



Partnering with the African Community to facilitate transformation



*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Phil. 1:3-6 "...let us not be not weary in well doing..." Gal 6:9*

## RETURNING TO THE VISION: THE DISCIPLINE OF TRANSFORMATION

**With deep gratitude we report that we have received the funding for the construction of the preschool and kitchen, the basics required to move operations to the new property! Construction commences Thanksgiving week, with the move taking place after Christmas. We finally have our own home!**

What a journey of faith it has been! The generosity of one donor has made this important step possible; however, it is your faithful support through the years that has brought us here, and it is your faithful prayers and giving, by the grace of God, that will bring to completion the vision that God gave us back in 2004.

We are also deeply thankful to the team in Kenya, led by Pastor Apollo and Rose Juma, and the relationship of trust and unity that has developed over the years. Each one is faithful in their every day tasks, and deeply committed to the children. Apollo and Rose oversee the programs and construction, operating with high standards; every evening after work, Apollo stops by the plot to check construction quality and progress. I noted his vision was very big. Smiling broadly, he responded, "*When the vision is big, God gets excited.*"

### So, what is the vision?

1. Community Transformation through the power of the gospel. The gospel of Jesus Christ is “the power to become the sons of God”, re-uniting our fallen souls with our Creator, making it possible for the Holy Spirit to work transformation in us and through us. Apart from this inner transformation, further enabled by Bible instruction, no projects or programs, no matter how “good”, will have a lasting effect, temporally or eternally. The overarching goal is to “make disciples” that can go into the nations.
2. Though the motivating force of the day-to-day work is God’s heart to care for the “orphans and widows” the actual strategy is to care for them in a way that impacts the family and community in the long term. Offering preschool education, food and medical care to the poorest children provides the open door to the families; the goal is inward and outward transformation of the community these kids grow up in.
3. It is imperative that we care for them in a way that promotes self-sustainable solutions, rather than enabling a mentality of dependence that cripples their initiative and personal dignity, and robs their experience of partnering with God to create a healthy and stable lifestyle for their family.



Therefore, as the AC team looks to a new season and the 2022 school year, our Kenyan team will be prioritizing policies that promote parent responsibility and accountability. We will care for the child with the love of Jesus Christ, and engage with the parent(s) with a firm goal of the parent progressively taking over support of their child. Here are some of the ways we plan to do that.

- ❖ Enrollment in the program will be defined as involving the family, rather than just the student.
- ❖ Parents will be expected to pay as they are able, on a sliding scale basis, and provide transport.
- ❖ Parents will be required to attend discipleship classes 1/wk, involving practical Biblical instruction in family, marriage, work, and health matters. Biblical counseling will be available.
- ❖ If Parents are not engaged in legitimate (and legal!) work or business, they will be required to participate in a business, empowerment, or vocational training program.
- ❖ Parents who do not cooperate will be withdrawn from the program until there is a change.

## **Empowerment/Business Boost Update:**

### **Parent Meeting:**

In early November, the staff was able to host a parent meeting for the first time since March 2020, thanks to restrictions lifting in Kenya. It was well attended despite the distance from Tuwani; parents heard the gospel and were responsive to the spiritual and practical challenges presented. At the end, they signed agreements to abide by school policies, and 5 new mamas signed up for the Tailoring Class beginning in January of 2022.

### **Tailoring:**

2021 has been our most successful year, with 12 ladies registering and 12 finishing the course! This represents a more serious intent towards having a more stable career.

### **Business Boost:**

We have five mamas engaged in this program, with diverse business investment needs and timelines, and we plan to be adding more. This is temporary support with the expectation that the initial grant will be returned.

### **Vocational Training/Apprenticeship:**

Not all young people do well in the Kenyan educational system, and can better provide for themselves by learning a trade. Thankfully, the stigma that has hindered these programs for years seems to now be waning. Andrew, the father of one of our IMS sponsored students, is in training to be a plumber, attending classes and receiving minimal pay for assisting his trainer. Edward is a sponsored student who is pursuing masonry.



**Our next goal: To build an Empowerment Building, so we can begin discipleship classes and move the Tailoring program to the property, centralizing programs and saving the cost of rent and taxation. Cost: ~ \$5000**

### **Other Ministry News:**

- Pastor Apollo and Rose will be traveling to a church in West Pokot to minister the weekend of November 27. Please keep that in prayer, as well as Apollo's Connect Leadership training and the radio ministry, which is reaching millions with the gospel and solid teaching in the Word of God. Spiritual hunger is on the rise!
- Plans are in the works for a team trip to Kenya during the months of February and March of 2022. Pray!
- Loice, our IMS student has come through the long-delayed surgery to remove a painful facial tumor and is now having her teeth replaced. Her mother has been placed in a safe home and will participate in our Business Boost program to enable her to provide for her kids within 6 months.
- Eliud, unfortunately has hit a roadblock in his care and medical procedures are beyond our ability to help. We are seeking other resources to help this man; please pray that God makes a way!
- Balance remaining for medical transport, diagnoses and follow up costs: \$600

### **Ways that you can help**

- Join our prayer team (Email every 2 wks) – send a note to [info.africacconnect.us@gmail.com](mailto:info.africacconnect.us@gmail.com)
- Sponsor a Preschool child, \$400 per year, or \$40 per month for \$10 months
- We are in need of a volunteer to assist us with outreach on Internet/Social Media. If you have experience in that area and would like to help, please email [africacconnect.us@gmail.com](mailto:africacconnect.us@gmail.com).
- Sponsor our Tailoring Program, Business Boost, or a Vocational Training Student.
- We depend largely on Word of Mouth as our PR – **Please help us SPREAD THE WORD!**

**Again, thank you for your loving support and have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday!**

*Please contact us at [info.africacconnect.us@gmail.com](mailto:info.africacconnect.us@gmail.com) if you have any questions. [www.africacconnect.org](http://www.africacconnect.org)*

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