

# **BETHEL RAYS OF HOPE** **MINISTRIES**

## Fall 2023



### **Chairman's Comments**

About one year ago, some of the Bethel board members were able to take a trip to Kisumu, Kenya, and visit the Bethel Rays of Hope children's home and the Bethel Learning Center. We knew our school building there was in rough shape but to see it first hand was eye-opening.

The building was constructed with used sheets of metal and timber back in 2015 and then, in 2018, moved to the other side of the property to make room for a new school building. After 5 years of delays, pandemics, and lack of funds, we are still operating in the same facility. This "building" leaks and its floors wash away in the floods and the rains. It bakes and heats up in the relentless African sun, but still our kids outperform the local public schools and our students continue to excel in their education.

The facility was inspected by the Kenyan Board of Education and we were given 3 months to start construction of a new building or they were going to shut us down. That was about 10 months ago, and we are still going. We have about 250 kids coming to school every day and getting a free lunch, which for many is the only meal of the day.

We are slowly raising money (we have \$60,000 dollars raised so far) to construct a new building, and working with the City of Kisumu to install a new sewer line to our property so we can connect our school to it. Once the connection is complete, we hope to put shovels in the ground and begin construction of a new building.

This new school building will help us educate our kids under the new Kenyan curriculum which requires infrastructure that we currently do not have. Our new school will allow us to teach kids in an environment that is clean and multi-functional. It will also give us a place to grow our local church services on Sundays, and bring the good news of Jesus to the local communities.

### **Recent Update**

Recent storms have washed away the mud floors of the classrooms and winds have torn off the metal sheeting on the roof. The wooden support posts are also rotten and breaking.

Unfortunately we are finding ourselves in a difficult position of having to spend money to fix up the old structure while we work on plans for the new one. Please pray for wisdom as to what should be done, so money and energy are all spent wisely. Also pray and ask how the Lord would have you help us.



*A picture of the existing school.*

### **Fall Supper 2023**



Our Fall Supper was held September 30<sup>th</sup>. We are thankful for all who helped and came out to support this event. We raised \$6,800.00 that will go towards the new school build.

## Students graduated to College



Elizabeth Akello: Enrolled at The Kenya Medical Training Institute to take Health Records



Elijah Azangu: Enrolled at The Kenya Medical Inst. to take Public Health



Joshua Odhiambo: Enrolled at RIAD Inst. of Technology taking Information Technology



Lucy is 17 yrs old in Form 2 (Grade 10) Due to the poverty level, her parent is not able to afford the little money needed for school fees. We have helped with her educational needs since 2019 and she has since moved into Bethel Home

*With your help of \$50.00/mth she can live at Bethel Home with full support..*



Troons lived with his 5 siblings and mother. Their mom has been on her own after her husband passed away and lives a hard life of "hand to mouth". His mom is currently battling cancer which makes life more difficult, especially considering she is the breadwinner of the family.

*With your help of \$50.00/mth he can live at Bethel Home with full support..*

## Christmas Giving Project

You can help us to build the new school or provide school supplies for the New Year. Make a tangible purchase of the following:

Buy some Bricks \$5.00 ea

Buy a Bag of cement \$10.00 ea

School supplies \$25.00

To donate, see attached form

## Prayer Requests and Praise

Pray as we move forward with decisions regarding the design and construction of the new school building.

We welcome Ivan Mikho who is helping with our media and communications.

Pray for a team of 5 volunteers who are planning on visiting the orphanage in January.

## Contact us

For general inquiries : [board@bethelraysofhope.com](mailto:board@bethelraysofhope.com)

To Support a child : [board@bethelraysofhope.com](mailto:board@bethelraysofhope.com)

For ways to donate: [treasurer@bethelraysofhope.com](mailto:treasurer@bethelraysofhope.com)

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