

## Message from Daniel Kibarita, Executive Director

This weekend I was giving a thought to my message for this year's newsletter. At the time, I was captivated by the rescue efforts of the 33 miners in Chile who had been entombed underground for 69 days. Twenty-four hour television coverage enabled all of us to share in the rescue drama and the joy of seeing each miner step out of the capsule into the welcoming arms of the rescuers, family members and the President of Chile.



It got me thinking about the uncounted numbers of volunteers, engineering experts and business organizations world-wide who, in times of crisis, step up to offer their help and skills. Support and resources can take many forms from the donation of equipment, technical knowledge, medical supplies, monetary funds and individual expertise. All contribute towards the achievement of a successful mission. The important message I picked from the rescue drama is that all life matters, each life is precious and each individual deserves compassion no matter where they live or what their circumstance. The cheers of joy, laughter, singing, dancing and expressions of gratitude that broke out as each miner stepped out of the capsule confirmed what can be achieved when people work together.

Expressions of joy and pure satisfaction are common at the end of our mission trips. I love these moments. Just as in Chile, our rescue missions require people with varied skills and expertise. We are dependent upon our volunteers. We are thankful for the contributions of those who can spend time overseas working at our mission sites and equally value those who support them at home. Each and every contribution is valued and is necessary to reach the goals.

It is my hope that the stories which follow will encourage and inspire you to consider joining one of our mission trips in the future. You will not regret it. There is nothing as exciting as becoming that **change agent** to the needy of the world.

### Education Updates

Significant in our mission activities since the birth of Compassion Works International is our efforts to support poor families educate their children. We believe education is one important key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Unfortunately this important key is elusive to most poor families. School fees, uniforms, school supplies, development fees and exam fees are just some of the school costs that keep most poor families away from educating their children. The following stories show how CWI has partnered with various donors to assist poor families avail education to their children.



#### **Joseph Kairie and his wife Leah**

Joseph is a young pastor who has completed 4 yrs of Bible school at Moffat Bible College in 2007.

He is currently attending Pan Africa Christian University and is in 2nd year of his Bachelor of Theology. Due to his excellent marks, he was able to transfer credits from his Bible College and hopes to complete his BA in August 2011 after only two years. His hopes and dreams are to become a lecturer in University and is planning to obtain his Masters and PHD by 2020. His continued sponsorship is invaluable to his obtaining these dreams. He is currently

serving in a church as a youth pastor on the weekends.

#### **Eunice Nduta**



Eunice has just completed her BA of Business Administration with a Major in Sales and Marketing and a Minor in Human Resource Management. She is currently searching for work in Sales and Marketing and will hopefully be working very soon. She attended the Methodist University in Meru for 4 years with sponsorship from friends in Canada.

**Joel Gicheha** is currently attending Jomo Kenyetta University in Nairobi. He is in his 4th semester of the Bachelor of Law Program. If it wasn't for the help from his Canadian sponsors, he would not be able to fulfill his dream of becoming a lawyer and eventually a Politician. The country needs decision makers of high moral standing to lead the nation in future. We are delighted to be part his journey in making this dream a reality.

Most children today in Kenya still struggle financially to obtain their high school completion. For these fortunate students, post secondary education has become more than a dream. It is exciting to see them as they mature, complete their studies and give back to their communities.

Many other families struggle to get their children through elementally schools. Such is the case with the Baya and Baraka families in Mtwapa Kenya. While on a vacation in the area Kami our CWI volunteer made this observation:



*Living with Mama Billy at St. Timothy academy this month, I became aware of greater needs of the Baya family. Mama Billy allows Mapenzi & Samuel (the 2 oldest Baya children) go to her school at her expense. It is her/their/my desire to have all their children in school, but for that they must move closer to the school instead of the 10km distance the children walk to get there. It is not only too far for the younger children, but unsafe for the others to walk 20km each day (especially Mapenzi as an adolescent girl).*

We are happy to report that the families were moved closer to St. Timothy Academy and all the children in both Baya and Baraka families have been sponsored to attend school thanks to Kami's unrelenting efforts.

## Suswa Orphans



Suswa is a small, dusty, town on Mai Mahiu-Narok road with a population of 3,000, sits on the northern slopes of the volcanic Mt. Oldoinyo Nyukie (Google Earth 1°02'59.71"S and 36°20'01.25"E)

Maasai pastoralists, Boran herders and Kikuyu traders populate the town. Here, the traditional Maasai lifestyle and modern liberal lifestyle are merging slowly resulting in the usual urban issues i.e. prostitution, alcoholism, broken homes, HIV/Aids, and orphans.

## Pastor Samuel and Joyce Naisho

Thirteen years ago Pastor Samuel and his wife, Joyce, a Maasai couple, moved to Suswa to begin building a new congregation.


They were deeply saddened when they saw homes breaking up due to the HIV/Aids virus taking its toll of men and women. The number of orphaned children grew by the day.

Joyce was distressed to see children in rags rummaging through garbage piles for food. The signs of malnutrition were everywhere; i.e. distended stomachs, thin hands and legs and browning hair. With the support of her husband, Samuel, Joyce gathered some of the children to feed them. She learned that a number of the children were either orphans or runaways from forced marriages. Joyce has since taken seven of these children into her home. In addition to providing shelter for the children, Joyce and Samuel opened a small school.

Education is the key to a better future in modern Kenya. Sadly, the children are being left behind. Today Joyce has 80 children in her school called Victory Academy (Google earth 1°03'09.12"S and 36°20'00.02"E). The school, with four teachers, has Baby Class to Grade 4.






Lunch time at Victory Academy 

**Challenges:** Water is scarce on the floor of the Rift Valley. The region does not get much rain either. Agriculture is therefore difficult to undertake which leaves animal grazing as the only alternative.

A big portion of the school budget is spent on buying water leaving little money for food and wages.

Hillie, Amy and Maasai women 



## Opportunity

Recently, CWI teamed up with friends from Fairview, Alberta, led by Hillie de Jong, helped Joyce and Samuel purchase a five-acre parcel of land. The land has opened an opportunity to dream. We can help this dedicated couple to build a home for their large family, a shelter for the homeless children, and build a school.

## The Plan

- Raise \$30,000 (CAD);
- Build a home/shelter for Samuel and Joyce; and
- Build Victory Academy School.

*Would you partner with us to see this project get off the ground in 2011?*

## Agricultural Update

Kami Swanson, a valued, long-time CWI volunteer from Alberta, submitted a comprehensive report of activities that have taken place in Mukeu during the past year. Unfortunately, we don't have space to provide all the details but the following highlights will suffice.

### Dairy Goat Model Farm

In 2009, The World Agroforestry Centre/The International Council for Research in Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) selected the Njihia Farm as the district model farm for dairy goat production. Later that year, a pregnant 'registered' doe and a pedigree dairy goat buck were donated, and by 2010, the farm now boasts five dairy goats.



Sufficient milk is being produced for the six-member family's consumption plus a limited amount is available for sale to local families. As goat numbers increase, the long-term goal is to provide a sustainable income for Margaret's family through the sale of milk. An addition to the dairy barn was built last spring to further good goat herd management.

### Cattle Genetics

During a meeting with Dr. Nathaniel Makoni of the African Breeders Services (ABS), we learned that Kenya is the world's second best in adopting commercial efficiency through cattle artificial insemination procedures. Students seeking to become technicians in this field require a Grade 12 education and train under the auspices of the ABS. The cost for the ten-day course is approximately 35,000 shillings (Can \$437.5)

Qualified technicians meet with farmers to advise them about the importance of developing improved genetics. The cost to provide this service is 1,000 shillings per cow which includes supplies, travel and semen. Dr. Makoni recommended that student sponsorship to this program be sought as a viable means to improve livestock genetics.

## Livestock Health



Livestock health has long been a concern in Mukeu. To address this problem, a trial experiment began last February with the help from a local agronomist. Animals were treated with a four-month de-worming procedure. Animals included were cattle, sheep, goats and donkeys. Preliminary results are positive, however, observation and follow-up will be necessary to determine the success of the program.

## Introduction of Fodder Shrub Species



Three species of fodder shrubs introduced to a Test Group Farm in Mukeu have had mixed results. Of the three species, Tree Lucerne performed the best, surviving months of drought and growing to over seven feet the first year. The other two species did not fair well. The Calliandra shrubs appeared healthy but stunted and only 25 percent survived. None of the Trichandra species survived.

Advice was sought from The International Council for Research in Agroforestry. It was the Council's assessment that farmers required additional training. A second session will focus on procedures necessary to successfully wind Tree Lucerne into a boundary fence. Farmers will also be encouraged to allow a limited number of trees to grow naturally for seed production.

A future project under consideration is the expansion of feed storage capabilities. It has been suggested that a one-acre plot be planted with oat seed. Oat production provides two marketable products; oat seed and oat straw/feed. Both could be sold to supplement family income or alternatively, the grain and bales could be stored as feed thereby reducing the need to purchase feed during periods when grain cannot be grown.

## Kibarita Demo Storage Barn



In our Fall 2008 newsletter we discussed plans to build a demo feed storage/milking barn. We are pleased to advise that the barn has been built and is functioning well. The cement floor has been a really positive addition and provides a clean, healthy environment for the animals. Water hosed in from gravity-fed water storage tanks also helps to maintain a healthy facility. All barn waste drains into a manure pit. The pit's contents are spread as fertilizers on nearby fields.

Young calves are kept in the barn overnight during the cold and wet season, the Holstein milking cows are brought in from the fields in the evening where they remain until milking has been completed in the morning.

The latest addition to the barn is a modern, small-scale feed processor. The processor has been installed in a room adjacent to the milking parlour. After the feed has been cut and allowed to dry it is fed to the milking cows. The processor has become a valuable training tool for area farmers to demonstrate best farming practices around the barn.

The new barn has been an invaluable resource for maintaining quality animal care, however, to achieve optimal efficiency there are still a number of improvements that can be made. They include: creating additional space for feed storage; improving cement floor grade so that water will drain into a gutter during cleaning; installation of a third water storage tank to capture additional rain water after the first two tanks are filled; and convert a bedded stall into a second milking stanchion.

## Health Updates

The following are just few stories about individuals and families who have been helped through the love and generosity of our donors.



**Margaret Wanjiru**, a single mother of six, suffered a stroke in January 2010. The effects of the stroke reduced Margaret to total dependence on her children. Her oldest, Mikey, was forced to drop out of school to provide support. On learning of this difficulty, friends of CWI stepped in with funding to cover hospital bills, full-time caregiver and family support in order for her son to return to school. It was a very trying year for the whole family. We are thrilled to announce that Margaret is walking with the help of a walking stick and is fast gaining movement on her paralyzed arm and leg. Her recovery is indeed a miracle!

### Betty

Betty, the little girl born with lymphangioma finally underwent surgery this summer. This event was a great victory owing to the lengthy waiting period endured as the only qualified doctor in Kenya deliberated on the way forward. Doctors were hesitant to perform surgery before she reached adolescence; however, they decided to operate as the tumour was threatening to dislodge her right eye. Sadly even after the surgery has taken place, the eye lids of the affected eye has refused to function properly which means Beatrice is not out of the woods yet. The cost of the ten-hour surgery was close to \$10,000. CWI helped raise over half of the funding for this surgery. More corrective surgery will be needed somewhere down the road.



- ❖ **Anderson Baya**, the baby featured in our Fall 2009 newsletter, underwent reconstructive surgery to correct the birth defect of being born without an anus. A second surgery was delayed since Anderson needed to gain weight. A healthy dose of supplements did the trick resulting in the surgery being performed this last summer. Anderson has been healing nicely while attending clinics for therapy. However there is a \$2200 bill remaining to cap this happy story. It is our hope to help clear this bill before the end of the year.