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NEW LIFE



Transformation is most often a journey, not just a single-time event. For brothers, Puis and Robin this was certainly the case. Several years ago, the boys ended up on the streets when circumstances at home became unbearable. Rejection from your own family is not something anyone should have to go through, especially children. But living on the streets brings it's own complications. In the words of Robin (age 14), "There is the ways of the street, and you have to do like everyone does, and one of the things they do is sniff glue". Both boys quickly fell captive to the addiction of sniffing glue.

After about 2 years on the street and hearing about Embrace, the boys decided to give the center a chance. Puis (age 16) says, "It was hard to stay at Embrace, we would come for a few days, then run away again". This continued for about a year. But God gives victory, and both brothers gave their lives to Jesus, and were able to break the chains of addiction in the summer of 2018. Then in December of 2018 they made an official proclamation of their faith and commitment to God through baptism. Today, they are studying hard in boarding school and rejoicing in this new opportunity they have been given. "My life is different now, and I have good friends," Puis says with a smile.

These two have truly walked through a journey of transformation, and we couldn't be more thankful to see the upstanding young men they have become today.

NEW BEGINNING

January is not only the beginning of a New Year, but also happens to be the start of a new school year in Kenya. After a two month school break, this month is filled with the hustle and bustle of children walking down the streets back to school. Shops are overflowing with parents purchasing school supplies and uniforms. Groups of students dressed in school uniforms with various combinations of colors anxiously enter their new



classrooms.

At this time, our school yard is full of children's squeals and chatter. Our classrooms are filled with the joy of 4 and 5 year olds, some of whom have come to school for the first time, beginning their first lessons. As always, we celebrated the first day of school with the annual grand opening festivities - dances, games, fun activities and pastries for the kids. Being at the school is always incredibly fun. How can it be otherwise, when 120 unique personalities full of reflective energy are gathered together?



A LAND FAR AWAY



Sixty kilometers from Kitale is a tribal area called Pilot. When driving there, it feels as though you've entered a different country. Their life, culture, language and even the nature surrounding them is completely different. Here, the people live in primitive harmony: far from civilization, minimal living conditions and the most basic provision of their daily needs. One of the biggest problems in this area is medicine. Because of this, from time to time we bring over a mobile clinic. Joining us on these trips are a few doctors,

medical staff and medical supplies, and together we offer medical services in the remote area. This past winter, we visited two settlements in Pokot for this purpose. Four hours of rough off-road driving, but ... It's all worth it in the end when you see their grateful faces, and when you realize that someone's life will be saved. You understand that it is worth it - the long commute to the distant land, and the two days providing medicine for more than four hundred patients, sharing with them the good news and glorify Jesus together in the process!



REKINDLED HOPE



What brings joy and satisfaction to man? - Witnessing the positive results or success of our labor.

As we look back at the biblical analogy of the sower we're reminded of the process: beginning with the soil preparations, seed planting, and ending with the fruit of the labor. We have been connected to the sowing process for a reason. With the ultimate goal being eternal, we are reassured that our actions are not in vain. Our hope is rekindled.

Though water baptism is far from the ultimate goal, for us, it is a great joy and confidence in God's faithfulness. In December, 5 young people, two of whom were former street boys, and one elderly woman made a public statement of their faith.

Following baptism, the sanctification process continues. Iron sharpens iron, and often sparks occurs. New responsibilities and challenges take place, but God is faithful to help in difficulties. After all, the One who began His good work will complete it both in us and in them!

CLIMB UP



What an incredible youth camp we had this year! Our theme this year was "Climb Up". We had three very fulfilling days filled with great conversations, the Word, dancing, and games each day!

These three days felt like a full week of living with the youth. We talked about the vital things - goal choices, the price of following God, and about the right things to focus on in life.

We are comforted that they learned to pray, forgive, and overcome difficulties together. We were extremely glad to have young people from Kisumu and their leaders from the "Assistance" mission join us.

God brought us an incredible team of leaders who shared not just His Word, but their hearts! We believe that all investments in the young Kenyan generation will bear fruit for the Kingdom of God!



OUR FIRST FULLY SWAHILI SERVICE



Christmas is always a time of joy, songs and gifts, and, of course, a recalling of the Christmas story. This year, our youth passed this baton to the younger generation. Together, adolescents, children, and our youth leaders made a terrific musical about what was happening in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago.

The highlight was that for the first time the scenes were fully in Swahili. Every year, it was our team running the program, constantly having a translator buy our side, but seeing the youth being capable of taking the reigns this year proved to us that the seeds we've planted have bloomed. Both children and old women could easily understand everything that was said on the stage. The Christmas story came alive and it touched the hearts of the listeners. And then there were gifts that the children were looking forward to. It was a wonderful time together and the joy to our team, working with the local youth to make the event possible!

