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Summer - a time of cold and rainy days

To see children dressed in warm jackets, hats, scarves and gloves, if they even possess such items, is a phenomenon only possible in our precious Kitale during the coldest and rainiest season of the year – summer. During this time of year, the weather can drastically change in the span of a mere half an hour. For example, when getting ready for church services, if you've dressed in sandals and a light shirt, it's prudent to consider that for the way home you might end up needing a warm sweater, umbrella and rain boots. Due to the humidity, the risk of getting typhoid and malaria increases. So, during the period of summer, it often takes a greater amount of effort to take care of the ones God has entrusted us with. However, in all these things, we are able to overcome, through Him that loved us.



Though we are small in number, the church still grows

In our local church, we will now have a “local” pastor! Throughout the duration of our ministry in the region of Shima-la-Teva, we have prayed for God to send a man who would fully understand the culture and mentality of the local population, and who would have the heart to serve them. But because of the perverted understanding of the pastoral ministry - most often, with rare exclusions, being a pastor is a full-scale business - in Kenya, to find an appropriate person was not an easy task. Socializing with the family of Paul and Prisca, we noticed their respect towards God and ideal management of their household and private life. Paul was a hard-worker, successful in his business, and had been praying for a pastoral ministry. But in order for him to properly fulfill his ministry and to be blessed by the fellowship of our church, he had to be married. Paul and

Prisca had been married for over 5 years and have 5 children, but they did not have a certificate that documented their union. In Kenya, this is a very common occurrence, because the marriage license is very expensive. Their official wedding was a big event for our church. It was a real joy to see everyone come to-



gether to help with the wedding preparations, and to later, in unison, rejoice! We believe that God will guide and extensively use the family of Paul and Prisca for His glory and ministry to the people.

Yet another blessing for our church came in the form of "Alpha course". This is an eleven-week program on the basis of Christian teachings. Here, in a homey atmosphere, over a cup of tea and mon-dasy, a local pastry, everyone has a



chance not only to listen, but also engage in discussions, learn to formulate a personal opinion, to ponder on who Jesus is for them personally, and meditate on the church and the Holy Spirit. On average, 30 people attend the course. Richard, our friend and pastor from Nairobi, helps us to lead the course. Alpha course has been made possible thanks to our friends from Russia. In this, we see the fulfillment of Scripture – for we are all one body and each performs his own function, which God alone, nurtures and instills with purpose.



Embrace a street child



Homeless children on the streets of Kenya – is as much the norm as it is horrifying. Many of them have become orphans because their parents died of AIDS or malaria, while others, ran away from home to escape cruel treatment and physical abuse. Still others were cast out of their homes after parents got remarried. Yet the streets are in no way safer: they are still exposed to abuse and cruelty from adults, learn to huff glue, and as far as normal living conditions go, it

is not even a remote possibility. Many of these kids previously received a school education, but after ending up on the streets,



all they have to do is kill time.

After much prayer and contemplation, God has opened a door for us to finally start working with these

kiddos. Together with our friends and partners in ministry from Canada, we have begun Project “Embrace a Street Child”. Three times a week we meet with these kids in a specially equipped building, where they can enjoy Bible lessons, drink tea, and play games. There they have the chance to take a shower and do laundry, and if necessary, also receive medical assistance. But most importantly, thanks to the project, we have the opportunity to build a trustworthy relationship with these guys, show them Christ's love through the simplest of things, and tell them how precious they are in God's eyes. At this time, we have two local social workers working with us, who have become an incredible blessing, as much for our team, as for our boys. Over the past summer we have already seen the fruit of our labor: we succeeded in reuniting one of the boys with his family. In the future, we are planning to open our center full time, to provide a greater opportunity for the children to receive education.



School – a new level



An incredible blessing for our school is the new classroom. After the huge collapse and following reconstruction of our tent, we finally began our studies in three different rooms - one for each of our three groups. It

is difficult to convey the importance of this event, because now the lessons for all three groups are taught simultaneously, whereas previously, the groups not in session, had to wait outside.



In turn, we now have more time for lessons, allowing for the chance not only to share more information, but qualitatively reinforce taught material. The children

themselves, began coming to school with a greater enthusiasm, because now, a desk of their own, complete with notebook and pencil, awaits them there. Furthermore, arts and crafts classes are now available, which often bring much joy and awe to the kids. During our quarterly exams we saw concrete proof that the children were making progress and retaining more knowledge.



Additionally, we are thankful to God for giving us the opportunity to purchase shoes for all the children who were barefoot in our school. Since our summer mornings are rather cold, and the rains create a lot of mud, walking barefoot during this period is quite detrimental to one's health. But thanks to God's help and the kindhearted donations and offerings, presently, all our children walk to school in shoes.

During summer break, with our guests from Russia, we visited the neediest families of our school children, and were able to serve them with produce, and of course, our prayers.

Clinic news



The work in the clinic continues according to its regular schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays – receive all the sick people; Wednesday, Friday, Saturday – only bandage changes and surgeries. We now have 2 doctors who can treat patients, which gives them the chance to see a greater amount of patients in the same time frame. Plus, they now receive assistance from 2 medical students. Unfortunately, we had a crucial problem of only one room out of which to conduct our practice. The miniscule room was over-crowded: medicine, patient



exams, and bandage changes were all crammed together; it was a challenge to even keep the necessary sterilization.

But the owner of the building, where we rented the room, agreed to let us rent two more rooms, each of those with a greater square foot area than our original - all for a very reasonable and affordable price. In mid-August we made the move. Now, we have one large room with a divider to provide privacy while the doctors examine their patients. And the second spacious room is reserved for

the pharmacy and bandage changes. So, the visitors first go see the doctor, get examined and receive a prescription. With the prescription in hand, the patient walks over to the next room where the prescription is immediately filled. This room is also divided with a curtain, behind which bandages are being changed and patients are being treated for guinea worm infections, commonly referred to as 'foot parasites'. Fridays we perform surgeries: removal of external tumors and lancing of abscess. In Kenyan hospitals, such operations cost from \$150-\$250, which is completely out of the question for the impover-



ished population of the slums and the homeless children. After the operation, patients come back for daily check-ups and bandage changes, and if necessary, we do home visits.

The schedule of regular medical aid consists of the following: home visits in the slums of Shimo-la-Teva; and inoculations for the sick children, as men-



tioned earlier, for typhoid and malaria. A great many children are injured. Adults often hurt themselves with agricultural/farming tools, while young children get burns from small pieces of coal from the stoves, which are on the ground; they often overthrow and spill boiling water on themselves from the pots that are on the stoves – requiring constant treatment and bandage changes. We are deeply grateful to everyone who keeps praying and financially supporting the medical ministry in Kitale. Today, for many, this is their only opportunity to receive treatment for a myriad of illnesses, and to put it bluntly, it is their only chance of survival. May the Lord abundantly bless you and repay you.



Our plans and needs



We ask for prayers concerning the health of our team members, since many have fallen ill at this time. Also, we are in need of God's wisdom and guidance regarding the development and growth of our street kid's ministry. Moreover, we need prayers for the successful ending of our school year, and so the Lord will prepare a way for the children to receive further education, including: school, school uniforms, notebooks, etc. As always, we are still in need of volunteers, especially construction workers, so that we can finish establishing our church building. We appreciate all your prayers.

God be with you.

