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STARTING THE NEW YEAR

Winter is coming to an end. This means long nights, snow, frost, Christmas and New Year holidays are left far behind. Of course if you don't live in Africa but in countries of the Northern hemisphere. Winter here is the peak of the dry season. Heat and a lot of dust are what we have the last three months, and now we are again waiting for the rain. At this time God has given us many touching moments and plenty of opportunities for productive work.



ONLY FORWARD!



Our building work has significantly advanced. During the winter months we constructed the box of the Church building, water was brought into the building for guests. There the finishing work is coming



to its end: the walls, windows, doors are painted, glass is inserted. We are sincerely grateful to all who came to help us on the construction site, blessed financially - your contribution is hard to overestimate.



In the foreseeable future, we plan to complete constructing the guest building, proceed to the overlap of the roof.



THE LONG - AWAITED HOLIDAY OF CHRISTMAS

In winter, the whole world remembers the coming of Christ to the Earth. We were looking forward to Christmas as well: our team, our Church, our children, our youth. This is a good opportunity to remind people of the true Gospel. The youth waited and prepared for the occasion especially zealously - they got ready and showed a Christmas play for children from the slums. The guys approached the matter responsibly: the rehearsal, the choice of roles and costumes, the decorations -



all that was done with great passion and joy. And it did not matter that the decorations were made from scrap materials, and the actors were some-

times confused, everything what was taking place at that moment on the stage, touched the inner corners of the soul: the young Kenyan generation

that learns to preach the Gospel to the native people is getting mature. More than 200 children saw the play. In the end, all received gifts and sang: "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

We also celebrated Christmas with the inmates of the local prison, the place where our team comes back with joy and where we are always welcome. As a present, each received a Bible and soap necessities for spirit and body health. At

home under the crackling of the fireplace together we read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke, sang carols and prayed.



THE RACE OF A LIFETIME

As far as the local children and young people during the holidays have plenty of free time (and in



such moments, as you know, there is a temptation to dispose of it not in the best way), we

decided to arrange a day camp. What is more, informal surrounding makes guys more open to communication, friendship and to perceiving the Word of God. The camp was attended by about 50 people aged from 11 to 18 years. The program was held outside under the open sky. During that time we talked about following Christ, about God's plans and dreams, about the race of a lifetime. The motto was the verse from 1 Cor. 9:24: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all

run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it", and the camp was held in the style of the Olympics: we played a lot, learnt to accept adequately victory and defeat, practiced teamplaying and just had fun. For our team it was the first camping experience in Kenya, and we believe that is not the last.



THROUGH THORNS TO THE STARS

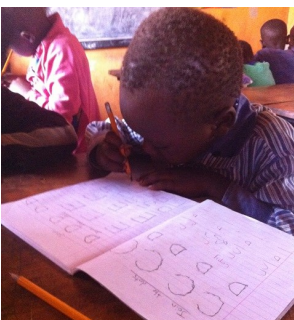


Two months of the first school term flew away and the school studies are in full swing. The preparatory school "Heart of help", where 120 children from the slums study this year, continues the work. Every day passes in a familiar rhythm: the lessons of English, mathematics, Kiswahili, physical exercises and songs, Bible hour. At recess time all kids together put their heads to have them anointed with the ointment from "shillings" (not only the local currency, but scab is called so here), then struggle with Dudu (subcutaneous



worms) and the unbelievable joy of victory is the final prize attained. To top everything off, they have lunch in a friendly company under the tree. Spending

with them every day, visiting and getting to know their families and living conditions, you increasingly realize that behind each pair of laughing eyes, behind every smile there is a fortune, far from being rosy. The



majority of children live without parents, many of them have nothing to eat at

home, and they go barefoot because they simply do not have shoes. And you sincerely rejoice, seeing them changing - now they know that hands must be washed before eating, pieces of paper should be thrown to the trash, and on the way home they refresh the alphabet in their memory. This year 50 graduates of our school went to different secondary schools of the city, where they



continue their education. Besides our children (who live with us and those taken to the families of our Church members) never stop delighting us with their successes. This year they are enrolled in a new school, and after the first exam, 11 out of 15 of our guys are in the top ten pupils according to academic achievements in the class.



The Lord provides us with new opportunities how to deal with homeless children. In January we were visited by guests from Canada. Thanks to them, we were able to meet with street children at the school for the homeless. About 100 people were able to wash, to



eat, got new clothes and spent the whole day without glue. The guests shared their testimonies of conversion to God and prayed. And then we had a sports program. The field resem-



bled a creative mess. Despite the fact that the guys were not used to the rules, even in games, there was genuine delight visible on their faces. Our team managed small losses: a phone and a pair of sneakers missed. So we are grateful to God who enabled us to put 6 kids to a school for street children. I believe that this is only the beginning and ask you to pray for the device in this Ministry.



News of the clinic

In December, we made a planned trip to the desert in the framework of the project "Children of Kerio" to the village where the family of our missionaries lives. This time they returned to the desert with their first son, 3-month, Michael. There we distributed food rations to the families of widows (oil, beans, corn, flour), talked with the locals, visited the local Church. God had also given the opportunity to spend 2 mobile clinics in the nearby settlements.



In January with the mixed feelings of joy and sorrow we saw off home our dear Dr. Kyril. He had a sufficient reason to depart – his marriage is on the

cards. With no doctors at hand, our inpatient clinic for homeless and low-income worked in a usual mode. Recently, the Lord has sent us a new Dr. Timothy for the clinic, this time from the locals. He is the answer to our prayers and a great blessing.



Our plans and needs



We need badly a few brothers to the mission! A few will be enough if they are not afraid of the usual routine work and are ready for at least several months to give a helping hand.

Due to the difficult economic situation in Ukraine, a significant part of the team lost their financial support, and without it we are forced to partially collapse Ministry. Please pray about sources of support.

