

Joshua REPORT



New Foundations...



The Joshua Foundation Newsletter

December 08 - March 09

what's been happening?..

Warm Greetings from Tanzania to all our Partners! As I write our first Report of the year, I find myself reflecting on the 21 years since our family first arrived here in Arusha. There were few missionaries back then, and our base, *En Gedi* – now host to residents, 2 colleges, a preschool, ministry admin block and more acres waiting to be developed – was just a desert. (We felt like madmen!) Last year family and friends surprised us with a party celebrating 20 years of ministry in Africa, causing us to remember all we have to thank God and our Partners for. You have been a major part of that journey with us, a journey that continues to expand and enrich many. Thanks for your continued prayers and support.

December is always a 'wrap-up' time. As we concluded another leaders' training module it was great to see that our leaders are now placed in Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, and of course, Tanzania. They are collectively responsible for thousands of churches and ministries, all burgeoning in the midst of witchcraft and poverty, their input being received far and wide.

A nearby pastor called in to thank Joshua for the famine relief we provided in 2008, covering the food needs of some 200 families – with your help! Pastor Noah is amazed at the numbers which came to the Lord, the churches/councils that

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want his input, and ongoing openness to the Gospel. I am reminded how all we do translates into practical change: cycles of abuse and addiction are broken; traditional practices such as FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) abandoned; hope is brought into families and marriages are restored. (Read the bio of our staff worker, Saitoti Munga on page 3 to see the degree of change we are privileged to witness.)

And our work goes beyond simply feeding – to equipping. With “Farming God’s Way” (read Renee’s update, page 2), we’re working towards greater crop yields – by introducing people to The Bread of Life, the One Who truly is the Hope of Africa – and the world.

Joshua’s new Business Department, directed by Richard Wagener, is bustling with activity and plans (see PC’s update, page 2). The Leadership and Teachers’ Colleges are preparing for expansion and new classrooms are being built both here at En Gedi and at our Magugu campus. For more details, please read on...

[Alan Stephenson - Director]

Features inside: On the job

Joshua Transformations: Saitoti's story

Education Update

JLMC Leaders Low-down



Practical on the job Projects

We praise God for the rains so far, and pray for more to come— to yield an abundant harvest.

The last few months have been challenging for our staff. Three of our staff (Ephraim, Ernest & Daudi) unexpectedly lost family members – impacting the whole team. A kind donation from Stewart Island (NZ) helped cover the funeral expenses incurred. On a brighter note, 3 of our staff (Robart, Godfrey & Peter) have new additions to their families – which we were also able to help with financially.

Ernest and Nelson have almost completed their Driver's Licences and this will assist with town runs and the expansion of the garage... which is officially up and running as a commercial enterprise. We hope in time to make a profit – which will be used to cover staff wages etc. The foundations for the new preschool have been laid and work will begin on the walls. A container that just arrived from the UK is being utilized as an end wall and office/storage area.

[Paul Carstensen - Managing Director]

Agriculture Update

The stable will be seeing some big changes within the next few months. In the last report I mentioned difficulties with our pig project due to increased food costs and scarcity of essential pig supplies. Because of this, we are now in the process of closing down our piggery. We will, however, be expanding our rabbit project, as rabbits are lower-maintenance, self-sustaining, easier to feed and are great for outreach projects.

The other big story in agriculture this month is the Farming God's Way program. We had FGW representative Carl Schmidt come in February to introduce the program to Joshua and other mission organizations. With nearly 60 people involved, it was a fantastic time of enlightenment, blessing and networking. People are excited about



Carl Schmidt oversees new F&W techniques

launching this project into many areas around northern Tanzania. Praise God! I was also asked to become the FGW representative for Tanzania, which I was honored to accept. Our next step is to develop a leadership team so that we can be more effective over a larger area, so please keep this in your prayers.

[Renee Moose - Farming God's Way rep]

Education Update

BREAKING NEWS REPORT!

Lynda, Joanna and Celina have just returned from yet another teacher-training session at Magugu, 160 kms from our base. A couple of days before, Lynda had been praying for more chances to bring Jesus' message and power to others as she traveled. On this safari, that prayer was fulfilled dramatically.

A local government school had over-loaded an old open truck with 83 precious children. Unsafe conditions and dangerous driving caused the truck to flip, pinning many children underneath. Shortly after, Lynda and her team were called in to pray at the clinic-come-hospital, now overwhelmed with broken bodies, groans and crowds of lamenting parents. Only one child died, and all received prayer in Jesus' wonderful name, often asking the team to return and pray over them again. The Muslim population marveled, never knowing such confidence and love in the raw face of disaster. Grateful thanks have been extended to the Joshua team and the Christian testimony of Joshua Schools continues to grow in the region. Our God is good!



Our Head-Teachers prepare for take off... to Kondoa

In Other News... We are seeing improvement to teaching with each assessment-visit. Joanna and myself will be rewriting our training course (for 2010) into a mentoring model, and feel positive about our trainees having more teaching time with close supervision and mentoring. Trainee-teachers return to college to sit national exams in April. By May, all these students will be professional staff in our Christian schools – another round of training completed!

In February we hosted a "Head-Teachers Caravan" – where head teachers from 8 Christian schools came together to tour each others' schools. It was a roaring success –

totally gratifying to see teachers who trained at JTTC demonstrating mature understanding of Christian education and school management! These heads will continue to meet for mutual encouragement, support and input.

News ahead? Rebecca returns to Australia on April 1st to prepare for the birth of their first child. Please pray for the release of Patrick's new passport from Congo so he can join her for the birth of the baby. Allan and Sue Dow will take up residence in Magugu for 6 months' work in Joshua Secondary School – particularly to oversee English and Science development. Please pray for their accommodation and a quick adjustment to village life.

[Lynda Stephenson - Education Director]



Principal Ezekiel shows off new chairs for our Magugu School

We thought we should introduce you to one of our many wonderful workers here at Joshua. Saitoti Munga's story is a tribute to God's grace and transforming power...

Saitoti Munga was born in 1969, one of 24 children born to his polygamous Maasai father. In 1976, City Council enforced the education of children, so Saitoti was sent to school until he completed Standard 7. Saitoti went on to study mechanics, but his parents wanted him to return to his work as a cow herder. Although he did go back to tending cows, Saitoti would walk an extra 30 kilometres each day so that he could continue his mechanical training – in secret.

The life of a cow herder was difficult. Out in the wilds for up to two weeks, the young men ate only porridge, milk and cow blood. For protection against wild animals, the 3 youths would build thorn fences around themselves and their cattle.

After completing his Circumcision Rite of Passage at 19, Saitoti worked as a messenger in his 2 older brothers' General Store. Neighbours who were jealous of the store's success began using witchcraft to thwart business. When money mysteriously disappeared, Saitoti's father falsely accused him of stealing. Though the brothers knew there were other dark forces at work, money continued to dwindle, and the store was eventually sold.

Homeless and heartbroken, Saitoti went to the Merelani Tanzanite Mines to find work. A place of filthiness, disease, witchcraft and addictions, bosses were harsh, and cared little for their workers. One mine named "Let Him Die" was so dangerous that it could only be accessed by laying flat on one's belly. The miners believed that the more lives lost in the mines, the greater would be the power to gain minerals and wealth. Some were engaging in human sacrifice for this very reason.

A foreman over 100 people, Saitoti saw many people become wealthy from selling Tanzanite. Someone noticed that Saitoti was not getting rich from the minerals and suggested that Saitoti visit a witch doctor, as the others did. Though given different remedies by various ones, Saitoti never seemed to get ahead.

Even though he was not a Christian, Saitoti would sometimes pray for help, or hear God speak to him. Once when there was CO2 in the mine, God warned him and told him to pray for protection. Of the people in the mine, 3 died, and 3 never fully recovered. Only Saitoti and his boss survived.

Saitoti later joined another group of miners that were very entrenched in witchcraft. They were given a human heart that continued to beat, though not attached to a body. When



this didn't improve profits, they returned with a lion heart. Although the lion heart did bring in money, the money always seemed to "mysteriously" disappear.

All this time, Saitoti still believed in God. One day, he heard a voice telling him to go home and turn from his sins, so he went to the wilderness to pray and worship God. He told God he would return home if God would grant him a certain amount of money to get there. The following day, he spotted a large piece of Tanzanite and sold it for the exact amount he'd asked for. Shortly after, Saitoti returned to his home village.

Back home, Saitoti started a successful business of maize and beans. He also married Nay, who had hoped to marry Saitoti since childhood. Nai was a nominal Christian, but not truly born-again. Though Saitoti began to live a more decent life, he still neglected his promise to God to repent and fully give him his heart.

Again, God spoke to Saitoti to repent, be born-again and let God bring him another job. Shortly after Saitoti left his business, a man from The Joshua Foundation came looking for employees in Saitoti's village. He knew it was God calling him, and the man directed Saitoti to Ephraim – our current base foreman. In January 1996, he became a casual worker here at Joshua. Even though other Maasai co-workers urged him to be saved, he still continued to live life on his own terms.

Another encounter with witchcraft left Saitoti crying out to God from a mountaintop. Again he returned to the mountains, unaware that his cousin had followed him. Saitoti's cousin led him to a pastor who had come from far away. God had spoken to the pastor about Saitoti and told him about his many troubles. The pastor also said

that God was offering him a final chance to be saved. Saitoti wholeheartedly accepted God's offer and 6 months later, his wife also opened her heart to Jesus.

Back at En Gedi, many were initially suspicious of Saitoti's conversion. A couple of faithful friends named Eliasante, Samson and his boss Sharon Winning stood by him in this difficult time. Saitoti also wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit, so he decided to fast. That very night, he received the Holy Spirit through fervent prayer at his church. This changed him completely.

A father of 4, Saitoti is humbly thankful for all that God has done for him. He visits local families in hopes of sharing his story with them. Many have come to know Jesus through his testimony, and sick people have been healed. He is also indebted to Mzee (Alan Stephenson) for imparting spiritual wisdom as well as practical skills into his life.

Today, Saitoti works side by side with faithful friend Eliasante – our head mechanic – and is happy to be back in the work he gave up many years ago. His life is a witness to God's love and faithfulness to the Maasai people of Tanzania.

[Heather Marshall, Media - With special thanks to Junior Maboyi for her translation assistance]



Saitoti, his wife Nay, and their 4 children at home

JLMC LEADERS low-down

Joshua's Mission Statement, "Growing kingdom leaders to grow godly generations!" helps keep us on track. We're changing our previous thesis graduating programme to multiple research papers. Just 23 students who are close to completing their degrees are doing this 7-week mentored-research module. As always, the prayer for and sponsorship of these leaders is greatly appreciated!

[Owen Wagener - College Dean]



Haybales arrive for our expanding rabbit project...

what's ahead?

We look forward to all that God will do as we restructure and move into new territory...

Next week En Gedi is privileged to host the first annual East African Sports Ministry Conference. We anticipate more from Richard Wagener on this new initiative in our next edition.

This year is also a BIG P.U.S.H. (Pray Until Something Happens!) YEAR for building:

- Classroom for double-streaming another intake of leaders, and teacher-trainees
- Dormitory, kitchen and dining facilities to handle the intake
- Model School on our 'new' cross-the-river land at Olserian.
- restructuring our teaching models
- new business and community initiatives

Please also be praying and praising with us to see this happen!

A HUGE personal reward for Lynda and I is the return of all our children and their spouses to Tanzania this year. It's just as the Lord told us years ago, "Your children shall come to you from afar, with radiant faces they shall come."

Our son Jeremy is already based in Tanzania with his wife Kendra. He's just published his first book entitled "En-Kata – A Time for Singing", an outstanding photographic journal of Maasai warrior & family journeys from darkness to light. It is available at: en-kata.com, and 60% of the profits go towards building and operating a school for Maasai children in Tanzania.



Jeremy Stephenson's recently released book, "En-Kata"

praise prayer and practical

praise:

- >> Renee's new position as Farming God's Way rep for Tanzania
- >> A great time of sharing and input for our Head Teachers
- >> 2 containers safe arrival, and 2 still to come
- >> The En Gedi preschool is well underway
- >> For an expansion of our rabbit project

prayer:

- >> For God's wisdom as we restructure both JLMC and JTTC
- >> The Garage Business, for guidance and profit
- >> For Farming God's Way as they form a team and move forward
- >> Upcoming E. African Sports Ministry Conference here at En Gedi
- >> That all those leaving on furlough (or maternity leave!) or coming to join the team will be safe and provided for

practical:

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