



May 2022

Dear Friends,

In February, our mission team spent three weeks in Kenya. We arrived safely after hours of COVID testing, 35 hours in masks, and long airport delays—but we arrived! In this letter, I am going to share about two highlights of our trip.

Two years ago, we began praying for the region of Pokot. The nomadic, tribe has been attacked for the last 30 years by the Turkana and Samburu tribes, who want more land for their cows. There is also a religious divide as the Pokot observe traditional religion worshipping gods in nature, while the Turkana and Samburu tribes are Muslims. Almost 50 years ago, a missionary started a mission in the region and there were a few Christian families that wanted to start a church and school. In April of 2021, we were sent a project proposal from the African Inland Church (AIC) and East Africa Partnership Limited in Kenya, to establish a children's home for 400 children (a rescue center for girls in danger of FGM and early marriage, and for boys who cannot be educated because they are taking care of livestock), primary and secondary schools, and a dispensary, including drilling for water, adding solar for electricity and starting three self-sustaining projects. We asked for all the potential partners to meet together and God blessed us with the local government, the AIC district, Diguna (a German NGO), the missionary who had started the ministry, and the community. All agreed to support the project and leased us the land for \$1 for 50 years. The government agreed to build the classrooms and provide teachers. Diguna offered to supervise the building and build one dorm. The original founding missionary drilled the well, while the community provided the labor—a true partnership! At home, we were blessed by a donor who committed to funding the entire project.



Girls' dorm and the dispensary

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Boys' dorm dedication and the school program.

It took us two days of travel into the bush to reach this remote area which has been destroyed by tribal conflict for over 20 years. We were welcomed to Amaya by the Pokot people with great fanfare—children singing and dancing about the value of an education and how great God is, pastors and elders of the church, government officials, the original founding missionary, Diguna leadership, and members of the community. It was a great day of celebration, speeches, touring the project, dedicating buildings, and exchanging gifts. We brought everything for the dispensary to open, books and Bibles for the children, a DVD player with children's videos, candy, and EAP bracelets.

There were 250 children at the school that had just started, many of whom are living with the few Christian families in the area until everything is complete. It's estimated to be finished by June. The self-sustaining projects were already complete. We saw 10 camels (milk and meat), beehives, an irrigated farm, and fruit trees. The AIC church was also completed and functioning. Several of the children have already come to know the Lord.

The second highlight was visiting newly planted churches. In four of the regions we visited, there were 38 new churches planted during the last two years. Thirteen (13) of these churches were founded by Rev. Jackson, a Dick Grace scholar and EAPL regional team leader. He has also been through our Leaders of Leaders Program, led by Rev. Bruce Bugbee, RCA West Region. He recently became a pastor in the Covenant Church International (CCI), which is the Maasai spin-off of the AIC church. We provided a much need communion set to share among the churches and a stole for the pastor. In one of the attached pictures, Rev. Miriam, EAPL chair is presenting the communion set.



Meeting with church members, Pastor Gary Watkins participating in the celebration, and Rev. Miriam presenting the communion set to Rev. Jackson.

Thank you for sharing in this ministry with us.

Dr. Colette Cozean, President, East Africa Partnership

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