

NKUNGA QUARTERLY REPORT OCT-DEC 2008

The October to December quarter was a great one, packed with a lot of activities and challenges. We thank God for seeing us through it and blessing us in various ways.

New Teacher

During the quarter, the PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) was able to employ a new teacher called Flora. Her employment has lessened the teaching load amongst the teachers as she is able to assist with lessons in all classes. This is a great help to the pupils and an encouragement to the whole Nkunga community. The parents pay Ksh. 100 per month to cater for her salary

Spiritual development

Children from grade 4-8 have continued to receive spiritual lessons on Tuesday afternoons. On three occasions, both grade 7 and 8 pupils – a total of 51 pupils - were taken through the book of Esther and Mark 11:22-26. They were taught that Esther was an orphan who with the help of her uncle Modecai was able to rescue her people, the Jews. Esther was from a humble and poor background but she used her intelligence, resources and opportunities to do great things for her community. From the reading, the children were encouraged to be focused and determined and God would bless them regardless of their poor background. Nkunga pupils were challenged that they too, despite their tender age, can rescue their community from drug abuse, illiteracy, immorality and all other forms of negative behaviour. From Mark 11:22, the main lesson was on faith and

the memory verse was, **“Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours”**. The final event held for spiritual development took place when the 20 grade 8 students, together with their parents, teachers, church pastors and other community members gathered together to pray for them before they began their final year exams that took place at the end of November.



Children's Camp

During the month of December, 22 secondary school and vocational students from Nkunga teamed up with other students from other CDP centres - Township, Marere, Isiolo and Njuruta - for a 3 day camp which was held at Kaaga School for the Deaf. The theme for the camp was, “Let Obedience Change Your Life” from Ephesians 6:1.

The following topics were taught -

- ❖ Meaning of salvation
- ❖ Realizing oneself and conflict resolution
- ❖ Self esteem
- ❖ Boy/girl relationships
- ❖ Entrepreneurship
- ❖ Drug abuse/drug substances and their effects



The climax was the issue of beautiful Tee-shirts to all the students that were in attendance which had the FH logo in front and the camp's theme at the back

Expected results from the camp

Participants will:

- ❖ Say "no" to drugs and train other people in the community to do the same.
- ❖ Involve themselves in value-adding community projects.
- ❖ Start small businesses for their sustainability.
- ❖ Be good role models in the community.
- ❖ Continually focus on God for their success
- ❖ Put more effort in their studies
- ❖ Lead in organizing Christmas parties and camps in future

Christmas Party

Further to this, in the month of December, the 242 children from Nkunga along with their parents had a Christmas party organized by FH/Kenya. It was a good experience and a blessing to many children who hardly celebrate Christmas in such an elaborate manner because of financial constraints. Different varieties of food were prepared. The secondary/vocational students took the lead in decorating the venue, cooking, serving and singing Christmas carols.



Readings from Isaiah 9: 6-7 and Luke 2: 1-7 encouraged both the parents and the children.

Violet's Visit

During the month, Violet, the CDP manager visited Nkunga and had a successful meeting with the CDP stakeholders to evaluate their activities for the year. She was happy with the Church-Leaders & Family activities in the village carried out by the various churches summarized as follows:

- ❖ EAPC church had a successful youth rally which was held at Meru Technical College.
- ❖ 10 Full Gospel Church Sunday School children attended a weekend challenge at Mulathankari Centre.
- ❖ The MCK St. Matthew's youth are mobilizing the community to attend a seminar weekend challenge in January.
- ❖ The youth from the Catholic Church held a mini-fundraising that raised Ksh 80,000 shillings to buy music instruments for their church.

Violet encouraged the stakeholders to continue working diligently in serving their communities and challenged each group to go the extra mile in playing their role for the betterment of Nkunga as a whole.

Parents' Income Generating Activities (IGAs)

During the quarter, parents were busy in their farms. This is the season that a big harvest is expected but only if the rains are sufficient. Along with general planting, the cluster groups (beneficiary parents) were trained on kitchen gardening to supplement the maize and beans that they grow. They have planted sukuma wiki (kale) cabbage, spinach and other vegetables in their kitchen gardens. Each group has 10 members. They have fenced off each member's small farm, applied manure and together planted in each other's piece of land. Both men and women were engaged in this activity. During each meeting, each member contributes Ksh.20 (totalling to Ksh.200 per group) that they use for buying pesticides.

Another of the groups is also involved in weaving baskets and ropes. Ropes are in high demand especially with women who collect firewood. One rope goes for Ksh.100.

Environment day



Everybody wanted to make good use of the rains, therefore Rosemary, the FH staff in Nkunga, liaised with the forestry department and was able to acquire 1,500 tree seedlings of different species for the community. From the 1,500

seedlings, 400 were planted in the school compound, 500 in the 112 beneficiary homes and 600 more by the prayer group members. Each member from the beneficiary homes and prayer group planted 5 trees in his/her compound. The group leaders were very helpful in making the exercise successful. The idea behind this is to:-

- Improve the environment for both birds and wild animals as God commands
- To beautify Nkunga community
- To improve water catchment
- To provide timber for building for the future generations
- To provide fuel

Social activities

The children engaged in extra-curricular activities for social growth. In conjunction with Safaricom, one of Kenya's leading mobile phone service providers, the children participated in a marathon that was attended by over 100 children from the zonal schools. Three of the Nkunga school children, Karimi Evelyn and Mutwiri participated and finished the race. They were appreciated with a token of Ksh.2000, and Ksh.700 respectively. The money was a boost to the pupils and their parents. Our prayer is that the pupils' talents will continue to be nurtured in the future.

Emotional support

During the quarter, 30 parents were visited. They shared their challenges, fears and successes with the field staff and some of these meetings got quite emotional. Rosemary and her team encouraged and prayed with these families and we trust that God will supply their needs.

Success story

When Rosemary was on her regular home visits, she visited a young lady called Karamuta. Karamuta is a beautiful woman but has partial mental illness. She lives with her 4 younger siblings for whom she is responsible. At the time of the visit, Rosemary found that the young children had been locked inside a room, with no food, clothing or beddings. They were crying in hunger yet their elder sister had nothing to offer them. The situation looked bleak and desperate. After speaking with her, praying and buying some little food for them, Rosemary returned to the Meru office and shared her experience with her colleagues. Her colleagues were very moved by this and contributed foodstuff, clothes and beddings to Karamuta's family. They delivered this on an afternoon just before Christmas, much to the family's surprise and delight. Karamuta was also incorporated into one of the cluster groups and is now learning how to grow a small kitchen garden and make ropes to earn a living.



Challenges

- There are many desperate and needy families in the village
- Due to financial constraints, children are not able to get medical attention from the district hospital
- One parent and two guardians passed on during the quarter

PRAYER REQUEST

- Pray for peace in the country
- Pray for the parents, pastors and the community leaders to be able to lead and counsel their children during the Christmas holiday.
- Thank God for the parents initiative in employing the teacher
- Thank God for the successful Christmas party and the camp.
- Pray for rain as it has reduced drastically.