

These words express the joy and hope that Simon feels as he watches the construction projects reach their completion. And he proudly invites his sponsor to come see his new world.

Two years ago the youngest children at Mountain Park Academy (MPA) were attending classes in old saw mill buildings and the oldest had to leave MPA to pursue a secondary education. Eggs had to be purchased from an outside supplier, and each student could have only one egg a week on Fridays. In Githioroinii, the town where the school is located, only 19 of the many

orphans in the community had a place they could call home.

Now, in February 2012, we are just a short time away from lifting up the lives of the children to a whole new level. Soon over four hundred children will walk into 20 new classrooms. We are now ready to purchase approximately 400 chickens, which will be raised in four new chicken houses, producing enough eggs for each child to have two per week. And a total of 60 orphans will live in three comfortable homes with loving house parents.

On behalf of all the children, parents, and staff at MPA, we send you our heartfelt gratitude. Your generosity, especially during these last two years of the construction projects, has been overwhelming.



Workers are putting the finishing touches on the new classroom building



Four chicken houses will provide space for 400 egg-laying chickens

PROJECTS

Completed

- Primary and secondary school buildings
- 5000 book Library
- Dining Hall
- Playground equipment
- Electricity for MPA and 200 homes
- Community well
- Three children's homes
- Four chicken houses

Current and Ongoing

- Furnishings for the new classroom building (see Announcements, p. 4)
- Five more children's homes
- Tables for the dining hall

Team Shares God's Grace with Over 1,000

The Sisters by Grace mission team traveled from Atlanta to Githioroinii in January. The team's theme, taken from Hebrews 12:15, was "to see to it that no one misses the grace of God." They conducted a two-day conference with over 1,000 women and girls from the community participating. Through talks and drama, the message shared by the team

was "receiving grace, giving grace, and walking in grace." Every woman received lunch on the first day and tea on the second day of the conference. Each one was given the opportunity for individual prayer with a team member at the conclusion. The girls' classes focused on a message of self-



Sisters By Grace team

(Continued on page 2)

God Provided an Abundance of Food



Two Kenyan youth leaders bring food to a family

In December a group of 12 from Norcross First UMC traveled to MPA to lead the third annual Hope Camp. This year's theme was from Ephesians 6:10-18: "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power . . ."

Before camp started, the team trained 12 Kenyan youth leaders, who will be directing the camp in the future. Eighty youth attended the camp. They received shoes, T-shirts, and backpacks containing soap, socks, notebooks, and pencils.

During the two and one-half days of camp, they heard several talks from team members on topics such as truth, faith, and praying in the spirit. The children also enjoyed playing lots of games and worshipping through songs.

The Kenyan youth leaders identified those in need in the community and helped deliver food to them. God provided an abundance of food, so the youth prayerfully considered who would benefit most from an extra allotment. They prayed

beautiful prayers at each home where food was delivered.

Having served in Kenya for three years, Norcross First UMC is privileged and honored to be part of God's big plan. Through Hope Camps, they have seen the Kenyan youth mature in their faith, wisdom, love, and joy.

Plans are now underway for the youth leaders and two MPA teachers, Jane Kinyanjui and Jane Mbugua, to lead the next Hope Camp aided by a small U.S. team.



Youth gain faith and skills during FCA visit

Christian Athletes Do More than Teach Sports

Twelve members of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) recently visited with 60 teenage boys and girls at MPA for a week. FCA is the largest Christian sports organization in America.

Each member of the team brought a 50 pound bag filled with clothing and other items for the children. The Rotary

South Club of Fort Myers donated T-shirts, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers contributed sideline caps. The athletes had raised enough funds to provide lunch for the participants for the whole week.

The men in the group taught the boys how to play football. The women in the group guided the girls in soccer. They were led by

women's professional soccer player, Nikki Marshall, and former University of Colorado assistant soccer coach, Tracy Chao.

The FCA team shared their faith as they taught football and soccer skills. Their goal was to challenge the students to use the medium of sports to spread the word about Christ.



Ruth Mbura

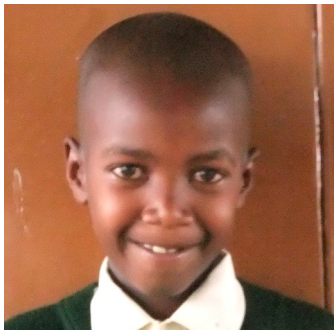
Can You Help Ruth and Edwin?

Ruth Mbura is in Grade 5. She entered MPA in 2010. Both of Ruth's parents are casual laborers and the amount of work they get depends on the availability of jobs. Ruth loves to run and sing. She says that she wants to be a teacher when

she grows up. Her teachers report that Ruth is a very good student and works very hard in class. She is determined to do well.

Edwin Mwangi is in Grade 4. Like Ruth's parents, Edwin's parents are both casual laborers

who work when they have the opportunity. Edwin loves to play ball, sing, and most of all, read. His teachers report that he is a high achiever and acts as a class monitor at times. He is a very responsible young boy.



Edwin Mwangi

(Continued from page 1)

worth, and discussion topics centered on the uniqueness of each girl and her beauty in God's sight.

The team selected 32 orphans from over 50 candidates to live in the two children's homes

which will be completed this month.

The final highlight of the week came when the Sisters by Grace team distributed food to the families in the community. Funds for the food were provided as Christmas gifts from The Kenya Project sponsors and donors and also from funds

raised by the team. Every family received a bag of flour, cooking oil, bars of soap, tea, and other household staples. Contributions were so generous that no community member was turned away empty-handed.

Faithful Sponsor Extends Her Love Beyond Life

Ruth Carroll was born the daughter of a country store owner, played basketball in school, and met the love of her life, Louis, in college where they were both studying to become teachers. The two married in December 1941, and Ruth followed Lou around the country during his preparation to deploy for World War II.

Upon his return they settled in Washington state, and Ruth spent many of her years teaching elementary and special education students. She truly loved to teach.

Ruth and Lou lived in a number of places in Washington, but none were more special than their retirement home on the waterfront of Whidbey Island.

The two spent many months building their "beach house," board by board. They enjoyed many wonderful years on the beach, fishing, clamming, crabbing, gardening, and cooking. They celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in 2004 before Lou's death in September of 2005.

In 2009 Ruth learned of The Kenya Project from her son, Robert, who traveled to MPA with the Global Teacher Foundation. When she heard that many of the children still needed sponsors, Ruth decided to sponsor three children, Jeremiah, Monicah, and Maureen. She developed a strong connection with the students as they exchanged many letters.

Knowing she was well along in years, she had one committed, fervent wish: Should she pass before the children finished their education, her estate was to continue to support them. As she has now passed away, and in honor of her wishes, her estate has made a donation to continue the sponsorship of Jeremiah, Monicah, and Maureen through their secondary school education programs.

Additionally, she requested any remembrances on her behalf to be made as donations to The Kenya Project. Her actions are a true measure of the power of giving beyond life.



Ruth continues to inspire others

Gideon's Message: Attempt the Impossible

Attempt something so impossible that it's bound to fail unless God is in it.

That quote was used at the Kenya project board meeting almost two years ago when we discussed the possibility of undertaking construction of a school addition, two more children's homes, and four chicken houses. It was very profound to me, and it gave me a sense of assurance that God was in what we were planning to do.

We all agreed to undertake the construction, and a group of board members traveled to Kenya a few months later to meet the contractor and make sure we were all on the same page. We broke ground in June 2010.

Now in 2012 thanks to the generosity of many of you, we are very pleased to announce that

we expect our two children's homes and our new school addition to be completed by the end of February. And with the completion of four chicken houses, we are ready to purchase egg-laying chickens.

We are expecting to house 460 children in the new classroom building. This will become our primary school. The original classroom building will be our secondary school, and our recently graduated 8th graders will be the first secondary class to enjoy it. These 70 students were so excited to learn that they would not have to leave MPA and attend secondary schools elsewhere. Forty children will move into the two new children's homes.

We see our success as a result of God's favor, granted through each of you who has stood with us in doing this work. I extend

an invitation to you to travel to Kenya with us if you can, so that you can see firsthand what God is doing through each of you.

I would appreciate the opportunity to share information about The Kenya Project with you in your church or in a small group setting, if such an opening would be available.

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.
Ephesians 3:20-21



**Gideon Robi,
Executive Director**



Forty orphans will soon have homes

The Kenya Project, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing education, spiritual growth, and homes for Kenya's children. Current projects are focused on helping in the village of Githioroinii, Kenya.

Donations

Liz Nichols 678-596-1374

kenyaproject@bellsouth.net

Sponsorship

Nell Pressley

thekenyaproject@gmail.com

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 2023 Lilburn GA 30048

Gideon Robi: 678-207-7515

www.thekenyaproject.org

The Kenya Project, Inc.

Executive Director: Gideon Robi

President: Auma Reggy

Secretary/Treasurer: Lynn Chastain

Board

Chairman: Dee Ann Turner

Vice-Chairman: Jonathan Dotson

Secretary: Ann Kennedy

Fundraising: Peyton Mosher

Communications: Joan Munoz

Newsletter

Fran and Mack Cawthon



Kenya Project Shopping List for Contributions

	Amount
Student Desks and Chairs	_____
Teacher Desks and Chairs	_____
Office Tables and Chairs	_____
Bookcases	_____
Computers	_____
Science Lab Equipment	_____
Reception Area Sofas	_____
Dining Hall Tables	_____
Total	_____

Please mail contributions or have your bank's online bill-pay service send a check to: Kenya Project, Inc., P. O. Box 2023, Lilburn, GA 30048.

Important Announcements

Willing Hands Needed for the May Mission Trip

We are looking for people to serve on the annual board-sponsored mission team. The dates for the mission trip will be May 26 through June 9. As in past years, there will be much to do. The construction crew will repair and paint the old school, getting it renovated for a new use. Medical team members will give each child an annual physical exam and provide episodic care as needed. Administrative team members will take a photo of each child, update his or her biographical information, and supervise all the children as they write letters to their sponsors. We definitely need willing hands, strong backs, smiles, kind words, and Christian hearts and minds on deck.

Please prayerfully consider serving on this team. Let Ann Kennedy know if you would like to serve or if you know of someone who might be interested in learning more about the trip. Contact her at 770-972-7134 or annkennedynp@yahoo.com.

Cost-Free Giving

When you order items online, you can use *The Giving Seed* program to donate to The Kenya Project *at no cost to you*.

It's so easy. Just start at www.givingseed.com. Then choose The Kenya Project from the list of non-profits and select your online retailer (see the screen snapshot to the right). Click the *Go* button and you will be redirected to your retailer where you can proceed as usual. In 2011 we received

almost \$200 from supporters through *The Giving Seed*.

For those of you buying from www.melaleuca.com, you can designate The Kenya Project to receive a percentage of your purchases. We have received over \$400 in the last three months! For more info, call Joan Munoz at 404-556-1273.

Furnishings Needed

The new classroom building will need student desks, office tables and chairs, sofas in the reception area, bookcases for the offices and classrooms, equipment for the science lab, and computers for the computer lab (see the shopping list).

HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!

Please forward this newsletter to your family and friends.



THE GIVING SEED™

Non-Profit or Community Partner: *

Online Retailer: *