

Africa Mission update 6
2013, A Year In Review

Dear Friends and Family,

As one year comes to an end and a new year begins it is cause for reflection. I believe that it was January 2013 that Pastor Richards first approached me about considering the work of starting a school in Kenya. We had discussed the need for educational institutions that followed the counsels given by EG White regarding education and were in agreement about what she calls “the true science of education”. We have both studied the work of Edward A. Sutherland and Percy T. Megan and feel that their work, in the establishment of what became known as Madison College in Tennessee, was as near the blueprint for true education as can be found. We have both considered starting a missionary training school following the pattern of true education and even discussed the possibility of doing it together but I never considered starting the school in Africa. So when Pastor Richards asked if I and my family would consider going to Africa and starting a missionary training school I was a bit taken back.

After some discussion with my family regarding the call to Africa we decided that it would be best if I could travel to Africa first and see what the needs were. Knowing the expense that would be involved in taking a family of six from the northwest USA to East Africa we wanted to be assured that it was God’s will for us to come to Kenya before setting out. Thus the arrangements were made for Pastor Richards and I to travel together in April 2013. Among the things that we wanted to accomplish was to look for property that could work for starting a missionary training school. The second property we looked at was located on the Migori river near the village of Kihancha. It looked like it could work well to establish a training school, and after negotiating the financial details we were committed to 44 acres in Masai country near the Masai Mara.

After much preparation and Divine intervention we had our tickets to Kenya and on October first we flew out of Spokane Washington. We would reach our destination in Kericho, Kenya after nearly two full days of travel and layovers.

Though it would only last four weeks the stay at Kericho was a helpful transition from living conditions in the United States. The house was large and “modern” by African standards but lacked many of the basic things that we have accustomed ourselves to in the states. Each morning we were given a pail of warm water to bathe with. That bath consisted of pouring some water over ourselves to get wet, then soaping up and hopefully there would still be enough water to rinse the soap off at the end.

That seems like luxury now that we have moved to Lolgorian which is in what is known as the interior (which means “a long way from nowhere”). Now we usually get a pail of cold water to bathe in regardless of how

cold it may be. We also do not have the luxury of electricity here. KARI is the government agency we are renting from (it stands for Kenya Agriculture Research Institute). The house we are renting was set up with a small solar panel that was not hooked up and was missing key components to be functional. KARI was willing to run a wire from a nearby house so that we could have electricity but it would have cost about \$300.00 and I was not willing to pay that because we needed the money for building materials etc. I did bring enough solar equipment with me to charge computers, phones etc. when the sun is shining. Unfortunately there is not enough power to run lights so we picked up a couple of kerosene lanterns for light in the evening.

All this was simply another step in the process of becoming accustomed to doing with less because we are about to transition to the property where we will be “camping” in unfinished buildings. It is all part of the adventure and is nothing compared to what the early missionaries to this area faced, so we are content.

I cannot conclude this update without listing some of what the Lord has accomplished for us since we came to Africa nearly four months ago. God has opened the way for us to move near the property so that we can progress on buildings, fences, gardens etc. But though we were closer we were still too far to walk and haul tools and building materials so in November God provided us with a double cab pickup which has proved to be a greater blessing than we can describe. Next, God has helped us to get buildings well along at the property and we have hope that we will be able to get roofing on within a week and enclosed so that we can move onto the property. These are just a few of the great blessings we have received. Time does not allow me to tell of all the kind people who have helped us along the way, or our being supplied with more produce that we could eat even when the local market was closed for two weeks due to the holidays. Of all our faithful family and friends back in the US who have made all this work possible with your prayers and sacrifices. Our hearts go out in gratitude to God and to all His faithful servants who, together are making the dream of a missionary training school possible in this remote part of Africa.

We are blessed to have the assistance of three young men in the work here. They are Victor, our translator and assistant bible teacher; Kyle our long time friend from home who is an experienced missionary and skilled construction worker (much needed at this time); and Collins, who is a student from Tanzania, assisting with the building of this school in training and preparation for starting a sister school across the border in Tanzania. Please pray for more workers to assist us here with the work of building and also with other needs as well. Also pray for us as we hope to start classes soon with this terms focus being on Health Evangelism.

I have been asked to compile a list of specific needs that people can donate for, so here is a partial list:

- Tank to capture rain water: \$350.00

- Windows and doors for current buildings: \$400.00
- Chain saw: \$750.00
- Fence posts. \$600.00
- Building materials for Men's dorm \$1200.00
- Rain water catchment tank for men's dorm \$250.00
- Generator \$600.00
- Skill Saw \$200.00
- Solar Equipment \$500.00

Future Needs include

- Fencing materials for the entire property \$2000.00
- Building materials for the second half of the industrial arts building \$1200.00
- Building materials for women's dorm \$1200.00
- Building Materials for women's bath house \$600.00
- Building Materials for First Staff house \$2000.00
- Building materials for the Cafeteria / Classroom / Meeting hall \$3000.00

If you would like to support this project, please send your donations to:

Restoring the Old Paths
P.O. Box 84
Helmville, MT 59843

Please mark your donation, "Sutherland". Or you can donate online at:
www.restoringtheoldpaths.com/Donate.html

We once again want to thank each of you for your interest and involvement in the work here in Kenya. We will try to send pictures of the project in the next few weeks, now that we are getting buildings up and garden areas started. This next week we have more to do than can be humanly accomplished as we are attempting to transition to the property before February so please keep us uplifted in prayer for Divine assistance.

In His Service,
God's Missionary Band
Loren, Lisa, Victoria, Moriah, Jessica and Jonathan