

IN THIS ISSUE:

* Last day
of school

* Alpha Course

* Street
children

* Our plans and
needs

Thankfulness is the condition of the heart



As Christians we know that thankfulness doesn't depend on material situations, it is rather the condition of the heart that acknowledges its dependence on God. When we are fully occupied with ourselves we tend to accept everything as a must and demand that we are given whatever we want. It is when we take our eyes away from ourselves we are able to see how much in reality we are all in need of God and are in fact fully depended on Him every moment of our lives.

Thanksgiving Day gives us the opportunity to rethink things once again, recognize how much God has given us, and thank Him for one more year gifted to us.

The usual Thanksgiving celebration includes fruits and vegetables brought by people from their fields to show thankfulness to God for the successful harvest of the year. Our church has the similar tradition, in which people bring what they have harvested in the past year, in our case that being mostly corn. In fact this year we have had a lot of corn, and we are very thankful



for what we have. Corn – is the main product in Kenya (affordable in price), and not one family lives a day without it. After our Thanksgiving service the church celebrated together over tea and had great fellowship. It is a joy to see that with every day the church unites to become one big family, and it is one more addition in the list of thanks to our God for all the things He has blessed us with.

Last Day of School



Unlike in many other countries the school year in Kenya begins in January and ends in November. Children who live with us continue to make us happy with their successes. Throughout the past school year all of our children attending public school were able to significantly raise their grades. Most of them finished the school year ranking top ten within their classes. One of them is a boy named Mikost who ranked eleventh last year, yet this year he ranked first in his class. We celebrate their successes with them but rankings fade in their importance alongside the effort and the knowledge that the children acquire on the daily basis. As for our youngest ones attending nursery school (Tummy and Walter), throughout this past year they were able to learn to read and count, as well as memorize the alphabet which in turn has considerably prepared them for the next year as they get ready to attend the first grade.

Another year in our school “Heart of Help” (nursery school in the slam region) came to an end. The last day of school marked the day of summation, awards, prayers and blessings as well as fun and celebration. It is a great joy to us that more parents are coming to such ceremonies. This tells that more and more of them are interested in the future success of their children and become more involved in their children’s lives. This year 22 of our students graduated from our school “Heart of Help” and in January they will continue their education as first graders at different public schools of the local town. Unfortunately that means that we will not be able to see them as often and be their guardians, but we know that they are always in God’s hands. We are praying that what we have planted in their hearts will soon bring fruit and they will come to know the living God as their personal Savior.

Alpha Course



During the past ten weeks we held an “Alpha” course at our church. It is an educational program designed to teach the basics of Christian religion. What we find interesting in Kenya is that many people considering themselves Christians know very little, if anything, about what they believe in. We are very thankful to God for having the opportunity to conduct the first course of Christian Basic Teachings to the

members of our church. Gathered in the family atmosphere they studied God’s Word, held discussions, learned to think and say their opinions out loud.

Another joy for us was that the course itself was led by Kenyan ministers, brother Richard, who came from

Nairobi every Saturday and also our brother Paul. Our part in this was in helping with the organization. Sixteen students finished the “Alpha” course and received certificates of completion. We believe that these classes will give an impulse to a spiritual growth to them.

Looking at the success of this program, we plan to have another “Alpha” course in the future for a different group at our church.



Street Children



Our newly implemented program “Embrace a Street Child” continues its ministry for the street children. We now hold meetings every day, Monday through Friday and give out lunch to the teenagers. Recently, with God’s help, we were able to assemble a small gym for these youngsters. We believe it is a great way to direct their energy in the right direction, as well as promote healthy lifestyle which they have yet to learn.



Amongst many challenges that our ministry faces we are overjoyed to see the first fruits. One of them is Timothy’s return home. Timothy came from Kakuma (a town in northern Kenya, near South Sudan). In class he was one of the most active teenagers – social, fun and surprisingly fluent in English. Throughout



the conversations we found out that Timothy ran away from home because his stepfather used to beat him. This was not the first time that he ran away, but this time Timothy spent about a year on the streets. When we asked him if he wanted to return home and continue schooling, his answer was “yes.” At the first opportunity we have made every effort to reunite him with his family. His mom met him with joy and was thankful that we have helped her bring back the prodigal son. We are thankful to God that we can be part of such miracles in lives of these boys. Our special thanks to God for our partners from Canada who make this ministry possible.

Our plans and needs



Dear friends, we are still in need of dedicated brothers! And it is not just our desire but our great need! There is a lot of work that women's fragile shoulders cannot carry, and hands cannot handle. We believe that God has people on His mind who are able to dedicate their time to the mission fields. We are asking you to support us in prayer that God would send his faithful ministers and equip them to serve in this region. Please remember in your prayers our new graduates as they transition to the public schools, as well as our little orphan Tommy who continues to lose her hearing. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to be with you and your families, as well as with us here.

