



RAISING UP AN ARMY FROM THE BROKEN

“But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;” 1 Cor. 1:27

It's a beautiful thing to get to witness the weakest, unwanted, most unlikely people (in man's eyes), discover their Father's love and rise up to their God-given identity and purpose through the power of God's love and reconciling grace, and instruction in practical areas of life. Over the years we've sometimes wondered if it's all working...then we get a report from a social worker that a drunken mother who was careless with her children is now sober, smiling in church, and her kids are coming to school clean and well cared for. Or we visit a mama who once lived in a dangerous area with no means of livelihood, and find her proudly working on her sewing machine, able to provide for her children in a safe new place. Or a hopeless alcoholic father finds new life and is trained to teach others. These, the “desperate, in debt, or discontented” as in 1 Sam. 22:2, the broken, are just the ones God is raising up to transform a generation. We all, also among the broken, are now his hands and feet for others.

“And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.” 1 Thess 5:14

Central to Africa Connect is God's heart for the children. Encouraging the parents and care-givers, often with “tough love”, and giving them the tools they need for a change of heart, mind, and lifestyle is what unfailingly will help the child the most. But God's unconditional love is the power that draws to repentance and ushers in a new life of productivity and joy. Without that, any empowerment programs are ultimately transient and superficial. You who have partnered with us through the years, be encouraged with your success! If you are new to AC, please help us to write more redemption stories!

CHILDREN AT THE CENTER: FABIAN AND EBBY'S STORY (One of many!)

Recently in a zoom meeting one of our social workers shared her distress at the condition of Fabian, 7 and his sister Ebby, a preschooler at Connect Premiere. The teachers reported them coming to school starving and unwashed, prompting her to follow them home. She learned the mother had abandoned them in a filthy home, in a dangerous slum with no food. She was able to locate their grandmother in her distant village; the grandmother came to Kitale two days a week to help for a bit, but reluctantly had to return to her village. We paid the rent for last month, but now the landlord was going to lock their door and trash what belongings they had. The social worker travelled to the village to ascertain the situation, and found the grandmother had a successful small farm that she couldn't leave;



thankfully there was a local school (with a feeding program!) that would welcome them in, and the Ian Memorial Sponsorship Fund paid their school fees. Just in time, the children were relocated with their grandmother and are thriving and very happy! Additionally, their older sister in boarding school who had nowhere to go on the holidays was welcomed to stay in the social worker's home. This is love.

We often encounter situations in our student's lives that demand expenditures above and beyond what the sponsor fees cover; combined with a fall in exchange rates and constant rises in school fees, the result is that we are at a \$3500 deficit to finish 2024. *If you can help with a donation of any amount to the Ian Memorial Scholarship General Fund, it will be so appreciated! Thank you so much!*

AUGUST WAS A BUSY MONTH!

Though technically August is a “holiday” month, the Kenyan team was busier than ever:

- Pastor Apollo and Emmanuel attended the Foundations for Farming training in Rwanda;
- VBS week brought many children back to Connect Chapel to learn about Jesus- and to eat!
- The 2nd session of Computer school was held, attended by nearly all the high school students!
- On August 23-25, Connect Chapel hosted a Youth Conference, which was very impactful!
- Term 3 of 2024 began August 26; the children were hungry, and very happy to be back! A nearby church let us use their classrooms until the well drilling completed, but they are back in school!



CROWN

UPDATE ON PARTNERSHIP WITH CROWN MINISTRIES

Pastor Apollo and Emmanuel returned from their Foundations in Farming training in Rwanda as certified instructors, beyond excited, with a brand new perspective. After harvesting the maize on the Connect farm, they immediately began creating demonstration plots, in which Emmanuel will train the parents how to create a harvest (usually 10x the standard!) through Biblical principles. Heavy rains have slowed them down, but Apollo is already teaching Crown principles on Sundays, and the parents volunteered to help harvest the maize, even in heavy rains. Pastor Apollo sees this not only as a way to provide food for the school, but to teach godly life principles and provide food for the most needy parents as well. Next up will be the purchase of two dairy cows, and the building of a cow shed and storage shed, also providing housing for a 2nd caretaker and watchman.

MATCHING GRANT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

We were so blessed at the response to the matching grant, through which we met the needs below:

WELL: After nearly a week of drilling, on Sunday 2nd, at a depth of 120 meters, water was reached! The well will provide clean water not only for our compound, but for many in the community. In the future our team envisions a bottling business. The drilling company is signing a 10 year contract for free maintenance.

SOLAR INSTALLATION: We have decided to install solar power to run the well, as pumping from such a depth will drastically increase the electric bill. This will power the entire compound, with electricity as a back up power source. With the frequent power outages in Kenya, this seemed the wiser solution.

COMBINED TOILETS: The Kenya Ministry of Health now requires special toilets for preschool aged children, which must be separate from any adult facilities.



Now that we have additional land space, a set of combined toilets can be built with adult facilities on one side and preschool on the other. A concrete wall will separate the two sides.

ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS FOR THE FUTURE: The goal of gaining self-sufficiency in the future seems to create never ending needs in the immediate! Some projects for the next few months:

1. Constructing a Primary building is not feasible for January 2025, so we will need another classroom to accommodate our 4th graders moving into 5th grade. Because of the land addition, it is now possible to add another classroom to the back of the Temporary Primary building. Cost: \$3450
2. We still need fencing and a watchtower in Jan-Feb for the additional land purchase. Cost: \$5200

IAN MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP FUND:

SPONSORS NEEDED: We will be needing new sponsors for the graduating preschoolers in January 2025. Please communicate with Sue Choquette at ianmemorial@gmail.com if you are interested.

STUDENT MEDICAL:

- Ecclai's surgery on one ear is completed and they are waiting for her to finish the medication and determine the success of the surgery. She will then be scheduled for surgery on her other ear. Meanwhile, Ecclai can not be in noisy situations (and she's in a big family!) and has been unable to attend school. Please pray that she can have her hearing, and her life, restored.
- The request for dentures for Loice has been filled, thank the Lord!
- Some of our primary and high school students are in desperate need of clothes! Cost: \$700

PRAYER NEEDS: *We have some serious prayer needs! Please join with us as we seek God's provision.*

- *Several primary and high schools in Kenya recently have had serious fires of unknown cause, resulting in many students being killed, burned unrecognizably, are unaccounted for. Pray!*
- *With schools closed in November and December, it is important that we sponsor a special Christmas distribution of food, soap, tea and sugar (Christmas specials!) for our 120 families. Cost: \$2870.*
- *Heavy rains and cold have made life miserable for our kids and many Kenyans, who lack blankets, solid roofs, or any source of heating. This has also affected the farming and business activities.*
- *We would like to reward our Tailoring and Hairdressing graduates with the tools they need to start their own business, such as a sewing machine or blow dryer. Needed, \$50 - \$150 donations.*
- *A poisonous snake was recently killed on our compound, one result of the heavy rains and lack of a stone fence around the property. Snake repellent is being applied, but please pray for protection and perhaps the Lord will provide for better fencing in the near future. Yikes!...Please pray for that.*

Much love and gratitude to you all!

LuAnn Herring, for the AC teams US and Kenya

NOTE: THE COST OF STAMPS HAS INCREASED AGAIN! If you would like to change your mailing preference from post (hard copy) to email, please fill in the appropriate spaces below and send it to us by mail, or let us know via email at info.africaconnect.us@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

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Donations can be sent to Africa Connect, PO Box 598, Lee MA 01238, or Paypal at www.africaconnect.org.

Berkshire Missions, Inc. (dba Africa Connect)
Organizational Flow Chart

DOMESTIC

FIELD

<p>Board of Directors 2024</p> <p>President: - Sue Choquette</p> <p>Clerk: - Sarah Broughnel</p> <p>Treasurer: - Kevin Rousseau</p> <p>Director: - LuAnn Herring</p> <p>Director: - Lillian Armstrong</p> <p>Director/Assist. treasurer: - Mary Brinton</p>	<p>Executive Director: LuAnn Herring</p>	<p>Africa Connect – Kenya Foundation (AC–KF) Kenyan Society* *Religious non-profit</p> <p><i>Africa Connect</i> is an undertaking of <i>Berkshire Missions, Inc.</i>, a 501(c)(3) non-profit in the U.S., that funds Kenyan projects through the <i>Africa Connect-Kenya Foundation</i>, a registered Kenyan Society. The goal of <i>Africa Connect</i> is comprehensive transformation of the slum community in Kenya, working in partnership with Africans who have demonstrated integrity and a passion to effectively serve their own people. Our core project is free preschool for orphans and desperate children, which opens the doors to reach and empower the parents, single moms, grandparents, and guardians struggling to care for them.</p>
<p>AC-KF ARMS of MINISTRY (5) (All arms with oversight by AC Board of Directors)</p> <p>Field Director: LuAnn Herring</p>		<p>KENYAN EVANGELISM / OUTREACH</p> <p>CONNECT CHAPEL</p> <p>Pst. Apollo & Rose Juma</p> <p><i>Connect Chapel</i> is planted on the campus of <i>Connect Premier School</i> in Lessos, Kenya. All parents of <i>Connect</i> school children, if not already attending a church, are required to attend <i>Connect Chapel</i>. Discipleship classes, empowerment classes, parent meetings, and many other gatherings take place here. The congregation is being disciplined to be the hands and feet of Jesus, to reach out into the community in active service to parents and neighbors. Pastor Apollo Juma is the project oversight manager on the ground in Kenya.</p>
<p>1. Connect Premier School</p> <p>Currently home to 66 preschool kiddies, plus grades 1 – 4 on site of this AC-KF-owned campus (grade 5 will be added in JAN 2025 at the start of the next school year); a KENYAN field staff of 22 people – 3 preschool teachers, 4 primary teachers, plus administrative and support staff, and 3 empowerment instructors.</p> <p>The school is run by Transwan Baraka CBO*, a *Community-Based Organization whose membership is all Kenyan. CBO status creates eligibility for community assistance and facilitates Kenyan project ownership. Africa Connect, through AC-KF, provides project funding, and partners with the CBO working together towards sustainability.</p>	<p>2. Ian Memorial Sponsorship Fund (Primary, Jr. Secondary & Secondary school students)</p> <p>Currently sponsors 98 children, all former preschool graduates, in Grades 1 – 12, covered by 70 U.S. sponsors. Preschool classes plus grades 1 – 4 are all on the <i>Connect Premier</i> campus in Lessos, Kenya, on the outskirts of Kitale, Kenya. Grades 5 and 6 attend SOH Academy, a near-by Christian primary school; grades 7 and 8 attend local Jr. Secondary schools. Some Secondary students attend various local day schools, while others, boarding schools both near and far.</p>	<p>3. Empowerment Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailoring • Hairdressing & Beauty • Small Business Class/Boost • Poultry • Foundations of Farming • Computer <p>To be added in 2025: Baking; Carpentry; Mechanics</p>
<p>4. Outreach programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio - Pst. Apollo Juma; reaching 2 - 3 million in Kenya & Uganda with the message of the Gospel. • Medical • Emergency/Disaster Relief 	<p>5. Public Relations (HELP NEEDED!)</p> <p>Newsletters: LuAnn Herring</p> <p>Facebook/Instagram postings: LuAnn, Sue</p> <p>Website Maintenance: LuAnn Herring</p>	