



Initiatives of Change

A lot is going on underground in different parts of Kenya as more and more people are being reached by our *iofc* teams. The most moving question being, *“What can I do for the country?”* as opposed to what we are accustomed to, *“what can this country do for me?”*

At Subukia the *Kenya I Care school program* is still going on. The team visited Lusiru primary school near Njoro on 22nd February. This school was a victim of the post election violence. It was vandalized, two of their teachers brutally killed. And it was closed for almost a year. And on opening the school, the population dropped from 600 to 9.

The school has been doing its best to raise the standard of education despite the pupils going through the trauma...

We got such a chance to address both standard 7 and eight separately. It was sad to learn that pupils do not attend school to date any time they hear any sound close to a gun shot or a scream in the night. *“How can we overcome stress?”* was one unexpected question from several students. How sad that such young students are suffering from stress. A lot need to be done here to help these young ones be on their feet again...



Subukia Springs Sec Presentation

On 10th March the team went to Subukia springs secondary school. We had a sitting with about 200 students and shared the message of change. It centered on our relationship first with God, then me and to others. The students later asked moral questions which showed that their conscience had been aroused.

“What is the divine fate of a person who kills accidentally, say a thief who wanted to rob you?”

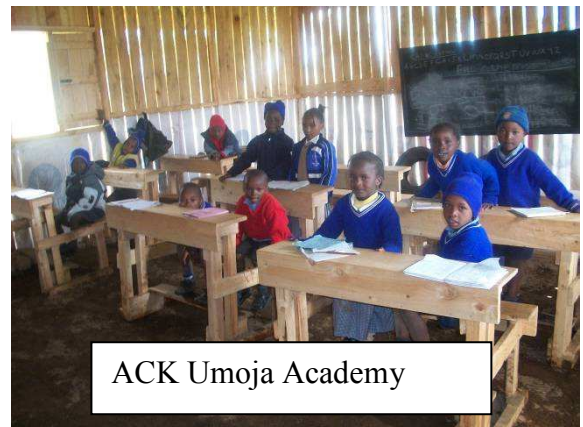
The issue of the value of life in the hands of God was very prominent. This could be due to the many deaths witnessed in the different levels of crime and our

helplessness in such cases. .

The school administration was very pleased with our presentation and promised to give us another chance next term.

On 17th we talked with the young children of ACK Umoja academy. It was good to see some children who are being trained to be reliant on God in everything.

We shared more on how to listen to God on our day to day activities. The school is open to godly men in their weekly pastoral program.



ACK Umoja Academy

PERSONAL STORY...

Featuring Grace Wanjiru as narrated by George Kamau.

THE TREASURES IN THE SOIL

Grace is an old lady with about sixty five years. She is a real farmer, a business-minded farmer. Though her husband and sons ran a transport business with many mini-buses and Nissans, her mind has never gone out of farming to join them.

When I met her, she could remember how one day in the late sixties an old Mzungu, (White settler), found her digging in their hired garden which was just at the roadside. The white man stopped his car and matched across the road to where she was. Although the colonial days were over she was very worried. "A Mzungu", she thought, "why stop the car and come to me? What wrong have I done?"

She stopped digging and looked at the white man. It was true that he was coming to her. She looked at herself, half naked with only a petty coat and a lessa (waist cloth) on her waist due to the hot Nakuru sun. She dropped her hoe and started walking for her clothes to cover her almost naked chest, but the white man waved her back.

Hapana toroka", (Don't run away), said the man, in a white-man's Kiswahili tongue. "Nataka kuonyesha wewe kitu"(I just want to show you something), he continued. When he came nearer to her, he pointed a finger and almost touched the ground. "Mali iko hapa kwa mchanga"(The treasure is just here in this soil), he said and repeated the same thing thrice, after which he left, for Grace could not talk much with him, other than saying "Ndiyo Bwana, ndiyo Bwana, ndiyo Bwana"(Yes Sir, yes Sir, yes Sir).

Grace narrated her story to her husband in the evening after he came from his tailor shop. The man was very interested and eager to know what really the white man meant. That year he decided to help his wife whenever he was free instead of going to beer places. They harvested a lot of maize and hired double gardens. In three years time they were able to buy five acres of land in Kanyagia, where they are to date.

They worked on this land for three more years and the husband was able to buy a very old 403 Peugeot Pick-up and started ferrying milk from the surrounding farmers. The car was always on the road and could only be serviced at nights, and in a year's time he was able to buy his first small lorry, which was the beginning of a very big transport business, which made him the richest man in this area to date. He named his business "Mla Chake", meaning "He who eats his own".

This is a good example to our young people who always like to work in big towns with white-collar jobs, which are scarce nowadays. There is a lot of treasure in the soil; Yes, Yes, Yes. Come one, come all, let us toil the soil.

It has also been inspiring for Kenya I Care team to share the dream of uplifting the residents of Endarasha in Nyeri in establishing a resource centre. The dream of empowering the nation with knowledge is vital and this culture should be encouraged especially by those who know the value of learning. This includes the community development officer –CDA together with local leaders both from the government (chief, D.O, District adult education officer among others) and other sectors.

This centre started as an adult education class. Then it gives birth to a polytechnic. And now it aims to reach the whole community by equipping it with a library.



Resource Centre Committee

There are several books given out by well-wishers and some by the local schools but this is way below the demand of eager learners.

We are thus calling out for the learned people in the area to own the initiative so us to make it worth while.

Apart from books it is expected to be a centre for different workshops to uplift the community especially the youth.

We also have had time to visit the Lilly orphan home with some guests John Legat and Joan from the UK. The two also got a chance to visit the Ndaragwa team and thereafter Eldoret in the hands of Joseph Wainaina.



Subukia Team at Lily's Home

RETREATS

There have not been any internal retreats planned this year so far as all eyes and energy had been focused on the visit of *iofc* president Rajmohan Gandhi which took place as from 28 March- 1 April, 2010. (A report coming soon)

The other retreat is the All Africa conference in May 12th to 16th 2010 in Nakuru. Teams in different parts are gearing up to attend the all Africa Conference as it requires financial preparation. Meetings are also continuing in Nakuru to plan for this big event.

CONTRIBUTION

All our team members are welcome to share what they are doing through this magazine which will be produced every month.

Send any reports or news to njoromaina@yahoo.com or call me at +254722 721 578.

Report by John Njoroge