

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

LEFTI Offers Emergency Relief To Flood Victims

In mid-April, heavy rains flooded numerous parts of the Lamuria area in Nyeri County, Kenya. Many homes throughout small villages were covered with mud and newly planted fields were washed away as the water surged through the streets.

The water showed no favoritism, as friend, Assistant Chief Rebecca, was one whose home was flooded. In addition, nearly 70 children had their only school shoes swept away in the torrent.

Nyeri County, with the assistance of the Red Cross, provided tents and some food. Some neighboring villagers opened their homes to some families. Life Empowerment for Transformation, Inc. (LEFTI), with Bernard Kabaru taking the lead, reached out to provide assistance, as well. Mattresses were provided to 44 families. Sixty-five children from 34 families received a pair of school shoes. The

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LEFTI responded to the immediate needs of Nyeri County flood victims by providing food, shoes, mattresses and some tents.



Leaders of women's groups in churches throughout the Kieni West region gathered to share of successes and challenges met during the year.

Obedience Vs. Numbers

Kieni West Women's Leadership Training Conference Focused On Service And Joy In Obeying God

By Bonnie Parker

On Saturday, April 29, the leaders of women's groups of the local churches within the Kieni West region met at Ruirii Church. The women shared prayer concerns and praised the Lord for "how He has seen them through."

While there was an expectation of 30-35 women to be at the meeting, only 14, including me, were able to attend, and those 14 represented only six of the churches. We set aside the original plan and decided to share the successes and challenges that each leader faces in her position as leader in her church, zone, or the association. These thoughts could be used for evaluation and planning for the future.

As we went around the circle, each woman expressed her challenges and the ways she has been encouraged in her tasks. Most had found renewed strength as she served in her position and felt revival in her own life.

Several reported the spiritual and numerical growth of men in their churches was taking place. The women's challenges revolved mostly around finances of their organization and a lack of commitment on the part of others to attend meetings.

As I listened, questions begin to form in my mind...How many meetings are there for women to attend each week at church or within the associa-

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Growing With Faithful Confidence

Kieni West Pastors' Wives Gather For Training School

By Bonnie Parker

In April, it was time to return to Kenya to be with the eight pastors' wives of Kieni West who are studying to be more equipped to minister alongside their husbands among the churches in that area.

Because the pastors of this area serve multiple churches, the wives often find themselves speaking in one of the churches on any given Sunday. For this reason, they need to know how to be effective when given the opportunity.

The April training sessions were divided into three topics. "How to Prepare and Deliver a Sermon" was first in the series. Following the lectures, the women were assigned to take what they learned, apply it in preparing a sermon and then be ready to deliver it to the group. Because of limited time during the two-day training period, Anne, Beatrice and Jane presented their sermons, while the others provided copies to the others.

The second session took a more personal note in the form of *First Aid Training*. Oftentimes, getting professional medical help is impossible in the remote villages, so knowledge of how to perform basic first aid can literally save a life.

In this session, we discussed what the most common accidents are and then addressed them, accordingly. Key issues covered were burns, cuts, bleeding, broken bones, and choking, as well as how to apply first aid when accidents happen around the home and in the community.

The women were also made aware of the fact there is the equivalent of the United States 9-1-1 emergency call number for different areas in the region. Each woman was presented with a first aid kit for her home from Teleios Ministry. We had fun and laughs practicing the Heimlich maneuver on our favorite "dummy" – Floyd!

The third and final session covered *Personal Hygiene*. Personal



The first session of the April training school for the pastors' wives was 'How to Prepare and Deliver a Sermon.'

hygiene isn't just about being clean, but cleanliness combined with the intent to arrest the spread of communicable diseases.

In this session, we talked about acceptable and unacceptable hygiene practices. We covered bathing/showering, handwashing, hair and scalp health, oral hygiene, and keeping clothes clean.

Women have a unique position in being able to prevent the spread of disease. As caregivers to diapered infants and the aged, as well as those who prepare food for their families and friends keeping clean hands and homes is imperative. The women were given nail brushes as a gift to remind them of the importance of good hygiene practices.

Of course, we made time for some fun. During craft time, the women made pillows and fellowshipped.

The next session for the Pastors' Wives Training School will be in August.



'First Aid Training' was the focus of the second session and involved a demonstration of the Heimlich Maneuver with Floyd ably serving as the 'dummy.'



Craft time offered everyone an opportunity to fellowship and work on making a throw pillow of their own design.

Gypsy Children's Camp Planned For July!

Scholarships Still Needed For Some Children

Summer is right around the corner, and with it comes the arrival of Gypsy Children's Summer Camp held July 9-13!

This year's camp will, again, be held in the village of Finate. This location, under the direction of owners Achim and Brenda Barbos and their staff, has everything that makes camp a complete experience for children. In addition to up-to-date dorm and bathroom facilities, there is a playground that includes a zipline, a large soccer/football field, and a fishing pond, as well as a building for indoor activities and another with a lobby area, kitchen, dining area and health room.

The 2018 Teleios Team is made up of veteran leaders Sarah Grace Dover and Abigail Dover with new members, Jeni Dover and Hannah Dover, joining Teleios' Romanian partners Attila and Adel Toth.

Your continued support for this summer program means that Gypsy children who've often never left their villages have a chance to not only experience God's incredible creation, but to learn of His great love for them.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available. The average cost per child to attend camp is \$60.

If you would like to sponsor a child, you can do so at www.teleiosministry.org or by contacting Bonnie Parker at 864-322-9775. You can send checks to Teleios Ministry, 28 Eula St., Greenville, S.C. 29609.

Please pray for the Teleios Team as they travel and for the children attending camp. Pray that God's love will surround each person and that His Spirit will shine throughout the week.

Moving From 'Red' To Reality In Peris

The Children's Home in Peris, Romania, is moving along. With the thaw of winter and the arrival of spring, windows, doors, and other work has begun on the home.

Though thoughts of summertime are upon us, the critical issue of the Home's heating system is still at the top of the list for discussion. Please pray for Attila Toth, the engineer, and the contractor as they come to a final decision on a system that will best meet the needs of the house.

The excitement continues to grow, however, as completion of the Home draws closer to reality.

Attila and Adela Nagy are diligently filling out the paper work for the housing of the children as soon as construction on the building is complete. This process in itself is a huge and very time-consuming one. Please support them with your prayers as they work through the different steps to be a home for children who have no home.



Spring has sprung and work has resumed on finishing the construction projects at the Peris Children's Home.



Sharing successes and challenges allowed each of the women to better understand how trusting, obeying and serving God is integral to being not only a good follower, but an effective leader.

OBEDIENCE

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tion? What is the purpose of these meetings? What is the value in these meetings? Are too many meetings simply scheduled on the calendar but offering no substance that could make a difference in the lives of the women or their communities?

When all had finished sharing, the women asked if I had any advice or tips on how to meet the challenges they faced. It was then that I was able to ask the questions I had been contemplating as they shared.

We then discussed how they could deal with complacency from the other women about participation in meetings.

We talked about evaluating the need for so many meetings and how to plan meetings with purpose; meetings that

provide opportunities to learn more about God, to grow spiritually and to gather for the purpose of going out to minister and serve in the name of Jesus to those around them.

I posed two questions:

1. *"When you schedule a meeting, have you spent time with the Lord praying, planning and then carrying out preparations for the gathering?"*
2. *"Are you sure the meeting is of God; is it fulfilling His purposes?"*

If the answer is "yes" to these two questions, then the number of women who attend is irrelevant.

I explained that their intent demonstrates

their obedience in doing what God has called them to do, and the results are in His hands. Celebrate those who come and be assured that God spoke and directed those who are present.

Disappointment over attendance numbers robs leaders of the joy of serving. Joy and satisfaction are found in what is learned and, more importantly, in doing what God calls us to do.

I further noted that leadership is as much about being a good follower of Jesus as it is about leading the women from their area.

After a good meal, we all departed feeling affirmed in our calling and being encouraged by spending time sharing and growing together.

RELIEF

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children were on school break when the flooding came. They needed shoes to return to school.

"The process was so successful, and the children were so happy and also the parents," said Rebecca. "I have no words to express my regards; but, God will reward you."

Continue to pray for this area of Kenya as they rebuild and re-plant.

Shoes were donated to children so they could go to school. Sadly, mud flowed fast and freely as the rain into the homes of people in Nyeri County.



Pastor/Wife Family Conferences Planned

Alan and Elaine Stanford will be joining Floyd and Bonnie Parker on June 9 in Mbeya, Tanzania, to lead a Pastor/Wife Family Conference hosted by Daily Bread Life Ministries and Mpeli and Neema Mwaisumbe.

The conference will be June 10-13, after which they will return to Iringa where Alan and Elaine will see the work of Daily Bread Life Children's Home and its impact on the lives of the children, staff and the community.

The Stanfords and Parkers will then travel to Kenya to lead a Pastor/Wife Family Conference June 17-20 and hosted by Life Empowerment for Transformation, Inc. (LEFTI) and Bernard Kabaru Mwangi.

After the conference, the Stanfords will see the work currently under way in the Kieni West Area of Nyeri County through LEFTI and Life Change Investments (LCI) with Robert Mutethia and Charles Wambui. The Stanfords and the Parkers will return home on June 23.

If you would like to be a part of these conferences, you can support a Pastor/Wife couple for \$50 per couple. This fee covers food and seminar materials.

Please pray that God will prepare the hearts and minds of those attending these conferences. Pray, too, for traveling mercies for the Stanfords and Parkers as they make their way to Tanzania and Kenya.

Honoring Christ Isn't For Sundays Only

On Friday, April 27, an awesome Life Change Investments (LCI) seminar was launched by Charles Mbuga.

Six new participants joined nine other LCI clients in this invitation-only seminar. Friday's focus was on "*Business As a Calling and the Impact on the Growth of God's Kingdom.*" Saturday's topic was "*Fear Related to Financial Discipline.*"

Both sessions were followed by a great deal of in-depth group discussion. Floyd Parker joined the group in the afternoon.

The primary objective of LCI is to assist business owners in understanding how they can honor Christ in the marketplace and also developing new businesses. By utilizing expertise from different sources, LCI helps business leaders grow in this area.

The stories shared by all participating clients of the growth they've experienced over the past two years was a great blessing. They openly shared of the challenges and changes that had come to their businesses, families and communities through LCI.



Fifteen business owners participated in the two-day business seminar hosted by Life Change Investments. Led by Charles Mbuga, right, followed by another session presented by Floyd Parker, lower left, this year's focus was about business as a calling and the impact on the growth of God's Kingdom.

It's Camp Time At DBLCH!

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Business Leaders Seminar Also Scheduled

The second Daily Bread Life Children's Camp will be held June 4-8.

The Eastern Industrial Supply team of Kip and Kim Miller, Sam Quinley, and David Kay will join Floyd and Bonnie Parker to lead activities at the Daily Bread Life Children Home's in the morning and an afternoon camp at Bread of Life Secondary School.

The team will leave May 31 and return June 10. The children of DBLCH and Asante Sana Children's Home will again return to Ruaha National Park for a daylong safari. This is a

part of studying God's creation.

Kip will also lead a seminar on "Honoring Christ in the Marketplace" for business and government leaders June 4-7 in the evening.

In addition, members of the Team will share their testimonies during the seminar. This is the first time that this seminar has been held in Tanzania. DBLCH businesses are serving as hosts for the event.

Please pray for safety in travel for the Team, as well as for God's leading of the camps and seminar.

Water Projects, Partnerships Advance In Kenya

With a history that has roots in a 1987 effort to help residents find an alternative to trekking long distances in search of water for domestic use, the Gataragwa Water Project has taken many turns.

Over the years, undertakings by other communities to access pipelines connected to the Gataragwa Water intake have helped open opportunities for organizations, internal and external, to offer assistance in different ways. One of these entities is Life Empowerment for Transformation, Inc., (LEFTI).

As a result of involvement by LEFTI and others, resources of both financial, as well as professional expertise, have been used to construct a second source, the Gatogo Intake, and additional lines to provide for the soaring number of residents who want to be directly connected to water sources.

This phase covers four kilometers from the Aberdare Forest to Bellevue Town where a 225-meter cubed tank is being built to provide not only better access, but additional capacity beyond that currently available from the small tank that was constructed during the Colonial Era.

Partnering with LEFTI, two locations in the Birisha area have been identified, one for a water tank and one for borehole. Once in service, these will provide increased access to fresh, clean



water for people in that area. Still on the “to do” list is laying the pipelines for the Lamuria area.

Both the Barisha and Lamuria sub-locations are within the Kieni West Sub-County of Nyeri County where Teleios partners work.

Continue to pray for wisdom and guidance for partners as they delve through the balance of community and individual needs, government regulations and available resources. Pray, too, that in all things, God will be glorified and praised for how in His time and His way the gift of life-saving water was made possible through Living Water.



Second Tank To Bring Much-Needed Water

The second 60,000-gallon storage tank in Lamuria, Kenya, is under construction. As a point of reference, the tank is not far from Bernard and Mary Kabaru Mwangi’s house and the Birisha Church.

The first tank is already operating and has doubled water service to the area. The tank is part of a Gatarakwa Water District and Nyeri County plan to provide water for approximately 4,000 families in the Lamuria area.

The exciting part is that one year ago at a meeting of local leaders at Bernard and Mary’s house, the group stated that water was the greatest need. Tom Menefee, with Sunbelt Marketing, and Bill Kenny, with Kenny Pipe and Supply, were at the meeting and heard the need. Together with Life Empowerment for Transformation, Inc., (LEFTI), they joined in partnership with the local water district and county to help make this dream a reality.

The first tank was constructed and operational in less than nine months after that first meeting. The second tank is not far from completion. In fact, the work is on schedule and on budget.

Pray thanking God for His blessing in meeting this need and for continued guidance as water district officials work to keep the water flowing.

This Just In...

From The United States...

Greenville – Teleios Ministry has filed its Form 990 with the Federal government. The form was filled out by our accountant and submitted in compliance governing 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. Board members received copies for review. Anyone who would like to see this information can contact Floyd Parker.

- Daniel and Adina Pusok and their children arrived in town for a visit April 6-8. Daniel pastors the Hungarian Baptist Church of Toronto, Canada. The family was heading to Florida for a vacation and our location provided the perfect stopover! It was wonderful to catch up and share the sights and sounds of Greenville. Praise God for the safety the family experienced and the fun and relaxation of the vacation.

From Kenya...

Nyeri County – Robert and Lucy Muteithia and Little Floyd moved into their new house in Nyeri County on May 3.



Excessive rains created many challenges, but could not dampen the excitement of a new house! Robert had hired a truck to carry the furniture and some of the boxes from Nyeri town out to the bush

area where the new home is located. After turning off the main road and traveling only a short distance, the truck became bogged down in the



mud and could not move forward. Thanks to some local residents with a tractor and trailer, the truck was emptied, and the move continued. Unfortunately, the next road to the house was muddier than the previous one! Once again, our friends and their helpers were stuck in the mud. With no other alternative, the crew physically carried everything several kilometers, and Robert and Lucy were able to spend the night in their new home! Pray God's blessings on their new home and thank God for determined friends!

Graduation Celebration!

Kieni West Bible School Confers Degrees to First Graduating Class

Declaring it a dream come true, Pastor Stephen of Bellevue Baptist Church, welcomed an overflow crowd to the graduation ceremonies of the Kieni West Bible School.

Seventeen pastors from various area churches comprised this first graduating class. School Principle Peter Mwangi, from Gatanguru, led the commencement service. Floyd Parker delivered the graduation message, speaking on "Servanthood," including a cautionary account from the temptations of Jesus in Luke 4.

Also attending was Robert Muthetia from Life Empowerment for Transformation, Inc. (LEFTI), one of the partners in the Bible School.

It was a day of celebrating the pastors' accomplishments and praising God for His guidance and direction in helping them reach this milestone.



Seventeen pastors were in the first graduating class of the Kieni West Bible School. Floyd Parker gave the graduation message.



Despite torrential rains creating nearly impassable roads, Robert and Lucy Muteithia refused to let the circumstances dampen their excitement as into a new home.

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Reflections From the Green Chair.....

Philippians 1:3-11 has been a focal passage guiding and understanding Teleios Ministry through its 18-year existence. In verse 6, the apostle Paul writes, "*God who began a good work in you.*" God has started something in all of us in Jesus Christ. He is moving toward fulfilling His purpose in us.

Ephesians 2:10 outlines this good work that God has begun in us through Jesus Christ: "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*"

A friend of mine said, "*God is really working on me today.*" The truth is God is working on all of His children every day. We are His workmanship – His handiwork (NIV) – God has shaped us and formed us into a useful vessel. We have sung for decades "*You are the potter, I am the clay...*" God has created us in Jesus Christ with purpose. The result, the purpose, being "*good works.*"

God has been gracious to us and given us good works to do. He has prepared for each of us and for us as a community of faith good works to do. Our responsibility is not to create or develop good works. If we follow Jesus Christ, we will discover

the good works that God has prepared for us to do.

His expectation is that we will walk in them. They will be our life work. Just as we are His workmanship, so the good works are our life work. An outgrowth of our trust and faith in Him is "the good works that He created us to do in Jesus Christ."

God's Holy Word, the Scriptures, help us to recognize the good work and be prepared to do it. That is their purpose. The Scriptures equip us for good work – God's life operation manual. As I reflect upon my life, I realize how time is spent reading and trying to discover how to do God's way, God's purpose, God's will when the Scriptures are right before us. The Scriptures' purpose is to equip us for the good work. Then it hit me, maybe, the reason that I struggle in good work is because I have not invested enough in preparation through the Scriptures. (2 Timothy 3:16)

Let's face it, whatever we do we want it to be productive, we want to see the fruit, we want to see the positive result of our work. We want to know that our work made a difference. The Holy Spirit in us fills us with the knowledge of His will. We gain

wisdom and understanding as a result of this gift of the Holy Spirit. This produces fruit in every good work. We ask God to fill us with the knowledge of His will. We ask this gift from the Holy Spirit.

God promises and blesses us by providing whatever we need to do good work. He has the provision waiting as we go into the good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

My observation has been that God does not load us down with everything needed for the journey at the beginning. As we walk in the journey, we discover the provision along the way. We keep working, we keep walking, when something is needed, God has placed what we need right there. A warning is that God places it where we need it, not where we want it.

Good work requires trust. Good work requires a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. God begins good work in us. He gives us a great promise. We will finish it. We will complete the work. Our good work will not go undone or be incomplete. Our lives will end in fulfillment, completeness, wholeness. We will be Teleios.

To God's Purpose,
Floyd