



The East Africa Project Newsletter

Gladys Ayuma's world was rocked when her husband died from HIV/AIDS in 2010. Their household income was slashed as he suffered from the disease, keeping him from working and crippling their economic resources. As if that weren't enough, she discovered she was also HIV-positive, having contracted it from her husband. After his death, Gladys could not afford to feed, educate, and clothe her children, nor could she get the right medication for herself because she didn't have any form of income. As a widow and single mother, she was looked down upon by the community. One widow said, "One challenge is friends. Whenever you are seen talking with someone's husband, you are perceived to be admiring that man and it becomes an issue. The friends you previously had isolate you. They don't even want to see you being greeted by a man. No one remembers you were friends with that man before your husband died."

Last time we told you about the Widow's Center that we are trying to open just outside the town of Kakamega, Kenya and about Rebecca Khasoa, who while not a widow herself, knows the hardships these widows face. At that time, we had purchased land, fenced it, were running electricity to it and had built a temporary structure to house a Posho mill. The Posho mill will save the ladies from walking 7 miles round trip to have their maize milled. We also asked you to pray that God would provide a building for the widows to meet in. Well, He heard you!

Gladys Ayuma outside her home in Kakamega



December 2020

Temporary home for the Posho Mill



A few weeks ago Susan and I were out doing some of our 'old people' doctor visits, vision screening with Dr. Cox and hearing test from Memphis Hearing Aid (don't need 'em now but it's coming!) Just as we finished I got a call from a local business friend of mine asking me if we could meet for lunch. During lunch, this person asked me lots of questions about the Widow's Center. At the end of our lunch, this person made a matching grant challenge! If we could raise \$10,000, they would match it!

Well, as only He could **God has provided the match!** Let me tell you two quick "Only God" stories: Before I could even let anybody know about the match I got a call from a donor. This donor said they had planned to make a donation at the end of the year, but God impressed upon them it was needed now! Without a moment's hesitation they obeyed God. Then, not 30 minutes later a friend of ours called Susan and told her that their 8 year old son wanted to put on a lemonade stand that weekend and that they felt God telling them to donate the money towards the project. They were hoping to raise a hundred dollars or so. Despite some high winds that knocked the stand over and sacrificed the lemonade pitcher, they raised over \$650!

I had the awesome privilege of emailing Richard and Rebecca and telling them to "Draw up the plans! God has provided!"



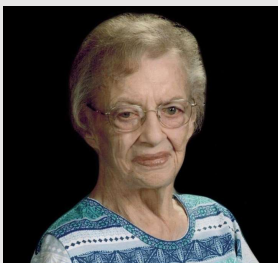
“...and a little child shall lead them”

Not even a strong wind that overturned the stand and shattered the lemonade pitcher could deter him selling lemonade to support the widows.

He “started where he was, used what he had, and did what he could”. Not bad for an 8 year old , huh?

Life by “The Book”

Lee and June Dickson and their daughter Paula are some of our oldest and dearest friends. “Mom and Pop” Dickson came along just when Susan and I were getting married and they modeled for us what a godly home should be. Theirs was a vibrant home filled with raucous laughter and generous hospitality. They were the unofficial ‘house parents’ for the college and career department at Broadmoor Baptist where Susan and I met. For years after we married and had kids, we would have a Thanksgiving dinner at their house with many of the ‘kids’ from that group. As time went on and the ‘kids’ moved to other states and started families of our own it became too difficult to coordinate everyone’s schedule, so that season passed. But Mom and Pop never quit loving our families. I remember one Christmas a bag of presents for our kids appeared on our doorstep, completely unexpected. What joy they have brought to our lives!



Mom Dickson passed away at 83 this past summer, only 6 days before her and Pop’s 61st anniversary! Paula wrote in the obituary, “On the anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 2020, June Dickson stormed the gates of heaven!” I can still hear her infectious laugh and I can just imagine the streets of heaven are a little louder today!

Pop has kept busy since he retired by working with a ministry called “Love Packages”. Love Packages is fueling international missions work and sending the gospel to the ends of the earth by putting donated Bibles and other Christian literature into the hands of people around the world. Pop has driven thousands of miles collecting literature that is packaged, put on a shipping container and sent to missionary works all around the world.

A few weeks ago, Pop called me and said he wanted to talk about sending a container to Kenya! Then just this morning someone approached me and said they had 18 cases of children’s bible study material and could I use it? Love Packages will fund getting the container from their warehouse in Illinois to the port in Mombasa, but we’ll have to work to get it to Nairobi and the rural areas. Baron Muga and I are working on the logistics of receiving the material in the port and having it transported to the IMB compound in Nairobi where it will be sorted and sent to all our partners in Western Kenya.





One of the key goals of The East Africa Project is to bring resources and organizations together to come along side our African partners. This container will bring Bible study material to the Mt. Elgon School of Ministry, children's material to the schools in Nairobi and Kitale and Bibles to rural areas of Western Kenya such as Kissi. Please pray that God will clear all the logistical hurdles for us and that he will provide what is needed financially to make this happen. God has plenty!

Current Project List

- ~~\$15,000 for a meeting center on the widow's land. - PROVIDED!~~
- ~~\$5,000 for block walls and metal roof for the mill room. - PROVIDED!~~
- ~~\$5,000 for bibles for new believers in Kitale. - PROVIDED!~~
- *In Country Costs for Shipping container of bibles and study material*
 - Customs duties and taxes – likely \$1,000 to \$2,000.
 - Port costs, freight msa to Nairobi, and shipping line costs all at cost - \$1,400
 - Transport from ICD Nairobi to residence & container return to Mombasa - \$900
 - Agency fee for clearance - \$250.
 - Offloading crew within Nairobi + 1 standby forklift for palletized cargo - \$350
- \$1,650 for a laptop and projector to show training videos.
- \$1,000 for chairs and tables for the widow's center.
- \$350 – 1 year license for our accounting software
- \$100 – 10 bibles for Mt. Elgon School of Ministry
- \$50 – 1 month of website hosting & video editing service

At the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, Kenya imposed a strict curfew and lockdown. From sundown to sunup, no one was allowed outside. Transportation was limited, supply chains were disrupted, and food became scarce. Richard Makani and his team did what they could with what they had. Wearing masks, they went up to Mt Elgon and gave out food and preached the gospel. Dozens if not hundreds of people gave their lives to Christ. Through a generous donation from Bellevue's Bibles for China thrift store, over 500 Bibles have been bought and are being given to these new converts. In October they were finally able to hold baptisms. Their baptisms are just a little different than ours! Sometimes they have to post people upstream to watch for snakes and other critters! I have enclosed several pictures of baptisms and of the new converts with their new Bibles. Richard and his team are baptizing between 15 and 20 each week in different areas of the hillside

BAPTISM, Kenyan Style!



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
- ❖ 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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What does a lemonade stand have to do with a Widow's Center in Kenya? Find out inside!