



Living Waters Intl

Living Waters Newsletter

April 2012

Lake Victoria's Lighthouse of H2OPE
Kaswanga/Wanyama
Rusinga, Mbita, Kenya

In February 2012 Daryl, Mary Jo, and Daryl's brother, Rusty, traveled to Kaswanga to move forward with the construction project of the medical clinic/guest house. But first let us tell you about the children at the feeding center.

Drought, Disease and 150 Orphaned Children: Due to ongoing drought, disease and death the dynamics of the feeding center population changed dramatically this year. We are now caring for 150 orphaned children with food, school uniforms and medical care. Our child population has changed in ways we did not expect. Seventy five percent are total orphans; which means they have no mother, father or guardian to care for them.



They live in child-headed homes and because of the three year drought most are totally dependent on the food they receive from the feeding center. Living Waters was providing one hot meal on week-days. We have discovered that for many of these children that was the only food they were getting and that the school uniform is the only clothes they have; so they wear them seven days a week. For many there is no mat to sleep on so their school uniform is the only thing between their bare flesh and the cold hard and dirty ground. This has left the uniforms in shreds and the self-esteem of the children has also been affected. Our budget for 10 uniforms a month is seriously lacking. The children however are looking much healthier even though 50 percent have been confirmed to have the AIDS virus passed along at birth. The food provided at the feeding center and the medication provided by the government has made a big difference in the lives and outcomes of these children.

New Changes: Our assessment led to the following changes which have been taken on in faith. Starting in April, the feeding program was expanded to provide a daily meal to the total orphans on week-ends. We are also providing breakfast for approximately 40 total orphan children ages 4-7 that attend the Living Waters Kaswanga Academy. These children have not been getting the 10 am breakfast provided to the other children who have parents who can pay for this meal. In addition we provide lunch at the feeding center for the three volunteer teachers who teach at the school.

These teachers were going without lunch due to lack of food. There has not been a normal harvest for three years and the food prices are not only extremely high, but often food is hard to find. This new objective increased our monthly food budget by 22 percent and the money is simply not there, but we believe God's hand is over this new objective and that He will provide through our loyal donors.

New Believers: The children at the feeding center were delighted with having Mary Jo play her guitar at meal time. Musical instruments are rare on the island and they really opened their hearts up to us through the music ministry. Over sixty of the older kids have been baptized over the period the feeding center has been opened and

we praise God for their commitments to serve Him.

Your Contributions at Work: The medical clinic/guest house building was nearly completed when we left. We ran short on both time and funding to complete the building project; however, we would like to thank those who participated in the matching funds program. \$1550.00 was raised and matched for a total of \$3000.00. As you can see from the pictures, much was accomplished. The building is wired for solar electric since there is no reliable electric available, plumbed for water that includes a flush toilet, running water in the bathroom, a shower and hot and cold water in both the kitchen and clinic. A solar hot water system is planned to provide hot water.



The 2 bedroom guest house will provide lodging and accommodations for those interested in short term mission trips to provide medical, dental or humanitarian evangelism/aid. This is a huge cost savings as the price of lodging in Mbita has become cost prohibitive. The interior walls are in and plastered, the doors and windows are installed and the front veranda is screened. Still needed is approximately \$6000.00 to complete the installation of the total solar which includes: a solar refrigerator and 85 gallons of hot water. Also needed to complete the project is the interior electrical fixtures and exterior lighting, painting, window screens, medical supplies and furniture.

We hope to have the necessary funding to have this available for use by next year.

We met some wonderful friends who have committed time in Mbita helping those who are less fortunate and truly believe God is continuing to inspire those who support Living Waters to continue to do so in these hard times.

Your valuable contributions provided:

- ▶ 20 drip irrigation systems to assist in combating starvation
 - ▶ Supplies for ½ mile of water line, wind mill pump replacement, water filtration and purification systems, purchase of 2 additional large water tanks,
 - ▶ professional and non-skilled labor
 - ▶ local transportation expenses
 - ▶ accommodations and meals for missionary staff
 - ▶ fuel for numerous generators supplying power for water pumps and electrical energy
 - ▶ shipping of 12 tubs with medical and other supplies from the US to Kaswanga
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- ▶ medications for the sick
 - ▶ assistance to the orphans
 - ▶ health talks to over 1000 school age children
 - ▶ sharing the gospel through the “Jesus” video seen by approximately 9000 people
 - ▶ a variety of other incidental projects related to any of the above

Where do we go from here?

There is much

- ▶ Completion of the digging of the well
- ▶ Complete the gravity feed water system bringing lake water to the well, thus eliminating the need to use a gasoline powered pump since they have no money for the fuel
- ▶ Refitting the windmill for the deeper well
- ▶ Repair the windmill transmission system
- ▶ Installing another ½ mile of water pipe for another kiosk

Installing the Tom Mboya Secondary School purification system inline, thus providing fresh water to all who use this resource on campus, including; staff housing, the dorms, water kiosk and kitchen.

- ▶ Install 100 additional drip irrigation systems to grandparent and foster parent headed homes for the orphans
- ▶ Provide 3 more churches with Bible felt sets
- ▶ Encourage sponsors for orphans to be fed and attend school. A child could be sponsored for \$30/month.

The need is great but your individual resources combined will provide Living Waters the ability to continue this valuable work on the island of Rusinga. Time is of an essence. Lives are being lost and lives are being saved. Please help us in saving these people's lives. Thank you for your continuing support.