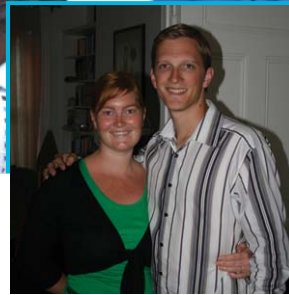


November - January 2007/8



what's been happening?

Dear Friends and Partners,

Belated Happy 'New' Year! This is our first edition for 2008, and we trust it finds each of you rejoicing in God's goodness. For all of us in Joshua it's going to be another blessed and full-on year! Here's a brief outline of events since our last edition ...

November-December 2008

It was great to find everything pumping along so well when I arrived back on November 7th after 2 months overseas. Both the Joshua Leadership Missions College and the Joshua Teachers College were in full swing, with the agricultural and practical skills sectors also pushing ahead. (See relevant reports inside by Renee Moose and Paul Carstensen.)

November 10th our College Chaplain Patrick Lubilanji, married teacher trainer Rebecca Bell – and what a day it was! A time of celebrating God's blessing, marked by spontaneous Africa-style dancing by all – a salt-and-pepper-shaker time of praise!

Saturday 24th was both Colleges' Annual Graduation Day, the eleventh for the Leaders' College and 4th for Teachers. It was also a milestone beginning, being the first time we've held it at the En Gedi campus. Despite the lack of a building large enough to house us and the rains swirling around, it was a great time of pageantry and rejoicing – with no rain in sight!

Soon after Matthew and Vanessa Evetts left us after 6-months here. What a huge blessing they have been in our IT and Education departments. Mathew and Vanessa – thanks a million!

New long term missionaries from Canada, Pastors David and Judi Owens (with Justine and Zach, their two children), arrived December 12th and will be of great assistance in the Leaders' College, follow-up on the field, and Judi as my P.A. We commend them as worthy of your prayers and support. They write:

"Twenty six years ago, we individually received a call to mission. We were somewhat bewildered that our journey took a turn into church planting and marketplace ministry in Australia and Canada (we recognized this as 'mission' but sensed our call was to the Developing World). Well, after all these years, here we are! - Tanzania has certainly captured our hearts and we are finding our fit here at Joshua and endeavoring to master Swahili. David's heart is in the area of pastoral equipping and unity, working part time with African Enterprise and local ministries as a natural extension to his work at TJF. Judi's heart is in the area of freedom for women to contribute their valuable part within the family, society and the Church. She will also be serving in the area of administration at the Joshua Base."

Of course, Christmas was next with farewells to students and staff

*Above pictures: Top: Graduates of Joshua Leadership Missions College, with Patrick Lubilanji at the front. Bottom Left: Matthew and Vanessa Evetts joined us for 6 months Bottom Right: Klds from our December Schools camp

Features inside:



Women of Faith, Rise Up
Planting Leaders to Plant Churches
Education Update

(continued from cover)

celebrations (especially after so many of our 40 strong national team had also completed two years of Biblical studies with International School Of Ministries bilingual program). We praise God for your support and an excellent year!

The Year that Is!

Mid-January saw our Sydney reps Grant and Anne Maxwell join us for three-months. As a successful IT company CEO, Grant will be developing our IT department and training programs. Anne will be assisting our under-pressure accounts department as we establish new computerised systems. The Joshua Teachers' Training College conducted a children's camp and two one-week training seminars on En Gedi campus.

Local ministry continues unabated – in rural and urban churches, for leaders, and for congregations. The demand is always far greater than we can meet, and those agreed to are strategically chosen – leaders and churches determined to implement what they have received. Pastor Samson Shango of Kondoa (Central Tanzania) is one of them. Here is his recent testimony:

"I come back to En Gedi and start crying. I was trained here, and what God has since done in my life I could not have believed. When people know I graduated from Joshua, they want everything I can give. I have been to South Africa twice to preach, and I now have an invitation



Pastor Samson Shango

to Mexico. – But I know where God has called me: when I see the needs in Kondoa and how so many have come to the Lord from Islam, and how God has blessed our Christian school, I am amazed. Our enemies wrote to the President about me, but he came and opened our school with his blessing! - Do you see this? (Samson points to a scar under his eye.) Last year a mob came to kill me; my eye was knocked out by a machete – but is now healed by Jesus! A well known Muslim lady was completely healed of AIDS just recently. Now she is serving the Lord – and the persecution is growing. But we are succeeding, we are growing. Please, we need you to come."

February 4th launches yet another four-month Leadership Module for over 30 pastors coming from 5 African nations. This module's theme is "Church, Family and Leadership", three vital integrated components at the heart of the kingdom of God.


[Alan Stephenson - C.E.O]

Women of Faith, Rise Up!

Twelve excited ladies gathered in Moshi, a town at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro in the first weekend of November. We love these weekends of prayer, praise and worship, waiting on God, rich fellowship and teaching. Each woman shared the highlights of the previous two months.

Pastor Stendina Muyinga is one of the team. Raised in a Muslim family, she is the youngest child of the second wife. After her father left the house each day she would run to school to join her brothers which displeased her father immensely. Many times, she would be taken from school, beaten and put to work doing "girls' things". As for many African women, "education was not for girls!" She had a little after school job which earned her enough money to buy a pencil and some paper so she could go to school.

Pastor Stendina has "put herself" through her entire education and has just graduated with a Bachelors of Theology. She is the first woman in her denomination to be ordained and leads a monthly town-wide prayer gathering. Just prior to Christmas she led a March for Jesus, which incorporated most denominations. She has a wonderful praise ministry and conducts worship seminars. Pastors come to seek her advice especially regarding prayer and deliverance. Her influence is growing as she humbly follows the Holy Spirit's leading.



Stendina at her graduation



Pastor Phaniel

“It is a real privilege to serve such leaders who are making a great contribution where they are in this nation and beyond.”

Planting Leaders to Plant Churches

Graduates of JLMC back in the field

November saw the much anticipated graduation of six leaders from the College and the award of diplomas and certificates to others. Church and family of those being awarded attended the celebration in good numbers. The commitment of each graduate is also so obvious from their situations - which are worth reviewing as being indicative of what is being achieved here.

From Congo, Patrick continues as Chaplain of the trainee teachers here, and celebrated both his degree and marriage to Rebecca a few weeks earlier! Moses from Uganda, has seen over 20 churches planted. His commitment to unity has dozens more leaders from various denominations looking to him for guidance. Phaniel from Dar es Salaam, is a pastor and senior leader among his substantial fellowship of churches. Stendina from Iringa, as a single woman is making an impact among church leaders in her district. Douglas from Moshi near Kilimanjaro, is known and respected in East Africa as

an experienced evangelist with regular radio programs reaching millions. Somi is based near Arusha and is senior pastor of a substantial central church and with oversight of over 40 'daughter' churches he has seen planted.

It is a real privilege to serve such leaders who are making a great contribution where they are in this nation and beyond. Their dedication to press through a 4 year degree course in order to make their ministry more effective has to be admired. Likewise the support and sacrifice from their families and churches to help make it happen is outstanding.

Last but not least to be appreciated is the supporters of this work. Clearly, without the year-by-year faithful prayer, visiting ministry and financial support all this would just not be achieved.

Now 2008! Again all is ready for the next module. We are so blessed with David & Judi Owens and Richard & Jenny Wagener arriving – the extra resident mentors are so needed to work in with our much valued visiting ministry.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!!!! That means busy, busy, busy - new curriculum, new staff, new goals...

Pastoral delegates at the Teaching seminar



EDUCATION— update

The new year for Joshua Schools started off with a buzz as we distributed Bibles, Bibles, and more BIBLES to Magugu students as late Christmas presents!! Huge thanks to New Zealand City Impact Churches! We're praying your impact will bring further spiritual breakthrough.

Joshua Secondary School launched into its second year. 2007 (our first secondary year), resulted in a large number of applications for this year – we have earned a wide reputation as a school that produces disciplined students of godly character! God also answered our prayers by bringing us 3 committed Christian male teachers with a heart to disciple teenagers, this in a country where secondary teachers

are in high demand. (NB. The average output of maths and science teachers annually in Tanzania is 72 – against the 4,800 required for about 890 secondary schools!!!) Glory to God!!

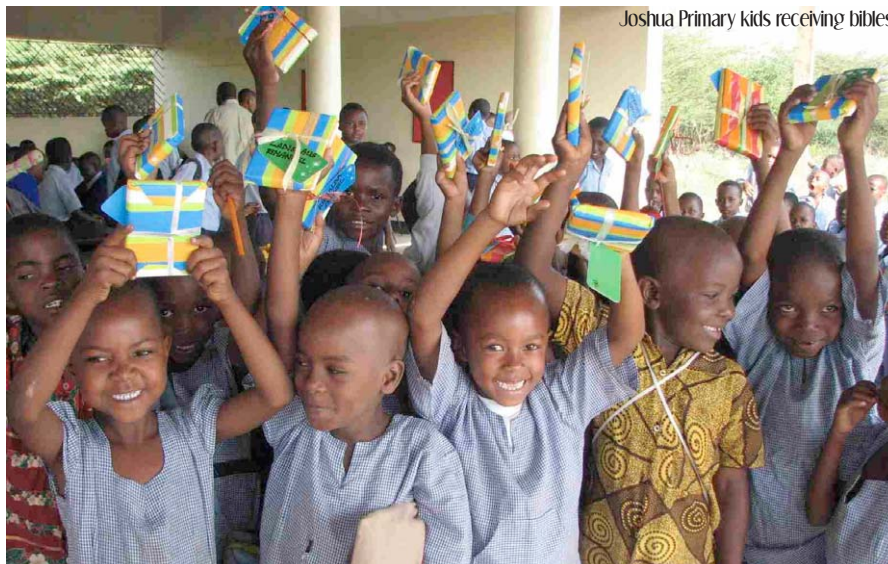
Joshua Primary School also has new staff – 3 young ladies all keen to serve God. Our full staff spent a week at En Gedi prior to school opening to become familiar with new curriculum which we have been developing to bring in Biblical perspective and more contemporary practice. They are excited to work with us and we hope to offer it to other Christian schools in Tanzania after we have worked out the bugs.

En Gedi Preschool is back in session with our 10 precious little ones. This year Celina will be assisted by new team member – Justine Owens from Canada. We are hoping that Celina will be released to do more school consultancy

as a result. Janet Lutz returns in February after a year in the U.S. and will assist in the preschool, amongst other things. We are looking forward to her return!

Joshua Teachers Training College began Jan 21st with Celina leading a month of classes on how to teach Swahili. The education department is busy! At the end of 2007 Joanna and I taught our first Effective Teaching program, training teachers in Christian worldview. Our first 8 trainers will now go to teach the program to the staff in their respective schools. We are partnering with New Hope International in this project to upgrade Christian teachers and we are excited at the potential to be realized. And as a follow up to that week we taught the pastors of these schools a pastors' version of the same material. They have left inspired!

[Lynda Stephenson - Education Director]



Joshua Primary kids receiving bibles



on the job

Practical Projects...

Major house renovations have enabled the Owens family to nestle in nicely. Similar renovations are pushing ahead on another house which we want completed in the first half of this year. Wageners (jnr) hope to move into their new house soon despite building set backs – it's all go!

The UK container with a bridge in it has got stuck in Dar es Salaam port requiring the UK team coming to erect the bridge to postpone their trip until late February. School equipment inside the container was also to be used at the beginning of the school year. We don't always know why these things happen but we know God is in control!



Progress is being made on getting a legal title for the 12 acres we purchased last year. As we don't have funds to develop this we've allowed our staff (those who live in areas where they get no/minimal rain) to farm the land through the next long rains.

With the help of two visiting accountants we have implemented a new accounting package. Jeremy has been working tirelessly to ensure that all requirements are met and working for us! We have also just finished a contract to supply two schools with desks/chairs. This not only helps with employment but also gives us a little extra in "kitty" to pay existing bills.

[Paul Carstensen - Managing Director]

Agriculture...

The agricultural department has many exciting things happening! Our rabbit project is up and running and should provide meat for our teachers and pastors by February. We have also purchased 2 new pigs, one mature boar and a pregnant sow, so that we now have two pregnant sows. We are expecting numerous little pink faces very soon!

Near the end of 2007 I received some highly anticipated information from "Farming God's Way" in Zimbabwe. Their program uses sustainable agriculture as a model for life-transformation of individuals, communities and nations. I am immensely excited about this and have begun classes with our agricultural staff. God has already performed several breakthroughs in the lives of those in the class; it has been incredible to see! We will later be incorporating this into the Agricultural Teaching Centre.

[Renee Moose - Agriculture Manager]



Personal Care

Part of our mission is to extend a hand to those in need. Recently the wife of one of our staff members had a 2 months premature baby and was languishing in a local "hospital". Malnourishment there meant that mum was unable to produce milk and contracted amoeba and malaria. Thanks to some generous donors (and our own Josh Moose, see picture above), we relocated the mother and baby to a fully equipped hospital. Both have now been released from hospital and are doing really well.

Sponsorship Needs

We have both Leaders and Teachers who are in need of sponsorship this

Responding to the Need



year. Most of these great people find it extremely difficult to meet their fees' payments. If you wish to find out more about sponsorship opportunities, please email our Sponsorship Coordinator, Sally Carstensen at the following address: sponsorship@joshua.or.tz.

Praying for Peace in Kenya

Recent political violence and chaos in neighbouring Kenya is an indication of some of the underground turmoil within the region (and much that is not reported by the press). Mainland China maintains a vigorous growing interest in the area, and of course, Islamic overtures are constant. In the midst of this the Church of Jesus Christ is growing stronger everyday, both in terms of maturity and numbers. Much training and outreach is needed to sustain and release this, but Tanzania as a peace-loving nation, is well-poised to become a mighty launching pad for twenty first century Christian endeavour throughout sub-Saharan. Please keep praying with us to see this happen for the development and progress of all.

praise:

For a great graduation ceremony.

For the input of Matthew and Vanessa Everts from NZ and the contribution of our many visitors.

For baby Bahati being released from hospital and doing well.

For the agricultural classes that have begun using the "Farming God's way" model.

For the arrival of David and Judi Owens and family.

For new staff in many of our Education departments.

prayer:

For the political situation in Kenya.

For increased sponsorship for our Leaders and Teachers.

For the upcoming JLMC module to be a blessed and inspiring time for our leaders.

For the UK container to be released from the port in Dar es Salaam.

Your prayers, support and donations are greatly appreciated!

practical:

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