



Maasai Development Project

Changing Lives in Kenya, One Child at a Time.

April 4, 2024

Dear Friends,

Here is the month of April already. In Spokane we are definitely into the Spring rains and looking forward to the May flowers. The secondary students will also soon be returning to the Centre for their one month Term 1 break.

Something that I have not mentioned in the past is that we have been concerned about the amount of sleep our children are able to get at the Centre, due to the school policies of having to be at the school until 10:00 PM, for study time (Preps), and then coming home, bed preparation, worship etc. Except for the youngest of our girls, the majority of our primary girls are getting only 4 –5 hours of sleep per night, as they arise at 4:00 AM to be at morning preps at 5 AM. Mind you, this is 7 days a week. We have two concerns, #1—Lack of sleep especially at their age. #2—On Friday nights when we are wanting to bring in the Sabbath with sundown worship, they are gone. In the past there has not been a lot of cooperation from the primary school next door. But we are so convicted that our girls would do much better in school *if* they could have more hours of rest, and of course have one evening a week to completely rest. While in Kenya I was able to sit down with both the MDPEC manager and our Administrator and we came up with a proposal to present to the Principal at the School:

- That our children be allowed to have their study preps at the Centre and not at the school.
- We would hire a teacher to tutor our children at the Centre, rather than school. We would begin earlier and end earlier so that by 9:30 pm the lights are out. This would enable our girls to have almost 7 hours of sleep rather than four to five hours.
- They would not have Preps on Friday evenings, but would have a night off.

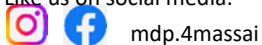
We asked that we be given a trial run of one school term, if our children's grades suffer, then they go back to evening preps. However, if our children's grades go up or at least stay status quo, then we be allowed to continue this program.

Good News, the Principal has agreed to a trial run with one exception—that we hire two teachers instead of one because of the number of girls that we have. We are in the process of identifying two teachers and hope to start at the beginning of the 2nd term which is at the beginning of May. Please pray for our children, we want to give them every opportunity for success in their lives, and we believe that with a more balanced schedule, that they will thrive and may encourage change for the other children who will still be suffering with lack of sleep and exhaustion.

Two more churches were build in the month of March and a third is being worked on starting today at Empongponi. This church will be different in that it was actually started by a few well wishers from the states. But unfortunately, was never completed, as a worker left with the money ,and in the meantime the building had been left deteriorating. MDP is wanting to complete this project not only for the community, but to honor those that so trustingly meant only to bless the community. (This was not an MDP project) We *do* have an MDP Lay Pastor there and we met with him and some of his members. I can tell you they are very excited to see the project completed and to have the opportunity to worship in the church, and *out* of the extreme weather. This year has been a very wet year and the trees do not shield them from the rain. Please keep this project in your prayers as well.

Website: www.4mdp.org

Like us on social media:



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This month, KHQ News came to the MDP office in Spokane and did an interview. The interview was aired on the 6:30pm news They wrote an article about the organization on their website as well. If you would like to watch the news clip and/or read the article, you can go to our MDP Facebook page, where the link is, or simply go to KHQ News—Spokane, WA, and then in the search bar for the website type in Jan Ashley. Both the clip and the article will be shown

MISSION TRIP: One last note for this month. In October of this year from the 13th—the 28th, we are planning a mission trip. We can take up to 30 people. If you are interested in joining us or know of someone that would be interested, please let us know. In the next two weeks I should have the trip information ready to email out to those that are interested.

Well, that is about it for another month. Thank you to each one of you who have been helping us provide for the children, helping with the much needed repairs at the Centre, providing motorcycles for our pastors (four since January!!), building more churches, and of course making it possible to send more lay pastors into the field. What a blessing you are!

Until Next Month,

Jan Ashley

Founder/CEO

Maasai Development Project

