



BETHEL RAYS OF HOPE MINISTRIES

December 2015

highlights....

January was the start of the Bethel Learning Centre. This included children from the 2 local slum areas right around Bethel as well as our 42 children. The attendance quickly grew to over 150 children in total spanning from Baby class to Grade 5.

In February we lost Rev. Sieg Grafe suddenly. We established the beginnings of a library in his memory for the Bethel Children's Home. They are enjoying the world of reading. Something new for most all of the children.

In *July* Bethel Learning Centre competed at the Kenya National Music Festival. They came in 4th in Scottish dance and in spoken poetry. This was a huge surprise and a tremendous accomplishment. The whole school celebrated in the award.



Aug. 23rd was Cathy Mackie's Tea Party with assistance from her neighbours, Faith and Jenny. Though the day didn't allow for an outdoor party, it was a wonderful success, raising approximately \$2,000 in donations and \$550 for the African merchandise that was available for sale.



Eriksdale Horse Show - Aug 8th

Bethel had another fund raiser, managing the canteen and selling souvenirs. A wonderful sunny day that brought in \$1,100. Special thanks to Steve & Jenna, Bradley, Alvin, Tanner & Sara and Jim & Sandy for all the help allowing us to run the canteen for the second year in the roll.

October 3 was our 2nd annual Fall Supper. This year we raised over \$10,000 which included the sponsorship of some children. We had a great time enjoying working with such a wonderful group of volunteers. Thank you to all one who helped in so many ways.



Only 5 children needing sponsorship!

We are so thankful to all our sponsors who have taken a child under their care for their physical, educational and medical needs and are praying for that child.

HIV report After testing all the children in our care, we are so thankful to report that none of them are HIV +.

So what's happening now?

At the end of Oct there was a terribly strong wind that tore off the roof of the first two classrooms. We have repaired the damage but find that we need to add one more class for Grade 6 and another classroom for the youngest class as it continues to get wet inside as the rain water invades the property. We thank the men from the Monthly Men's Breakfast who gave extra money to help to divert the water away from the property.

The month of December:

Christmas clothes have already been purchased for Christmas.

Every December there is a **camp** (like summer camp for us) at the Ramba Church next door. This is a special time for the kids on school holidays and one that is a highlight in decision making and direction for their lives. All our 42 children will attend but this year we have paid for some of the community village children to attend as well. Though it costs about \$4.00 for the full week, many of these children have never gone. Pray that God would touch the hearts and lives of these children and their families. This village is right outside Bethel's gate and has been known for years as a slum.

The end of November is the end of the school year so December is holiday time. Each child is supposed to reconnect with whatever family members they have and spend a week with them. (as stipulated by the Children's Dept.) This also gives the Chamah family a bit of a time for themselves as a family. However, not all children were received by their family last year so they end up getting included as family, no matter what.

Annual General Meeting: Join us for an evening Dec 17 at New Life Church 7pm for a brief report (question/answer time) and financial information. We know that it's close to Christmas but we will only keep you for an hour. Promise!

Special Christmas Project: We need to purchase



textbooks for the students and also provide new desks for the Grade 6 class. A desk costs about \$30 for two – three children to sit at. If you are able to help out, please make a note that you are donating for this so the funds can be directed towards this.



Interested in a short term missions project? If you would like to become involved in helping with Bethel, please contact someone on the Board. We need volunteers in the following areas: teachers, teaching English as a second language, working in the Bethel office in Kisumu, teaching religious classes, doing evangelism in the community, doing construction work and a variety of other things.

January 2017 The Children's Department has given us 3 years to have a separate home for the boys, separate from the girls area. So we will be doing extra fund raising in 2016 to raise sufficient funds for this for next January. Please pray with us that God will provide and give us the guidance to know all the ins and outs that we need to know.

So look for fundraising events.... We are in the process of designing the dorm with some guest rooms and are planning for various events to help to raise the money. So look for ongoing fundraising events... such as perogy sales, a boot camp, a garage sale, and a bedding plant sale in the spring. We are praying that God will provide a group of willing and interested individuals to become The Helping Hands of Bethel. With this group we will be able to undertake many fundraising events and spread the workload among many of us. We need you! If you can donate some time on a as-needed basis please contact Cathy at cathryn_mary@hotmail.com (there is an _ between cathryn & mary) or one of the Board members.

A note from Edith Chamah (Director of Bethel Rays of Hope Ministries)

Hi Friends,

Greetings to all of you from Bethel Rays of Hope in Jesus Name.

We do praise God daily in our lives as we pray for you in our daily devotions. It's a great work that you friends do to make the work here run smoothly. It's so easy to be busy, and days, months and years fly by to an extend that we don't stop to look behind and thank God. It's on this effect that we write this e mail just to thank you for accepting to be vessels used by God to glorify Him through helping the poor, vulnerable and orphaned kids in Africa, Kenya. Not that you have a lot of monies, but that you have a willing heart to serve God in that manner.

The pictures that I sent to you after the kids won the regional music festival clearly depict a different picture from the pictures of kids on admission day. The joy, confidence, peace portrayed on these children's faces shows clearly that indeed a ray of Hope has shone on their lives. A loving environment, people who love and care for them sincerely...indeed God is a God of second chances.

All this comes because you are there supporting these kids, the staff, hence making us to achieve all the good results.

Thank you, God's people for the Good work. Your great reward of a wonderful crown awaits you in heaven. 1 Cor 15:58.
Amen.

Mrs. Edith Terry Chamah
Director
Bethel Rays Of Hope Ministries
- Kenya.



Other news: David Naykoko, one of the orphaned boys who has been with Bethel for many years and is now out on his own doing welding is getting married Dec 4th. Standing with David with be 4 other of his "brothers" from Bethel.

Contact us email: board@bethelraysofhope Website: www.betheraysofhope.com Or like us on Facebook
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