



Manna News

Fall 2006 / Canadian Reformed Society for World Relief

Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.
2 Corinthians 9: 10,11

Our God has again richly supplied us with food, shelter, clothing and above all righteousness through His Son, Jesus Christ. In 2 Corinthians 9, Paul says to the Corinthians that God's gracious giving, enables them to give generously to those in need. The Corinthians' generosity results in thanksgiving to God. Paul encourages their generosity as fruits of righteousness. He thanks God for their righteous living.

Our purpose on earth is to glorify God. One way we give glory to God is through serving others. This is a beautiful and rewarding task. And just to know that our gracious God supplies us with all we need to fulfill this task. Even the willingness and eagerness we have and show, when serving God, comes from Him.

We experience your righteous living first hand, in our mission and relief work. And we thank God for you. For all of you who give freely and generously...through prayer, letters to our orphans, financial support, time spent at Mufu Home etc. May our faithful God and Father continue to bless our orphans, and the management of the Home with your thanks-living. All thanks be to our God who continues to increase and enlarge the harvest of our righteousness in Jesus Christ.



Enjoy a Video Presentation on MUFU Home at our **SPECIAL MANNA MEETING**

with Nico Molenkamp and Jacob Bosch.

November 18 / 7:30 pm
Providence CanRC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Since our last newsletter we reached some sort of a summit in our relief efforts with the working visit of two volunteers of the Providence Canadian Reformed Church in Edmonton.

During their stay they also managed to visit Mount Kenya (second largest mountain in Africa) and a few other places to get a taste of Kenya besides their hard working days. They and we (with our emotions that is) came close to the highest mountain in Africa called Mount Kilimanjaro located on the border of Tanzania.

Despite the good medical care Sicilly Njeri received in the home, the 13 year old girl, who was HIV positive, died on July 19, 2006. The mother made a special visit to the home while Nico and Jacob were there to thank the management and staff for their extra care towards her daughter.

We received a thank you note from the manager of Mufu Home for the working visit by Nico and Jacob.

You will find a report from Nico and Jacob as well as updates on earlier relief work.

MUFU HOME REPORT SEPT/2006 VISIT

From September 7th – 23rd Jacob Bosch and Nico Molenkamp visited the Mufu Home in Kenya. A summary of their impressions and experiences follows.

Most of our time in Kenya was spent in the home with the staff and children, and thus we had a first-hand experience of their daily routine.

Our first impression of the Mufu Home was that it looks fairly neat and well-kept. The existing buildings are structurally sound, and even the old girls' dorm looks like it will stand for many more years. Despite the cracks in the walls, it will serve well for its' intended use as a storehouse. The metal roofs on some of the buildings do leak, particularly the manager's house. However, the metal is not rusted, and it appears that because the joints and ridge caps are not well sealed, a driving rain will cause the roof to leak. This has resulted in water damage to the ceiling tiles and termite problems in the supporting beams. The beds which we saw in the boys' dorm are very rickety and need to be

replaced. The mattresses and blankets are not in the best shape, but the children may be hard on them, since we understand that these had been replaced not that long ago.

The new dorm is coming along well, at least by Kenyan standards. It is very big and when finished will look very "sharp". The contractor George is a good and capable builder and the materials are some of the best available. The plan is that the boys will occupy the new building, and the girls will move into what was the boys' old dorm.

The grounds are kept clean by the kids who sweep and wash the sidewalks every morning. There is however, an unsightly garbage pile behind the boys' dorm that cannot be healthy. The boys' latrines and wash huts are not in great shape and the girls' facili-



Much appreciated T-Shirts

ties look only slightly better.

The latrines by the manager's house are neat and well-kept.

The home has only approximately 2 acres of land, so there is limited room for a garden or other things. The garden plot presently planted with potatoes and maize, is well-maintained by a local farmer, Chris. A small patch of grass provides food for the cow. Trees have been planted to provide firewood for the future. There are also banana trees, and avocado and passion fruit vines.

The cow will calf soon and looks healthy. It is, however, a struggle to provide it with enough food and we wondered how far the little amount of milk that it might produce would go amongst all the children. The boys also have three little rabbits, but by the time we were leaving there were only two left. When the final ten chickens arrive, there will be 20 good laying hens, who should start producing eggs in approximately one month.



Water collected at the communal spring

We purchased food and medication for the hens so that they would have a good start. A rooster will also be added shortly and the plan is to let one or two hens sit on their eggs to hatch young birds. The hen house is not large, but should hold at least 20 birds.

The biggest problem, we felt, was the

availability of water. Two bore holes have been dug, but particularly in the dry season, they do not produce enough water. The children still have to collect water 1 km away from a dirty spring that they share with many other people. We were able to repair a large water tank as well as the eavestrough drains so some water will be collected when it rains, however, this water does not last long.

The manager Sam, and his wife Veronica are doing a good job. Sam seems to be enjoying his job and is managing the home well. The poor conditions under the previous manager have improved significantly and the home is now much better for the children. Sam lives in the manager's house on the grounds of the home with his wife, three children and a niece. Sam is very out-going and has established many contacts with the local people who help out in various capacities. The children in the home seem to like and respect him. His wife also knows the children well and helps out around the home.

The cook Sebastian is an excellent man who does his work in a humble and loving way. He sleeps in the dorm with the boys and only goes home one day in the week. It is our understanding that he held the home together during the trouble with the last manager.

The watchman Japheth is also a good Christian man who does his job well. He works seven days a week, arriving at approximately 6 pm and stays till 6 am the following morning.

The dorm mother Pamela looks after most of the day-to-day things, making sure that everything is done properly. She does a very good job and seems to love the children. The children in turn respect her and do the chores that she gives them to do. She doctors the sick children and often leads devotions in the evening. Pamela lives far away and thus only goes home for a few days every two months or so. She sleeps with the girls in their dorm.

The assistant manager, John has only worked there for 4 months, but he does a very good job. He grew up in the Mufu Home, and after going to school for accounting has been brought back to help in the home. He loves spending time with the kids and often plays games with them and checks their homework. The children seem to like him as well. John does the bookkeeping for the home and also runs errands.

The children are healthy and appear happy, thriving

in the "family concept" environment in the home. There are approximately 47 children staying in the home with an additional 13 going to an advanced school, university or technical school. The children have 3 changes of clothes, the best of which is saved for Sundays. It is not uncommon to see torn or worn clothes, especially the school sweaters. Many, especially the younger children, walk around on bare feet (perhaps by preference) and the shoes that they do have are not great. Personal laundry is done by the children, the older ones helping the younger ones. The children do not have much water to work with but they are fairly clean. Medical help is available at a nearby dispensary, and there is also a doctor in the community. More serious cases are sent to a hospital an hour and a half drive away. The two medical cases we saw (ringworm and a boil) were being treated and were improving. The primary food staples are beans and maize. Breakfast consists of bean porridge and gethery (cooked beans and maize) is served for lunch and supper. Meat and fruit are served approximately once a week. The children love to play games, particularly football (soccer in our country, ed. note). They have many chores including cleaning, collecting firewood and water, doing dishes, helping in the kitchen and doing laundry. The children generally do well in school and are very involved with Sunday school and singing at the local African Inland Church (AIC). Notebooks and textbooks for school seem limited.

While in Kenya we also spent some time at the AIC offices and made some observations on how they are run. We were very impressed with the organization and the staff. Pastor Pile is a very good man and does good work as co-ordinator for the AIC. AIC has 19 homes and 4000 children in these homes. In addition they have 4 training centres for children who wish to learn a trade such as hair-styling, accounting, mechanics, catering, etc. They have also set up apprenticeship programs and are working on setting up a job placement program. Triple F programs are being developed to support children by providing schooling, clothing and food while living in homes of family or extended relatives who are too poor to support them, and thus maintain strong family ties.

MUFU HOME UPDATE FROM THE MANAGER *(with some editing)*

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for sending Jacob & Nico to visit our home, they were truly a blessing to Mufu Home! It was the first time that we had visitors from Canada staying with us for an extended period of time. Nico & Jacob played an important role in our home. First they repaired our old water storage tank which was used for the last couple of years, which to us seemed the hardest part of the work they for us. A "chicken project" was started by buying 20 chickens and 1 rooster, and repairing the old chicken house, which can now hold a maximum of 60 chickens. They helped in putting electrical pipes in our dormitory which is under construction, which was also very hard work for them. In fact, Nico said that it had been a long time since he had been involved in con-

struction of a stone-wall house. They also repaired our roof gutters which we use to harvest rain water, it was great. Now we are waiting for the rains to come which is expected in a few weeks.

Jacob and Nico interacted very well with the children and the staff, they made many friends. You could tell how they were comfortable with children during devotional and study sessions. They joined the children in Sunday school not forgetting to attend the main church service. They preached to the children and the church as a whole, and they blessed the church and the children with their sermon. It was another great time when Jacob and Nico joined the children for the football, basketball and other games like that of throwing a certain plastic object (we can't remember the name to the game since we don't have it here - ?frisbee, ed. note). The children also taught them some African games. The children were very happy and they are anxious for their return after they taught them a song "Shalom" which means "bye bye". We took Nico and Jacob to the village area and tried to explain to them how people live, they were able to see different plants and cash crops like tea which they tried to harvest. They sometimes used our mode of transport which we call "matautu" for public transport which seemed new to them. They visited our second largest mountain in Africa which is Mt. Kenya, since the first is Mt. Kilimanjaro. They also visited Tsavo National Park and they saw different kinds of African wild animals.

Their stay taught us more about Canada, how when Canadians go on holidays they can drive a long distance without seeing a person on the road. That sounds amazing to us, since here you always see people on the roads, likely due to the high level of unemployment. If you are on the road and you don't see anybody, you are likely lost in a different land.

We have pictures of Nico & Jacob during their stay which we will help remind us of their memorable visit. They let us know how committed you are in helping the needy children in Mufu without even having to say a word.

May the almighty God bless you mightily.

REPORT ON THE MUFU HOME

January - July 2006 (from REK with some editing)

First of all we want to bring you greetings from the children. They are very grateful for your support.

We want to thank you for giving us a chance to care for the children. This is giving them a chance to build a normal life. The last half year we've been working hard to improve Mufu Children's Home. Things are working out well and things are only getting better for the children. We are planning to start the Triple F program soon. We want to thank you for this opportunity.

Also we want to thank the sponsors for giving us support in building the dormitories for the boys. The boys are really happy with it.

The Children in the Home

At present there are 60 children living in Mufu Children's Home. The background of the children in the home is as seen in the graph.

Daily Life

When you come to Mufu Children's Home you will find dancing and singing children all over the compound. This shows that the children are happy and energetic. On

the weekends the children have more free time to play. They love to play football, watch TV, find food for the cow and play traditional games. Also the children help to keep the compound clean and they often work in the home garden.

Spiritual Life

The children have personal devotion time every day. The children of Mufu Children's Home are very active in the church. They often help with the collection. Each week they are preparing the worship. On Saturday night they sit together to choose the songs they are going to sing. They also give dancing and singing presentations in the church.

Education

All the children in the Home attend school at some level, and are doing well. Some children even get up early to study. The Home is encouraging the children to go to a secondary day school. The fees are only half compared to a boarding school. There is a secondary day school nearby (MUFU secondary school). There are already 4 children in this school.

Special cases

Nicasio Wachira has had a long-standing wound of his leg. He has been operated a few times. His condition is now stable although he still needs extra care.

Sicilly Njeri was HIV-positive. Her condition suddenly deteriorated and the management of the Home did everything they could to help her. Unfortunately Sicilly died on July 19, 2006. This was a big shock for the management as well as for the children.

The Triple F Children

The triple F program has not yet started. The home forwarded names of 30 children for admission. Sam Mutisya - the manager of the Home - went to all the families to talk with the children and their parents about the new program.

One of the children who has been recommended for admission is *Elijoy Mukami Njagi*. She is 11 years old and is living with her mother. The mother of Elijoy has been having a lot of problems with her husband and eventually left him. She doesn't have a job and it is hard to provide for Elijoy.

Another is *Maxwell Munyake*. He is 8 years old and in class 2. He lives in a village close to Mufu Children's Home. His father died when Maxwell was young. He now lives with his mother, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. His mother doesn't have a job, so it is really hard for her to take care of 5 children. The Triple F program would give Maxwell a chance to receive education, food, clothes and medical care.

The management of the home is looking forward to starting the Triple F program. This will give them a chance to help Elijoy, Maxwell and the other children who need help but don't live in the Home.

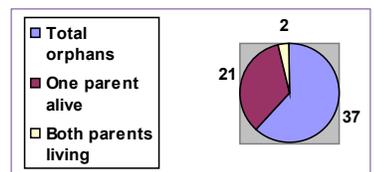
Home Staff

Mufu Home now has six full time staff:

1. Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Veronica Mutisya - home manager and matron respectively (2 staff)
2. Mr. John Kibabu - assistant manager



How's the building going?





3. Miss Pamela Kairimi Miriti – home dorm mother
 4. Mr. Sebastian Njue – home cook
 5. Mr. Japheth Kinyua – home night watchman
- Mr. John Kibabu joined the staff of Mufu Children's Home in February 2006. He knows the home

very well as he grew up in the Home.

Update on Tsunami and Hurricane Katrina Relief *(taken from the CRWRC)* From a Sept/2006 update on Tsunami projects in Indonesia

To date, 396 strong earthquake resistant permanent shelters have been completed, which meet or exceed International Sphere Standards and conform to the Indonesian government approved spatial plans for the community. In addition to the 396 houses completed, there are 228 currently under construction which will be completed by the end of 2006, with another 178 planned for 2007. Together with your help CRWRC is restoring the lives of 802 tsunami victim families in Indonesia.

Disasters can be defined as: "A crisis that overwhelms, at least for a time, people's capacities to manage and cope." Recognizing that vulnerability is what determines if a given event becomes a disaster for some and not for others. CRWRC's focus in disasters is reducing vulnerability. This is very similar to our long-term development work. The goal is to reduce people's vulnerability to future hazards in addition to meeting immediate needs. Vulnerable groups including widows, women heads of household, orphans, older people, children, and disabled people are being given priority to receive project benefits. Thanks to CRWRC, people are beginning to be able to live in their new homes, and cope, reaping psychological and physical benefits.

From a Hurricane Katrina update Aug/2006

This Fall DRS (Disaster Response Services) will be work-

ing in Mississippi (Laurel and Gulfport), Louisiana (Slidell) and Texas (Port Arthur). We also are continuing with Needs Assessments for communities that came through Katrina and Rita. We've been blessed with resources, most of our management slots have been filled for the coming season, and we have been able to help in a variety of new ways: assisting evacuees, helping to buy building materials, coordinating Church teams, etc. But, we are also continuing to recruit and mentor new site managers and construction supervisors. The need is so great that we will continue our efforts to grow our capacity to respond. We are also prepared in new ways to respond in the event of a major hurricane yet this year. Our Rapid Response teams and equipment are ready to go.

During the months of April through June, DRS arranged service trips to the gulf coast for 30 groups. The vast majority were from Christian Reformed Churches, and more than half included high school age youth. Groups served in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. They worked on 108 different facilities, helping with cleanup, roofing, painting, dry walling, plumbing, electrical work, food pantry assistance, and much more. The groups consisted of a total of 384 volunteers offering over 27,000 hours of their time!

The groups have overwhelmingly reported positive experiences, and many have already indicated that they want to do something similar within the next year. The sites that they go to—usually churches or local recovery organizations—also report that our groups were fantastic, and got much more work done than they had anticipated, leaving them scrambling to find more work. Apparently, our groups have an unusual work ethic!

In the next few weeks, groups from Holland, Dearborn, and Grand Rapids, Michigan and Lynden, Washington will be traveling to sites in Mississippi. Several dozen additional groups are being scheduled from this fall through next summer. We are excited that several churches have committed to building entire houses from the foundation up!

Enjoying
playtime!

Committee Members

Joanna deRuiter - President
Angela Byker - Secretary
Henrietta Wildeman - Treasurer

Lucille van Orizande - Overseas Correspondent
Hilda Vanveen-Gritter - Local Correspondent, Newsletter, Archives

Manna is a registered charitable organization, all donations are tax deductible.

Manna, Canadian Reformed Society for World Relief, c/o 13535 - 111 Street, Edmonton, AB., T6E 4Z7
e-mail:hwildeman@bdo.ca

Sponsor Form

YES I would like to sponsor a child in MUFU Home

I would like to sponsor: Male Female

Age 6-12 12-20 over 20

Preferred Payment:

Yearly Quarterly Monthly

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Return to Henrietta Wildeman or any Manna Committee

How to Sponsor a Child!

Manna donations cover operating costs for the 60 children in the Mufu Home, such as food, clothing and education. Other supporters pay for the capital costs such as major repairs, projects related to water, etc. Stichting Redt en Kind provides the necessary administration, much of it through volunteers.

The suggested donation for sponsoring a child is \$470 per year which works out to approximately \$1.30 per day. Sponsors may wish to pay in monthly, quarterly or annual installments (this works out to about \$39.25 per month or \$117.50 per quarter). If anyone wanted to sponsor a child but felt the amount was too high, we would accept a lesser amount and fund the balance from the general donations.

Sponsors receive background information and a picture of the child(ren) they support. Any letters from the children will be forwarded to the sponsors, usually twice a year. The letters from children who do not have a specified sponsor are forwarded to Parkland Immanuel Christian School and the students write to the children at Mufu Home. Sponsors can write to their child by forwarding a letter through Manna; they are asked not to correspond directly with the children for security reasons. Forwarded letters will be scrutinized to be sure there are no addresses or phone numbers included.

Any groups, families or individuals interested in sponsoring a child or several children please contact: Manna - c/o 13535-111 Street, Edmonton, AB. T5E 4Z7