



February 1, 2024

Dear Friends,


Not sure what happened to January, but here we are ready for February. Edward and I are getting ready to head out to Kenya for a month. This will be Ed's first trip to Africa, so it will be fun introducing him to this part of my life as we meld it into our work together. I understand that our MDP workers are going to give us a traditional Maasai wedding when we get there, so watch for pictures in the next letter.

On this trip beside the Administrative Office work that I will be doing, we plan to visit as many of the churches that were built, in 2023, as we are able. Please pray for us as Kenya is having unusual rains for this time of year. Usually it is hot and dry, but I am told to get to one of the places we plan to visit, we may have to wade through a small river to get there. I am praying for some sunshine while we are there, but we will see, it will be an adventure for sure. Our first Sabbath after arriving we plan to visit the first church that we built last April. This is a very dry and hot place where a group of ladies walked four hours without water to come to the service where we were at. How I wish we could bring you all with us to visit and meet this beautiful group of brothers and sisters.


**MDPEC:** Of course we will be staying out at our MDP Education Centre with the children. I am anxious to meet all of our new children. Since I wrote last we received yet another girl, her name is Nakoyian, she is a 14 year old and had just completed class 8. Her father and brother conspired to marry her off to a 38 year old man from Tanzania, hoping to escape any penalties by sending her to Tanzania and out of the jurisdiction of Kenya. When Nakoyian was told she was to marry, she refused so her brother beat her very badly at which time she ran away. Unfortunately, she ran into a herd of elephants and was almost trampled, she escaped and ended up going back home. Fortunately, a neighbor, who knew the plans to send her to Tanzania, contacted our MDPEC manager, James, who in turn contacted the Children's Office and was given permission to rescue her immediately. When the father and brother discovered that the government was involved, they escaped to Tanzania to avoid arrest.

**REPAIRS:** On another note, it was discovered that one of the Acacia Tree at our Centre had to be cut down because the root system had so aggressively grown under our property wall and into one of our water storage tanks, that the wall was beginning to collapse, and the roots had penetrated into the water tank so that it was not holding the water. I just received the estimates for repair of both and it is as follows: **Wall—\$2,230 and the Water storage—\$500.** If the Lord puts on your heart to help with these repairs, please mark "Wall" or "Water" repair on your donations.

**MDP LAY PASTORS:** We are stepping out in faith and answering the call for **six more lay pastors.** Interviews were held just this week. Would your church be willing to sponsor a lay pastor at **\$200 per**

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**month?** Let us know and our MDP Director of Sponsorships, Lynette Zapara, will send you a picture and information on your pastor. We have several churches that are sponsoring lay pastors and is a good way to share the cost as well.

**MOTORCYCLES:** Of course this means that we will need six more motorcycles at \$1,300 per bike.

While in Kenya I will also be assessing which stations need a toilet and/or pastor houses which is going to be our push for 2024. Some of our pastors have to travel a long distance for their visitations, so to have a house on the church plot will be very convenient. The cost of each **pastor's house will be \$4,055**. This will include a sitting area, plus an extra room for cooking or for fellow pastors or guests to stay while in the area. I will get a picture of what the houses will look like and send in the next update.

The **toilets** which will serve both the church congregation as well as the Pastor, will cost **\$2,092**, which will include two stalls and a shower room for the Pastor.

I am hoping to send updates while I am gone for Maritza to put on our website and social media, so keep checking the website for those updates: [www.4mdp.org](http://www.4mdp.org).

Until next time,

Jan Ashley,

Founder/CEO

Maasai Development Project



**NAKOYIAN  
Saitabali:**