

March 7, 2023




Dear Friends,

After an eventful month and a half, everyone is back in the states and settling back into the regular routines of daily life. What a fun time with Mike and Tawnya Breakie, Terri Yoshida and Dina Johnson. It was good for me to experience Kenya again through new eyes of Mike and Dina, this being their first trip to Kenya. Sometimes after so many years, I may not even notice things that seem common everyday sights but is seen quite differently through fresh eyes. It brings more appreciation for the great privilege and opportunity God has given me over the years.


First stop was down in an extremely hot area of Maasailand, Magadi. All of our MDP lay pastors working in the Kajiado County met for a special Sabbath School and church service together with as many members of their churches as were able to attend. One group of ladies asked to speak with me after the service, they shared with me how they had been worshipping under a tree for 10 years. When asked how long it took them to walk to church that morning, they said that they had walked four hours to reach church. Being as hot as it was, I couldn't help but notice that they did not have any water with them, when asked if they carried any water with them they answered, "No". The dedication and determination of this small group of ladies amazed me. As an MDP group, we decided right then and there that the first church to be built was going to be in their village. They were excited and thrilled to hear that they would soon have a church to worship in. As we said our goodbyes as they could begin the four hour trek back home, we sent containers of water home with them. I'll never forget the look on their faces as they received water and took long drinks. Somehow it seemed that their steps were lighter as they began their journey home. We had brought money enough from the states to build two churches, and in just a day and a half after arriving, God had made it abundantly clear where the first one was to be. As I write this, our MDP representative in charge of building projects, James, has already gone to Kiserian to price out materials and is back at the MDPEC speaking to our Contractor that is remodeling our buildings at the Centre, putting together the estimate. Our Contractor will send workers down with James to begin the building of the church ASAP. Watch for updates.

Back at the MDPEC, demolition of our dormitory got under way. Beforehand, it was all hands on deck as all of the children were transferred over to the secondary dormitory to live temporarily. As of yesterday, the tresses are back up on the dorm and the rebuilding of the stonework will begin. The building had to be demolished all the way down to the top of all the windows and doors. That was a bit more than what we had planned, but I can tell you, these buildings will not be collapsing when finished. Thank you to all of our donors who helped to make the collapsing buildings safe for our children and staff.

MDP hosted another "Community Engagement" in another area of Nkorika along with the Children's Officers in Narok. Upon arrival, we met with the chief and teacher in that area. The school was just recently opened, because people in that area don't educate their children, the chief and teacher and been visiting every home and telling the parents they must send their children to school. On a day when everyone shows up to school, they have 143 children, classes K-4th grade. As I visited the classrooms I was saddened to see that they didn't have exercise books and very few desks. Their were 6-8 children crowded on one desk that seats two. The teacher told me that when it is time to write in their exercise books they then have to sit on the floor. To make matters worse, they only have one dilapidated latrine outside for everyone's use. The

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teacher shared that they many times have to head for the bush during the day. As I thought about how God had blessed MDPEC, I remembered how Jesus said, “As much as you have done it unto the least of these, my children, you have done it unto Me.” I knew that MDP must share their blessings with these children. As of now, we plan to build a four block toilet for the children. I am hoping, after speaking with the Children’s Officer, that perhaps he will be able to get some donors that would be willing to build a latrine for the teachers as well. It will be built not with iron sheets, but with permeant blocks for longer sustainability. Most likely it will cost about \$3,500. We invite you to join us in this new project that will benefit 100’s of children as they begin to go to school. I know that some of you will ask about the desks as well. Last time we made desks for a school it was about \$35 per desk. Before leaving Kenya, we sent 200 exercise books, 200 pencils, sharpeners, and chalk for the teachers. Please pray for this struggling school.

The last week in Kenya, three girls were admitted into our already cramped dormitory. One girl had been coming to our gate every day for three weeks. Her father took her out of school with plans for marrying her off, she ran away but we did not take her in right away because of our cramped situation in the dorm. Another mother brought her daughter everyday for about two weeks who was in the same situation. Her father had already accepted the dowry for her marriage. She is 12 years old. The third girl’s grandmother passed away, who had been taking care of her, as she is a total orphan. She had just completed class 8 with very high marks. We knew that the male relatives would most likely marry her off as she was not sent back to school. Long stories short, all three are at our Centre, two of the girls in class 6 with the third in Form I or 9th grade.

The last Friday night at the Centre all of the girls and staff came down to the guesthouse for worship and time of singing and fellowship together before saying goodbye to yet another trip. How I wish each of you could have been there to listen to the girls sing, laugh, dance and yes, pray together. One thing that made me stop and reflect was when we told the girls that we were going to hand out a new towel for each of the girls that night along with uniforms and shoes, but when the word towel was mentioned, they broke out in shouts and cheers. A towel, friends! How many can say they would cheer and clap at being given a towel.? My heart was full as I went to my room that night, I am so fully enriched by these beautiful children, and staff that I call my friends. God continues to bless, provide, and lead us forward in the work He has given us to do. Thank you to each one of you as we continue moving forward together.


One more thing, it has come to my attention that several of you have called the office, wondering if someone would be available to visit and make presentations. The answer is yes, I will be contacting those who have already asked in the next few weeks to set up a schedule. Please let our office know if you would like to be scheduled for someone to visit your church, school, or organizations for a presentation on MDP.

Until Next Time,


Jan Latsha

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Founder/Executive Director



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