



Bethel Rays of Hope Ministries

August 2016

This is a longer newsletter than before but we cover lots of ground here. Please take time to sit back, read, digest and pray for this ministry. Thank you.

Board of Directors

This August's Agenda:

OUR YOUTH TEAM LEAVES THIS WEEKEND!

This is our first official Youth Team going there to work at Bethel. Jasmyn, Raeanne and Joskey will arrive in Nairobi early Sunday morning and take part of Sunday to visit the Animal Orphanage in Nairobi before taking the flight to Kisumu at 5:30pm. They arrive fully loaded with supplies, clothing and the things needed for two weeks of working with the children.

They will be involved with the 58 children that Bethel supports financially and some community children. Their day will begin at 9 am with a Vacation Bible School idea of teaching the various Bible stories on flannel graph and interacting with the kids. After lunch there is an afternoon planned with fun and games. In the evening they will be spending time with the younger children at the orphanage until their bedtime and then will gather with the older children for a time of talking and "chilling out" probably over a small fire.

Pray for our young adults as they take on this venture. They will be on the ground running right away Monday morning and have a jam-packed daily schedule. The temperature is similar to our warm weather here so there is little adjustment to that but pray for safety in travel, for wisdom as they deal

with many issues, for patience and love as they may become weary, for energy to carry out the work.



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Bethel Rays of Hope Ministries

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SHARING THE WORD OF GOD IN THE SLUM COMMUNITIES



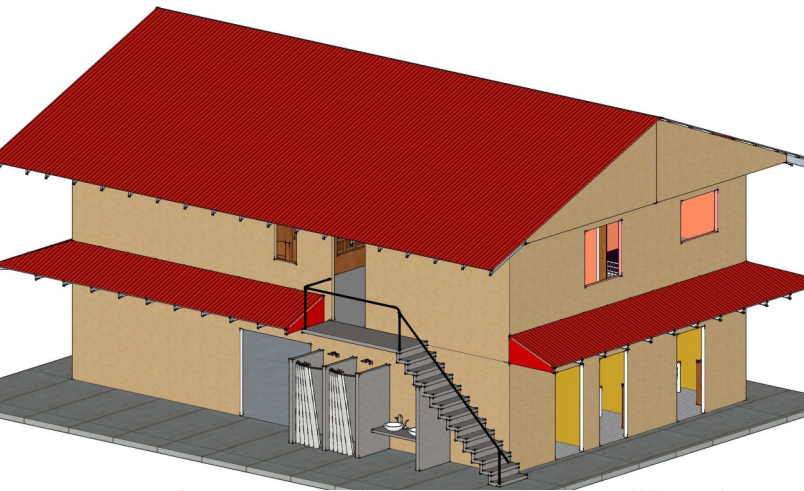
If you would like to contribute towards the expenses (\$2200.00) please send a note with your contribution that it is for the crusade.

The last weekend of August Bethel will be holding a 5 day Tent Crusade at Obunga Grounds which is a common place next to all three slum communities that are around Bethel. For 5 evenings, people will be invited to hear the Gospel preached by one of several pastors. They will, beforehand, be given a small meal and tea.

We know that the knowledge and working of God in people's lives makes a huge transformation. As

one village chief stated, "You have given us hope for our children." So pray that many may come out and hear the gospel and find hope for their lives ...

"Before, this place was only known as a place for prostitution, crime and a place to die. But today you have given us hope for our children."



BUILDING THE BOYS DORM

This is a very busy year for Bethel Rays of Hope Ministries.

Come January, we are looking for a team of people who would be willing to join hands with us and put some real sweat equity into the building of the boys's dorm.

The Children's Department (Kenya) loved the building but with their final inspection they said that the boys need to be separated from the girls within 3 years.

Part of our same crew that went over in 2014 will be going again so the "learning curve" will not be so steep! But we could use some people who would be willing to work (and much of it is hard work), help cook, help do the bookkeeping. The other part would be to visit people in the hospitals and meet with community people to share your relationship with God. Living conditions are "roughing it" (by our standards) unless you plan on booking a hotel room in the city.

Jobs to be tackled include: digging, cement mixing/carrying, cement application to the EPS panels (hopefully by machine this time), manufacturing steel doors from sheet metal and 1" sq. tubing welded together, metal roofing application, painting over cement with oil paint, interior hanging of doors & frames, tiling, and bricklaying.

This is NOT a holiday unless you do it before or afterwards. But during the time there you will be totally surrounded with the children of both the orphanage and the school and will be rubbing shoulders with fellow Kenyans who will work with us. Expect to be tired at the end of the day (8 pm!)

If you are interested go to the Bethel Rays of Hope website and download the International Volunteer Application Form under the "Becoming Involved".

We are short funds for things like the beds, mattresses, toilets, sinks and some of the cost of building so if you would like to help, please send your donation marking it for the building project.



Obunga Grounds

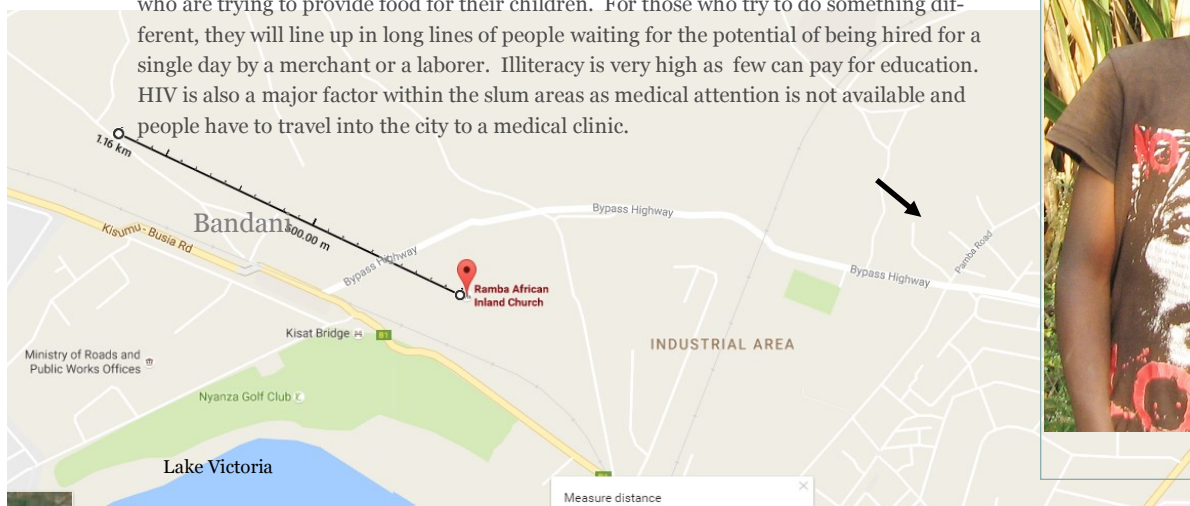
LIFE IN THE SLUMS

Obunga Grounds is an almost forgotten stadium that is walled, all four sides and only has one entrance as seen in the background. Used mostly by the slum community of Obunga nowadays, it is flanked by the Kenyan Breweries that has now closed. This is the location of our Tent Crusade this August.

Obunga is the largest slum area within the city of Kisumu. If you want to view a YouTube video you can see one on this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ADT_UwulJWo which describes Obunga and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7DwtK_TACE which shows the slum areas.

As seen on the map below, the Ramba AIC Church is right beside Bethel Children's Home. Just outside the gates is the village of Kutor and to the left is Bandani, another slum community. So within 1/2—1 mile of Bethel there are three slum communities.

Alcohol is a huge problem within these communities as despair and hopelessness cause many to drink all day, every day. Prostitution is a major source of money for the women who are trying to provide food for their children. For those who try to do something different, they will line up in long lines of people waiting for the potential of being hired for a single day by a merchant or a laborer. Illiteracy is very high as few can pay for education. HIV is also a major factor within the slum areas as medical attention is not available and people have to travel into the city to a medical clinic.



HIV/ AIDS STATS

As reported by the Ministry of Education in June 2014, the following chart shows the location of 65% of the new HIV infections that occurred in 2013. Most of these listed are right around Lake Victoria/Kisumu area.

County	New HIV infections
Homa Bay	15,003
Kisumu	12,645
Siaya	12,059
Migori	8,292
Kisii	5,975
Nakuru	4,326
Turkana	3,141
Nyamira	2,507
Bomet	1,965

- 21% of new adult HIV infections occur among young women aged 15-24 every year.
- Women face considerably high risk of HIV then men and also experience a shorter life expectancy due to HIV/AIDS.
- Adult HIV prevalence is estimated to have fallen from 10% in the late 1990's to about 6.1% in 2005.

from Wikipedia



WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES....

This year we have encountered several children who have needed to be rescued....

- ◆ A young girl whose step-father killed her mother in a knife fight before her. She was traumatized and brought to Bethel for help by a neighbor. She is now in Bethel Home.
- ◆ It was discovered that 3 young children were getting their food from the garbage dump because their mother was so ill she can no longer walk or get out of bed. They now are getting their meals at Bethel.
- ◆ Two girls, living with their alcoholic father were rescued from their one room home. The father brought home other males and the possibility of molestation. They are now at Bethel Home.
- ◆ After the funeral of her mother, this young girl, age 9, had no where to go but back into the rented home in the slums. No one thought of her wellbeing. Now she is in the care of Bethel.
- ◆ Two very young girls were left, locked in the house by their mother. After two days, the neighbors heard their crying and authorities came to rescue the children and they were brought to Bethel.
- ◆ We have recently been given two young girls ages 2 & 3 by the Children's Department until their cases can be decided.

Every child has their own story of tragedy. All of them needing help.

COME SEE US AT QUARRY DAYS!

AUGUST 19,20,21,

Bethel will be selling Danny's Whole-Hog pulled pork burgers for a fund raiser towards the Building Project. So stop by with your appetite and join us for a burger and meal.

Drinks, freezies (for the kids) and cake along with locally grown honey.

Ride the Midway, see antique tractors and the car show. Don't forget the Fireworks at 10 pm Friday night.

Check out the schedule on line and come and see us—at least once if not more. Bring along your friends.



FALL SUPPER HAPPENS OCT 1 ST

We invite you to mark your calendars for this event. Come for a truly home-cooked meal and celebrate the coming Thanksgiving. Turkey, meat balls cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie—doesn't it make your mouth water!

Served Saturday, Oct 1. Seating is on a first come first served basis. Take out is welcome but only by ordering ahead of time—that same day. Invite your friends and come out for a meal and some fellowship.



CHILDREN STILL NEEDING SPONSORED

It is hard to believe that we already have 58 children under the Bethel Rays of Hope Ministries responsibility. We have had a generous response from so many people who have decided to come along side and help support the needs of these children.

But we have 7 children who we are caring for who yet do not have sponsors. If you know of someone who would be interested in sponsoring a child for \$50/mth, please let someone of the Board of Directors know or be our hands and voice to them on behalf of Bethel. By the time of the dollar exchange to the Kenyan shilling, it is only about \$36.00 that actually ends up going to the needs of the children. There are no frills in the budget for extra events or things. Pray that our dollar would become more valuable—especially for when we go to build.

Those children that are Community Based are provided with breakfast and lunch and, in some cases, supper, clothing if needed, school uniforms, education, school supplies, medical help and the personal basics of soap, toothbrush/paste, etc. Those living in Bethel Home also have the opportunity of living in the orphanage.

WHAT IS POVERTY OF THE HEART?

WHOEVER IS KIND TO THE NEEDY HONORS GOD PROV. 14:31

Every year nearly 30,000 children under the age of 5 die of hunger and preventable diseases. There are stories of abuse, neglect and evil that freeze the heart. In a harsh and messed-up world what are we to do? What does God want us to do?

But what do we know of that in our own lives? In *our* world? We have all our needs provided for, plus most of our wants. Yet is that what God has called us to?

In Isaiah 58, God talks to His people, the Israelites, about those who call on Him but they are pious, pretending to care for Him. They thought that they had done right but God corrects them saying “Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help” Is. 58:6-7

What does God call for each of us to do in each of our own spheres? A hard questions to answer.

Thoughts from Hope Lives A journey of Restoration by Amber Van Schooneveld



“Ministry is real work. It’s not just nice work—it’s hard work”

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO MINISTER?

Taking in some of the children from the various environments that they come from can result in a wide realm of care needed.

Take for example, shoes. Something that we take so for granted. Actually we probably have way to many shoes! But most of these children who come to us will only have a pair of flip flops or a broken down pair of shoes if they are lucky. Others will only be bare footed.

But those with bare feet are subject to the insects that live in the dust of their mud huts called jiggers.

Jiggers crawl into the skin, laying eggs and spreading very quickly. So much so that soon, feet are swollen and it’s painful to walk, fingers don’t bend as much because they are infected. And if they sleep on the floor—well they can be anywhere.

So it became a daily task to soak feet and hands every day for up to 3 months before all the jiggers had been eradicated from the children. That meant digging and pulling out the sack of eggs from under the skin and then putting socks back on the kids’ feet because they couldn’t wear shoes. It was too painful. ;

It means taking into your arms a frightened girl traumatized by witnessing the brutal murder of her mother and telling her that yes things are bad and they can never be changed but there are still people who can and do love and want to help. Holding that child all night long because when she fell asleep she would awaken in a nightmare that the step-father was coming for her.

Knowing that each child wants to have your attention when you arrive home just like any of our own children. Mom or Dad— Mama or Baba. All the children are watching eagerly for you to arrive and there is real lively rejoicing when you meet again.

But that’s family life, isn’t it? Don’t we do the same when we see our children (after they have moved out!)?

Bethel’s moto is “Bethel one family we stand.” Together, as a family stands in the easy and good times as well as the tough and harder times.

That’s “ministry”. Isn’t it?





BETHEL LEARNING CENTRE

more students. So it was agreed that we should open up the classes to the local community parents/guardians who could afford to pay a small tuition fee.

Now in 2016, we have over 200 children attending BLC with classes going from the Early Childhood Educa-

tion (age 4-6) and up to Grade 6. Next year we will start with Grade 7, followed by Grade 8. At that point the children will then have the opportunity to attend a trade school or, if their marks qualify and there is funding, they could attend a high school.

Bethel Learning Centre (BLC) was started January 2015 due to the need to provide education to our sponsored children. With the range of ages (3-13) and the range of learning needs, teachers were selected and classes formed. But the class sizes could allow for

We are continue to work adding books to the library that was started in Sieg Grafe's name. Many of these children had not held a book before so this is a new world opening up to them.

Literacy is the key to unlocking the cycle of poverty.

"The case is clear on the power of education. One additional year in school can increase a woman's earnings by 10 percent to 20 percent over a lifetime. Women with post-primary education are five times more likely than illiterate women to be educated on HIV prevention. Children of parents with a basic education are more likely to survive past the age of 5."



SO HOW IS THE SCHOOL DOING?

When you see children coming to the compound, going to their class and start teaching like the teacher at 7 am you know that they love coming to school!

In examinations, the school did mock exams with other schools in the area for grades 4-6. The grade 4 class scored 100% in math which put Bethel as ranking #1 in their area.

We have added more desks this past year but more are needed. Someone donated some books to our school but we are short many books.

Many of the children coming to the school are struggling to pay the small fee of about \$6.00 a month. They can't afford to pay for other things like pencils/paper so we try to provide these.



One of the most surprising achievement in 2015 was coming 1st in the regional competition in dancing where they danced a Scottish dance. And they came 4th in the National competition.!

Just this past June/July the music team earned certificates and a trophy. They did very well in regional level and were suppose to go to nationals in Nairobi but due to money constraints they were not able to go.

PURCHASING OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As you know, school supplies are cheapest at this time of the year. If you want to purchase things like pencils, pens, erasers, duo tangs & loose leaf, scribblers and crayons we would take these things with the group that goes in January 2017 or doing a donation equal to what you would have spent is better as we can only carry so much in January.



For those who have been praying for Mrs. Chamah after her fall - she has fully recovered and is now back 'in the saddle', fully recovered and asks prayer for God to touch the hearts of many people around Bethel. We are very thankful for the many hours she spends daily working for furthering the cause of Christ to the orphans and vulnerable children & their families.

