

The Joshua REPORT



Famine Relief



Alumni Conference

At work on all fronts!



New Desks for School



Progress In Magugu

The Joshua Foundation Newsletter

February - July 2008

In brief...an Update

Features inside:



Famine
Education
Women at Tulesafika

Our dear Joshua Friends and Partners,
It's always a joy to be able to update you on all that God is doing through our combined efforts here on the African mission field! At the same time, an apology: now that Hannah Allen (our media/PR person) has returned to the UK, we were not able to get our February-April edition out on time. Terry Henry of North Carolina has however stepped in to fill the gap for the long term and so this time we're cramming two editions into one. May it encourage and bless you.

GENERAL OVERVIEW

These last six months have been as busy and productive as ever, filled with challenges, growth, and blessings. Our February-May Joshua Leaders' Module with its primary theme of "Family, Church and Leadership" made a huge impact upon those attending – senior and trainee leaders from different nations and backgrounds. (Refer Owen Wagener's report inside.) Now our next 4-month live-in module ("Counselling and Management") is about to start with much happening in preparation for it.

Our Teachers' College semesters power along concurrently on the same campus so that each day typically has over 100 students, staff and faculty scurrying across the base. It's a busy place!

In between times (when students are away on practicums or breaks) other courses are conducted – like "Farming God's Way" with Renee Moose (see page 4) – and the Joshua Teachers' Alumni Conference which also hosted a great training team from the USA. (See page 3)

Joanna McEwing has been expanding Joshua's "Children's Ministry" wing through local seminars, and is in high demand across the country. I'm pleased to report that Lynda has been appointed Chair Person of the country's new "Tanzania Christian Schools Association" (TACSA), for which we are also writing the constitution and philosophy; while Joanna has been appointed a member of the government-initiated NGO Education Board. Our God is opening many doors for us to proclaim the Gospel, for which we also request your sincere prayers.

Joshua's tremendous team (which periodically includes short-termers, like Simon Fletcher – art and design, and Grant and Anne Maxwell – IT and accounts), are a great source of encouragement and fun. They represent six different nations at present, but more are needed! – in particular someone for our accounts, IT and admin departments. Keep praying that God will

EDUCATION REPORT

Continued from front page

bring these vitally-needed labourers.

Other Team Members: Richard and Jenny Wagener have settled in well to Africa and the team after much slog in getting their new house built. (Building in Africa is a challenging experience at any time!) Richard is now getting into his role as "Business Manager" overseeing new Africa-based initiatives for assisting nationals and Joshua in business ventures. Jenny is completing two days of surgery each week in Arusha's Selian Hospital. Allan and Sue Dow (educators) are still in Zealand on furlough, and are now being joined by me (Alan) and Lynda as we travel through various countries.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

A regular line up of local ministry – church meetings and seminars, mission retreat keynote speakers, etc – is standard diet for many team members as Joshua input is in high demand.

Lynda and I are especially proud to announce that son Jeremy and lovely American lass Kendra (nee Woods) were married on 26th June in Zanzibar! Their wedding was held in Mbweni ruins, where ransomed slave girls were rehabilitated by Christian missionaries in and around the time of David Livingstone. Family members and others from various parts of the world 'surfing in' to Zanzibar for the BIG occasion! The marriage heralds great changes for 'Joshua' and Jeremy as he now leaves us to establish himself as a photographer in East Africa. (His input to Joshua over the last 5 years has been tremendous!! Thanks to all those who have been supporting him over this time.)

I (Alan) am in the US as this edition gets mailed out. The last two weeks of July allowed me to strengthen UK relationships, and in September I join Lynda in New Zealand, returning to Tanzania in early October via Australia. Your prayers are once again appreciated! While we're away a Birmingham team will erect a steel bridge 15 metres (50 feet) long to span the Kijenge River chasm, joining our current 17 acre-base to 14 newly purchased acres. Here we plan to build model pre-primary to secondary schools, plus agricultural and community centre.

Our very big event of the year has come and gone – our first ever alumni conference for past Joshua Teacher Training College graduates. And it was a roaring success!!!

A wonderful team of eight teachers from the Perimeter Church in Atlanta, Georgia joined us to run workshops and training sessions for our one week conference. 50 teachers responded to the invitation, with others sending their apologies due to work commitments. Our days were packed, starting with devotions in the morning, through



to our keynote speaker Bobby – headmaster of Perimeter Christian School - and on to an impressive selection of workshops for both primary and secondary teachers.

The feedback from teachers was extremely positive, with requests that such conferences be an annual event. We were able to inspire, encourage, equip and minister personally to these hardworking in-the-field men and women. What a privilege!!

Meanwhile Joshua Schools are forging ahead, appreciating the new curriculum materials we are writing, and maturing in their ability to be self-governing and self-monitoring. We are so excited to see God

providing teachers for the secondary school who are maths and science trained. This is a miracle in this country where these subject teachers are in such high demand!

Our secondary school administration block has taken another step ahead with the roof now on and the computer lab plastered. Provision has just come in which enables us to take the next step to complete the lab – praise God that He cares for a dusty village in the middle of Tanzania!!

In Joshua Teachers Training College in April we ran a one month training course in phonics, led by Evelyn Garrard from Australia. This was challenging for our students, but they are excited to have a system that helps them to understand the frustrations of the English language. It was great to have a concentrated focus on pronunciation and literacy issues that are typical for the Swahili learner. Extra teachers also came in from some of our schools to take advantage of this training opportunity. Now in Magugu there is a lot of great phonemic awareness and knowledge that was previously lacking! Thank you Evelyn!!

BASE ACTIVITIES JOSHUA REPORT AUGUST 08

We are praising God for the arrival of the long awaited container from the U.K., which contains the bridge to cross the river into "the promised land". The enemy has done everything possible to stop that container from reaching EnGedi ground, but our God is faithful to deliver. We will have a team from the U.K arriving in September to assist us with the construction of the bridge. Thank you so much for your prayers!

With the arrival of the container, we have been able to provide the Joshua secondary school in Magugu with desks and bookshelves for the newest classroom. We were also able to assist Pastor Immanuel Lota with much needed school desks and supplies for their primary school. They now have 40 students in attendance. A big thank you to Kings Church in the U.K. for their contributions!

As we continue to show God's love to His people in practical ways, the Famine Relief has been a huge success...

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Lois Wagener, Judi Owens and Faith Moshi

The last Sunday evening of June found 30 excited ladies sitting in the café at the En Gedi campus feasting on a lovely chicken dinner. This was like a shadow of the "Feast" the Lord had prepared for us all during our week-long annual Women's Leadership conference.

We began with two and a half days of the Encounter. This is a time when the Holy Spirit encounters us and we exchange our hurts, pains, abuse, rejection, etc for His love, forgiveness and acceptance of us! Many women present were visibly changed as the Holy Spirit brought new life from broken vessels.

One of the areas that is a taboo subject here in Africa is sexuality. It is misunderstood or not understood at all. I taught on this subject and prayed for those women who had been abused and had relationships outside wedlock. This was followed by the testimonies of three of the women who have been to previous conferences. It was marvellous to hear how God has taken their marriages and brought them from dread and pain to beauty and fulfilment. The ladies all said their whole relationships with their husbands and therefore their families had been totally renewed. One pastor's wife said, "It makes the ministry light." They



asked us to teach this in as many places as we are able!

Over the next four days the ladies discovered the Grace of God. Trying to please God and others always leads to frustration and condemnation. They learned to hear God's voice and respond in faith. This released them, as it has us, from 'striving in the flesh'.

They experienced Jesus love and goodness in new and beautiful ways. They were built up in the inner man and inspired to spend time with their Lord and Saviour.

We prepared a banqueting table and each lady was affirmed and individually ministered to as she feasted with Jesus. It was not natural food but spiritual!

All the ladies testified to being transformed from within. They were not going home with lots to "do" – rather to "be" and live with Jesus at home, in church, at the well or just sitting at His feet.

We continue to reach forward to see the release of these dear ladies - set free to worship Him – after all that was why the Lord set the Children of Israel free! We were made for Him and worship is the great expression of our love!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

"God has used Joanna to awake my ministry as I was feeling really empty about teaching children. I have appreciated all the techniques and methods that she taught us on how to reveal the truth to children. I



am now equipped for changing the lives of children." Anna Kissangas

"I've seen God in this seminar strengthening me to care for children. He has given me important things to apply so children can know the Word of God, know Him and serve Him. I've been motivated for this ministry and have received greater knowledge and confidence." Debora Robert

"This has been a very special seminar for me because it has laid for me a strong foundation in my life for children's ministry. Most of all this is the place where I heard the voice of the Lord for the first time in my life and that has given me a new zeal for the love of God." Leila Mushtaq

With a small group of just twelve we have held our first ever Children's Ministry

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JLMC JOSHUA REPORT FEB 08 - APR 08

The 'full house' sign was up for the Leadership College last module – every lecture room seat and dormitory bed taken. We praise God for how the new participants fitted in and were able to cope with the range of English accents in addition to all the other challenges. Each new intake of participants always find the work-load a major challenge – especially for the older generations who have not studied for many years. The input from the newly established mentors was been already a great blessing - David and Judi Owens focusing on 'Discipleship' and 'Family' and Richard Wagener with Jenny on 'Leadership'.

The regulars of Alan, Benson, Lois and Owen completed the ministry team – with very positive feedback from the various subjects – again the course has hit the target!

Of great encouragement recently were the results from an independent survey done as part of the research for a thesis on the effectiveness of Colleges such as the Joshua

Leadership College and other theological institutions attempting to minister into the East African context.

The review focus: - In hindsight, did the



College course really meet the expectations of those who attended, and, how applicable and helpful to their subsequent ministry has been that which was received during the course?

Those who were reviewed: - All the graduates from prior courses who were

living in the local region and able to attend the interview sessions.

The result? Very positive testimonies by all – yes – it did greatly exceeded their expectations, and – yes it was a transforming experience personally, a great equipping for their ministry and the 'take-away' resource notes, etc, continue to be a great blessing.

That matches other feedback that we have received informally – while we continue to work on the 'package' to improve what it achieves, it is great to have confirmed that it is already really effective! Praise God – and so many thanks also are due to so many outside the EnGedi base - the visiting ministry, the prayer backing and sacrificial giving that all combine to make the spiritual investment into East Africa so worthwhile.

The 'working on the package' is a continuing process – and your prayer is valued for the resident team as we seek to perceive and meet God's will in all aspects to thereby excel in the ministry!

Conference at En Gedi from the 6th to the 11th of July. The words of the delegates themselves show how they saw this conference as a significant step in the development of their ministry to children. The delegates came from a wide range of backgrounds and had different levels of experience in Children's ministry; three are in positions of church leadership compared to a form three student who works with her church's children when she is on holiday! Despite the wide range we were able to get down to some of the basics and enjoy really animated discussions about the value of children from God's perspective and what He thinks they are capable of doing for Him. The implication for our programmes was our key discussion focus on a daily basis. We also had some practical afternoon sessions and enjoyed input from a range of different people including a local pastor, a teacher from New Zealand, a very experienced American children's pastor and an intern from a local ministry. In the evenings we focussed on how we need to develop our spiritual gifts so that we can lead kids into using their spiritual gifts as well. Overall it was felt to be a successful conference that exceeded the delegates' expectations and sets a strong foundation for future conferences, further ministry and possible networking opportunities.

REPORT ON FAMINE RELIEF MARCH 08 AND CONTINUING....

In early March it was brought to our attention that there was a food shortage in the surrounding villages which has been estimated to be affecting 1000 people, approximately 600 of which are children. Children have been fainting in their classrooms at school from hunger.

This is largely due to the lack of rains last year and the consequent failure of crops. Although families now have seed to plant this year, last years harvest was so pitiful many families in the surrounding villages are now out of food. Although they have planted seed they are looking at many months before they yield their crop.

In the meantime we have been providing assistance and supporting one of the local churches in their efforts to sustain their flock.

Our strategy is to involve local churches and leaders in not only identifying the poor and ministering to them but also

providing an invitation and link to that church. Each family has thus far received one gallon tin of maize which lasts a family of 4, five days at one meal a day. WE have been able to raise US\$1000 per week to help alleviate some of the hunger. This has been providing for more than 98 families per week which is more than we anticipated. However, many still walk away without food and we are looking at September before the present crops are harvested. Please continue to pray for the villages affected and a big thank you to those who have so generously given!



AGRICULTURE REPORT

We continue to see amazing results from the Farming God's Way program. Our participants are now harvesting and have obtained yields far above average. God has richly blessed those who have given their best for Him! The pastors who attended the seminar have begun teaching FGW in the surrounding area, Uganda and Sudan! We are planning another FGW conference near the end of the year.

The stable is continuing to produce an abundance of pigs and rabbits! With a few more cages we will be able to produce rabbit meat on a near weekly basis for our students. We are currently seeking out sustainable materials to produce low cost and low maintenance cages for the village family rabbit projects.

practical:

For all general and donor enquiries, our Joshua offices/contacts in the United States are:

Pastors Guthrie and Jennifer Boyd

Fountain of Life International,
1055 East Hearn Rd, Phoenix,
AZ 85022,
United States

e-mail: guthrie@inthefountain.org

praise prayer and practical

praise:

- >> The arrival of the UK container and bridge, along with the forthcoming UK engineering team
- >> A great last leaders' module with a new one now underway
- >> Outstanding teachers' conference, and all ministries pushing ahead
- >> New, solid responses to Alan's overseas' ministry

prayer:

- >> Effective rest and ministry for 'Joshua' missionaries on furlough - Alan and Lynda, Josh and Renee Moose, and Allan and Sue Dow.
- >> For powerful leaders' and teachers' modules
- >> For urgently needed national staff salaries to keep us moving ahead!



TJF Field Address
P.O.Box 1453, Arusha, TANZANIA
Tel: (+255-27) 250 9899
e-mail: tjf@joshua.or.tz
www.joshuaonline.org