



# The East Africa Project Newsletter

May 2020

## Resurrection is not just an Easter Story!

“There is nothing I can do for this child, he is dead”. Richard and Hellen held Delmas’ stiff, bloated body and tried to make sense of the Doctor’s words. Surely not! Surely not after all we’ve gone through to get him here! Surely that’s not how his story ends?

A week earlier Pastor Richard Makani and his wife Hellen were back at home after having been to the Kipsongo slums outside Kitale again to bring food to the children there. They had noticed a little 2 ½ year-old boy over at the edge of the crowd. He seemed weaker than the rest and had that hollow, vacant stare of a child on the brink. The more Hellen tried to put it out of her mind the more she thought about the little boy with the ‘Superman’ t-shirt. After a sleepless night, Hellen told Richard they needed to go back to the slum and find that boy. When they arrived, he was nowhere to be found. They asked around and learned that his name was Delmas. They finally discovered a woman who introduced herself as Delmas’ Aunt. (The ‘Aunt’ died a short time later because she was so weak. It was later discovered that she was actually Delmas’ mother.) Hellen began to question her about Delmas’ whereabouts. She was evasive with her answers and didn’t want to talk but Hellen pressed her for information. She finally broke down and admitted that she couldn’t care for him and left him in the bush to die. Not only did she leave him in the bush, but it was a 2-hour drive away!

Hellen immediately got Richard and they made the mother take them to where she left him. When they got close it was almost dark and Richard realized this was a dangerous area. They decided to wait for morning and then went and found several Policemen to go with them. By the time they finally found Delmas he had spent several days in the bush with no food or water and with predators all around him. His belly was distended, his hands and feet drawn up and stiff in the early rigors of death and he was unconscious. That’s when they took him to the hospital in town. Now the hospital in Kitale looks like little more than a glorified clinic. The doctors and nurses there do an amazing job, but they simply are not equipped to deal with a case like Delmas’. To them, Delmas was past saving.

To say that Richard and Hellen are determined people would be an understatement. They have watched God perform miracle after miracle and they don’t give up

easily. They took Delmas home and began to force feed water into Delmas’ mouth. Between prayers Richard would say ‘this is the blood of Jesus that will give you life’. They took turns holding him, praying, walking around with him and forcing water into his mouth. Then suddenly Delmas sneezed! The resurrection of Superman! His story was far from over! For the next few weeks they literally nursed him back to health with baby food and prayer! When they took him back to the hospital a few weeks later the Doctor was so overwhelmed by God’s restoration of Delmas that she became a believer right there in her office!

The miracle of Delmas still wasn’t finished! A few years later, he was diagnosed with a heart problem. Doctors discovered a hole in his heart that would require expensive surgery to fix and of course there was no money for something like this. Richard and Hellen did what they always do, pray and do what they can with what they have. They trusted God and after four months of praying and feeding Delmas a special diet, took him back to see the doctors. The hole in his heart had healed up! To this day the doctors are still amazed and wondering how that could happen.

This is a true story that began a little over 14 years ago. Delmas became one of the first children to live in the Seeds Children’s Home founded by Richard and Hellen. He was educated at Seeds Academy and now attends Seeds High School. Today, Delmas is healthy and happy and plans on becoming a pastor. He says he knows God saved him for a purpose!

The Seeds Children’s ministry is one of the organizations The East Africa Project partners with. These are ‘boots on the ground’, indigenous ministries that are impacting Kenya for the Kingdom of God. Your financial partnership with us helps us to provide training, medical attention and project management to people who are making a difference. You are a part of Delmas’ story!



*Delmas and Sam at Seeds High School*

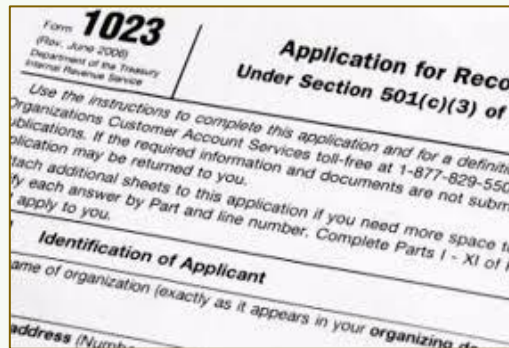


## Prayer Requests

Pray for our friends in Kenya and Tanzania as they cope with rising food prices and government restrictions. All the schools have stopped meeting, but the feeding of the children has continued. For many of these children there would be no meals without the feeding programs led by our partner organizations. The WHO predicts a rise in global poverty & famine resulting from the economic impact of COVID-19.

Pray for wisdom and discernment as I start writing grant proposals starting with the school in the Tassia slum of Nairobi. Pastor Harrison and his wife Christine have started two schools on a shoestring budget and are teaching the children not only basic education, but also teaching them who they are in Christ.

Pray for CARE for AIDS, a partner organization based out of Nairobi that is caring for and ministering to people in East Africa suffering from AIDS, many through no fault of their own. COVID-19 has caused them to think creatively to meet their client's needs. They are utilizing social media and online tools to continue education and are distributing food through their clinics.



"You successfully submitted your Form 1023 user fee payment to Pay.gov and the details are below. You can expect to be contacted about your application by the IRS within 180 days from the date you submitted it." That was the first part of the email I received after submitting the paperwork for the ministry to be recognized as Tax-Exempt under IRS section 501(c)3 of the tax code. "Be prepared, they're probably going to kick it back a couple of times." "You can expect it to take 3-6 months before you get it approved".

**"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Ps. 90:12**

That advice was given me by people who had been through the process before. I had spent 2 months getting the documentation ready and had my CPA friend Gene Stallings critique and help me revise it. Then, the IRS changed the submission procedure. I had to manually re-enter all the data I had spent hours organizing in the IRS format. So, when I finally got everything submitted online and paid the fee I prayed and put it in God's hands.

Plans! I had plans! Two medical mission trips, speaking opportunities, collaboration with 3 different medical agencies, and a potential partnership opportunity between an American university and a hospital in Kitale. Those of you who know me know that I like to have a plan! March was to be

month and by April I'd be working full speed on these initiatives. Grant writing was in the future since we didn't have our 501(c)3 designation and likely wouldn't have for several months.

**"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Prov. 16:9**

As word of a virus in China led to travel precautions led to social distancing led to "Shelter in Place", all our plans for taking short term mission teams to Kenya have been put on hold. Several of the medical organizations we were attempting to partner with are pre-occupied with COVID-19 protocols and treatment plans. All my plans had been put on hold, but God's plan doesn't ever go 'on hold'!

We've been praying about this step for over a year now and preparing for launch for about six months. A website had to be built, bank account opened, business charter applied for, accounting software chosen; all the 'administrative' tasks that must be done to form a ministry appropriately. The IRS paperwork requirements are pages long. Throughout this process God has done and shown us some amazing things. God has used my current employer to provide a part time job that allows me to work from anywhere (even Kenya!) and the job description really couldn't have been better designed for me. We had an amazing Bellevue trip to Kenya and Pastor Richard was able to join us for the Bellevue Missions

## The best laid plans...

**"My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts." Is. 55:8-9, NLT**

Conference in March. Then, right in the middle of the launch, this health/financial crisis appeared and seemingly put a halt to everything. Susan and I have prayed and said we'd keep walking through doors until God chose to close them. *Was this that closed door?*

After a couple of weeks of social distancing and rainy weather, Susan and I needed to get out of the house. We weren't going to actually get out of the car except to get gas and check the PO Box, but it was at least out of the house! When I got the mail from the PO Box there was a letter from the IRS. I suspected it was the confirmation that the application had been received and that we should hear something in a few months. I opened the envelope, pulled out the letter and read these words: *"We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501 (c) (3)."* **WE ARE OFFICIAL!** From submission to official approval was EIGHT BUSINESS DAYS! Isn't it just like God to send things to encourage us when we need it most? Time to get creative start some different projects!

**"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. The LORD works out everything to its proper end". Prov. 16:3-4a**



## Richard Makani speaks at Bellevue Missions Conference

Pastor Richard Makani from Kitale, Kenya joined us at Bellevue in March to speak at the Bellevue Missions Banquet. He shared a little bit of the story of their ministry and the beginnings of the Seeds Children's Home. Many of you were able to meet Richard at the booth at the Missions Conference and he was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love, care and hospitality. We were able to capture some of their story on video. Please take a few minutes and watch it here:

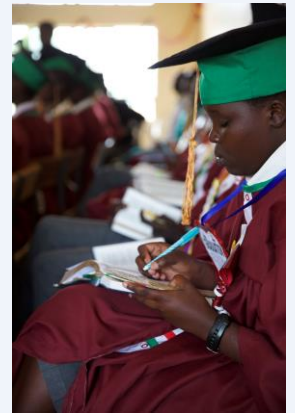
<https://www.theeastafricaproject.com/video>

## A Kenyan 'Celebration Tour!'

During the trip to Kenya in February we were able to celebrate these major milestones:

- The opening of the 'Miracle in Mathare', a brand new, 3 story school in the heart of the Mathere slum
- The first graduating class at Seeds High school
- The dedication of newly purchased land for a widow's center in Kakamega
- The graduation of the latest class of pastors and staff from the Pastor Training Center on Mt. Elgon
- The dedication of new dorms at the training center, now renamed as the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry
- The celebration of a new school started in the Tassia neighborhood of Nairobi

See photos from the trip at <https://www.theeastafricaproject.com/photos>



**Mike Curry**  
Founder



**Due to the uncertainty around public gatherings, our banquet has been postponed. We will reschedule once venues begin opening up for larger groups. Stay tuned!**

Mike Curry - President and Founder  
Light Ministries

**Laird Veatch – Athletic Director**  
**The University of Memphis**



**Laird Veatch**  
Athletic Director



### Current Projects

- *Preparing Grant applications for teaching materials and supplies for the new school in Tassia.*
- *Restarting the medical project with Project C.U.R.E. to bring assistance to the hospital in Kitale.*
- *Filming a teaching series to accompany "RESTORE: Savings" for use in the Widow's center. Our team introduced this curriculum during our February visit.*

(RESTORE: Savings was created by the Chalmers Center and helps congregations to start savings groups as a church ministry. The purpose of this curriculum is to encourage, inspire, and teach members of savings groups as they experience Jesus' reconciling power in all areas of their lives.)

### I would like to partner with The East Africa Project:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

### Ways to Donate:

- ❖ Online at [www.theeastafricaproject.com/donate](http://www.theeastafricaproject.com/donate)
- ❖ Make checks out to: "The East Africa Project" and send to:
  - 9160 Hwy 64, Suite 12-262, Lakeland, TN 38002
- ❖ Bill pay through your bank's online service
- ❖ PayPal/Zelle



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## How to pray for East Africa

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be one the most life-impacting events in my lifetime. Regardless of which side of the 'shut it down/open it up' fence you sit, we can all agree it's had an impact on our daily lives. For me, it's mostly been an inconvenience, but for many it has been much more serious. For our friends in East Africa, it has turned life upside down. Here is an excerpt from an email from one of our pastor partners (remember, English is not his first language):

*"I did check with some of the leaders from our church and have learned that most of our people are suffering. Most of them who depend on daily wages are being evicted from their rented houses for failing to pay rent for the last two months. Its just today the latest young couple has been separated for seeking shelter from friends as the husband doesn't have money to pay rent was evicted leaving him with the option of asking a lady friend to host his wife and daughter while he seeks refuge from a gentleman known to him. The nature of their work involves travelling doing sales, marketing and installation of electric stuff in homes which is not happening now.*

*Have also reached out to some of our pastors around here in Kisii and some are in difficult situation. With rain fall, bad roads in the villages with limited hours cut by curfew, no open markets, those who survived by doing side small business are finding it hard to fend for their families. They try to visist and encourage their members. At some point the local administrator would follow them and threated to have them arrested for contravening the ministry of health quarantine laws.*

*We covet your prayers for as we seem to be far from recovery here. The situation is causing poverty to escalate. Bad elements have been noted in Kisii people resorting to stealing. Four guys who took advantage of the curfew time to steal cows were lynched by the mob causing worries of more indiscipline cases."*

As you pray today, remember our friends in East Africa. Remember your neighbor next door. Remember those whose mental health is at risk. Remember our leaders and ask for wisdom for them. And remember that we live in a fallen, broken world; but ONE DAY, WE WILL SEE JESUS and every tear will be wiped away! Even so Lord Jesus, COME!

- Jeff