

July 2023

Dear Friends,

We have just returned from a two-week mission trip to Kenya and Uganda. Our mission team broke into sub-teams so we were able to minister in 10 of the 15 regions where we have regional teams. This trip was very different because we asked EAPL teams in the west of Kenya (Kisii, Kilgoris, Narok, Homa Bay, and Nyamira), in the east of Kenya (Nanyuki and Nyeri), and in central Kenya (Limuru, Kajiado, and Kalifi) to host teams. The sub-teams usually consisted of a pastor, leaders of leaders trainers, a medical team, mental health team, and special needs team—so in each area, we were able to set up medical camps providing physical and mental health services, visit special needs schools, conduct pastor/elder interdenominational meetings, start new cohorts of leaders of leaders (a two-year training program to develop leaders), meet with regional leaders, and visit our projects in the area.

The medical team provided treatment at each of our homes as well as camps in conjunction with the Ministry of Health in Nyamira and Nanyuki, Kisii, and Maasai Mara Universities (where they trained students in conjunction with the University professors). The medical team also left donations of equipment and drugs where they visited.

Kenya has been struggling with suicides and depression and many of our kids suffer from trauma. Our mental health team met with other professionals, discussed adding mental health curriculum to the nursing training, screened several hundred people for depression and trauma, and treated hundreds for trauma.

Our disabilities team met with educators and government representatives, worked hands-on with a teacher who works with kids with disabilities at Mother Esther, and went to two schools for people with disabilities where they taught and talked with the principals at Amaya about both disabilities and science curriculum. From these meetings, they are setting up a forum to teach new skills and share questions and concerns.



Medical Camp



Maasai Mara University training of nursing students in mental health.



Medical Camp announcement.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at <u>kgilmore@rca.org</u> to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.



Above left: Donation of goats in Homa Bay; Above right: Donation of food, copier, and laminating machine at Mother Esther

Our Leaders of Leaders program graduated more than 20 leaders, who faithfully attended a two-year training program (it lasted three years due to COVID) and started training another 35 mentorees in the three regions mentioned above. Their graduation ceremony was very special as the mentors handed batons to their mentorees and the group spontaneously danced and sang "To God Be the Glory" when they received their certificates.



Graduation of Leaders of Leaders

The whole team was able to visit Amaya, which has grown to about 460 students in primary and secondary (new) schools. When we built this a couple of years ago, we believed there would be about 150 students. Our partners, the government, the AIC church, the community, and the children gathered to celebrate what God is doing with a program for all grades. We were able to treat people at their new functioning dispensary.

The team was also able to visit our new Little Lambs program, which takes in preschool children (85-100 children under care at two facilities) and provides preschool education, free lunches, and school fees through secondary school. We met with the Board and enjoyed hearing the children sing.

So many other moments to celebrate:

- Visited the sewing program in Uganda that has graduated its first class of students and expanded its church.
- Visited 40-50 Dick Grace scholars across the country.
- Held three meetings with interdenominational pastors and elders including training and sharing what God is doing through East Africa Partnership.
- Provided five scholarships to Occupational Therapists at the Presbytery University of East Africa.
- Met with government leaders in Nanyuki (Governor), Nyamira (Minister of Health), and Amaya.
- Met with denominational leaders from AIC (Africa Inland Church), PCEA (Presbyterian Church of East Africa), PAOG (Pentecostal Assemblies of God), and CCI (Maasai AIC).
- Visited Ruberte School of Nursing, which EAP has been asked to support.
- Provided solar and water to Gituamba Girls Secondary School and worshipped with them.
- Provided livestock to Nyamira and Homa Bay regions, along with motorbikes to facilitate church planting.

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.

• Preached at a 10,000-member AIC church pastored by Presiding Bishop and four other churches



Above left: Dick Grace Scholars; Above right: Rev. Bruce Bugbee, RCA meeting with Laikipia Governor

Next year is our 30th Anniversary—a team will be coming to the U.S. to celebrate. If you would like to invite them to your church or organization to speak, please let me know.

Blessings and Thanksgiving, Dr. Colette Cozean President, East Africa Partnership

