



## Saved By God's Grace Newsletter

### May 2014

Hi Friends,

**It was about a week ago and something changed...maybe it was my attitude.** If you read the April newsletter you would know April was difficult for me here in Kenya. Well that "cloud" continued until just a week ago or so and it has begun to lift. At that time a friend of mine, Joseck, contacted me and told me of a family which he stumbled upon in the outback. The dad had died from AIDs, the mom probably has AIDs, maybe the kids too. The mom had chiggers (an insect which burrows into your skin and uses you as a host to live on) so bad she could not walk to greet Joseck, but rather came on her knees. The kids (4 of them under 13) also had chiggers. The kids attended a government school with ripped uniforms which showed their buttocks (they had no underwear) and they went to school without shoes. They went dirty since they had no water to use for bathing and there was an odor associated with them. The other kids in the school would not associate with them because of the way they looked and their clothes (or lack of them), so they stayed together as a group of 4 to themselves. They slept in a house the size of a bedroom in the US on a dirt floor...that is why they had so many chiggers. They ate weeds (literally weeds, not greens) boiled in water daily. He said when he saw the conditions they were living in he was brought to tears...so was I as I read about their plight. Joseck was actually indignant and went to the school to see why this was not reported to someone so that something could be done. The head master knew of the kids he talked about and said he allowed them to come to school with no shoes and in that condition so at least they were learning. He went to the pastor of the church where they were attending and the pastor said he only knew they stopped coming to church and didn't know their fate (although he lived right down the road from them and according to the mom they didn't stop going to the church, but were made to be outcasts when the husband died of AIDs and no one would assist them with anything). The saddest notion of this whole thing is that you could see the mom and kids had no hope; they truly believed they had no worth and no one cared whether they lived or died...their existence on this planet meant nothing to no one. God brought it clearly to me their existence on this planet was, in some way, the reason for my existence on this planet. I asked Joseck, what is the need? He put together a list of things needed to take care of the chiggers, get uniforms and shoes, get beds and mattress so they would be off the floor, get them a second set of clothes, get hygiene items like a bathing pail and soap and get some school supplies for them along with some food items.

I just received a report before I began this newsletter that the mom and an unrelated woman who was just there looking at what was being done for this family accepted the Lord Jesus as their Savior while this was all happening. The joy of living out the Gospel...having people come to know the love of Jesus and devote their lives to Him...what a gift. My friends, Scripture tells of how Jesus did miracles, fed the people, gave of himself so people would open their hearts to His message of eternal life...we have to do the same.

While we help people here daily with the providence He has given us through you, our supporters, my attitude still gets jaded, or maybe it is calloused, because of the unending need, the extreme poverty, the requests for help we receive daily which we don't have the resource to assist with, and just the plain simple depressing situations I see daily. What the Lord did is renew my attitude by using this situation for His glory and my

good. Not only is this family seeing hope once more (and two people have claimed eternal life in Christ), but I am back to seeing the love of Christ and my "job" in showing that love to whoever He places in my path. And while life will continue as it has in Kenya (and many other third world countries), the situations placed before me are things the Lord wants me to do something about...the small acts of love which lead to people seeing the ultimate love which is contained in and brought forth from our Lord Jesus.

So I thank Him for giving me a much needed attitude adjustment by calling me to assist this family in their need and allowing me to see a small part of His love for these kids as He called them to Him and placed hope in their lives once more. May you be the hope in others lives as we serve the Almighty through His grace and power. Be the hands of the Lord Jesus and give hope so that others may come to see eternal hope in Him. Amen!.

**Project are continuing and progress is being made...here is an update.** The upper floor of the mission home continues to be worked on. The plastering on the outside of the building is done, the electrical conduit and boxes have been placed, the plumbing has been done and the interior plastering should begin next week...wow, good progress for the month. The down well in the shamba is going to have the upper slab poured Monday. At that time it cures for 21 days and then it will be ready to be plastered and have tanks placed on the top. The animal shelter is completed by the grace of God and we look to have Breezy the cow here next week. So, you can see no one sat on their butts this past month relative to the projects which are in progress.

Relative to projects outside of the children's home, we completed the community well project in Luanda. People who have had to travel distances to get water from a polluted river now are getting water from a local well through a faucet (many had never seen a faucet and were amazed to see how it worked...turn it around and water comes out). We have begun working with a local family whose dad had infected the mothers (yes he had two wives) and the daughters with AIDs. The mothers have both died as has the one sister. The remaining girl, so sweet, is now getting medicine and food....we will see where God takes her now. As I mentioned above, we are working with that family to allow them to have the basic necessities so they have an opportunity to lead as normal a life they can here in Kenya. We also continue to work with a friend in Nakuru who works with AIDs children and their parents in getting medical attention, food and paying educational fees.

All of this is done by the grace of God and your support. We never forget to thank the Lord for those of you He brings to us and we personally thank you for your partnership in allowing us to show the love of God to His children.

**What about finances?** The match which you know has been going on for the past two months is now ended and it was successful!..fully matched! With that, we are able to continue to move forward on the mission home and the other projects. We have never to date had a matching program which has not been totally funded. I want to thank you for always listening to the Lord and making these things so successful...**NOW HERE IS ANOTHER PERSON BLESSING US WITH A FUND RAISER...**

A gentleman in Michigan, Larry, is biking for Saved By God's Grace during the summer. He is anticipating that he will ride approximately 2,500 miles. He is accepting pledges for each mile he rides. The funds will be used to place computers in the study hall on the upper floor of the mission home for the kids. Tammy has set up an email address where you can pledge an amount per mile or a one-time pledge based upon his ride. We will notify you of the miles he has done and collect the pledge money sometime late summer/early fall. To date he has ridden 800 miles toward his goal. To pledge, simply send an email message outlining what you pledge per mile or your one-time lump sum to [bikeathon@savedbygodsgrace.org](mailto:bikeathon@savedbygodsgrace.org). We will notify you on how many miles he has done and when it is complete so you can send your pledge to our mail box in the US or over the web at our website donation page. Thanks for your prayerful consideration of support.

We also have started a **Community Benevolence Fund**. As requests come in for assistance, we always look into the request and see if it is legitimate. If it is found to be so, then we pray and see which of the many requests we can fill and how it will affect the running of the children's home. Many times we cannot take any funds away from the children's home, but Tammy and I will use what money is given to us for living in Kenya (about \$600/month) to fulfill these needs. What we want to do, if God so moves you to assist, is to have this Community Benevolence Fund to use specifically for these monthly needs. These monthly needs are things such as food for a literally starving family, purchasing bedding so children are not sleeping on the ground,

assisting with school fees where if not paid they will be kicked out of school, transporting and paying for people to go to the hospital for treatment, getting people who have been treated out of the hospital (hospital jail as we call it) and many other single, one-time needs to be addressed on a monthly basis. We would like to get \$1,000 monthly being placed into the fund through monthly givers to the fund. At \$20 a month we need 50 people. At \$40 month we need 25 people. In addition, we can always take one time donations for the fund. This fund will be kept totally separate from the other funds and allow us to assist in numerous ways for the glory of God on a case by case basis. If anyone is in a position to assist us in starting the fund with a one-time amount we would be very grateful also as the needs are always there and we would like to get something started so we are not always making decisions between helping the community and serving our kids here at the home. You can click [here](#) to donate to this need. Simply select "other" in the allocation drop down box and write "Benevolence" in the comment section. Please prayerfully contemplate how you may help and thank you for your consideration.

The Lord continues to give me hope and I pray your hope is also found in Him. I pray your hearts are opened and you move closer to Him each day through prayer and action. I ask when you find yourself "dry" and feeling depressed about things in life you wait on Him...pray to Him that He lift you out of whatever is causing your pain and suffering and if He decides you must continue on, to use the thing you are going through to honor Him and bring you closer to Him as we move toward eternal life. We are assured by Scripture He will once again fill us to enable us to serve Him as he extends His sufficient grace and we embrace it and use it as our strength to move forward. Tammy and I pray for you almost daily and love you all in the grace of Jesus. Your love and prayers which you extend to us and this mission are so appreciated as is your financial support.

May our Lord be above you to bless you, in front of you to guide you, behind you to protect you, and inside you to save you.

Serving with you only by His grace,

Chuck

Missionary to Kenya

