

# Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

## God's Work Knows No Boundaries

### *Kenya, Tanzania Partners Join Together To Lead Bible Camp*

The joining together of the Tanzanian and Kenyan partners of Teleios Ministry to provide a Bible Camp for the children at Daily Bread Life Children's Home was a dream come true for Floyd and Bonnie Parker.

One of the original goals of Teleios Ministry was that partners from other countries would assist one another with their vision. The days of June 8-16, 2019, saw that dream come true for us as Robert and Lucy Muteithia and Charles and Grace Mbuga from Kenya arrived in Iringa, Tanzania, to work with Mpeli and Neema Mwaisumbe.

Here are some excerpts from Grace and Lucy about their Tanzanian experience.

On June 9, Grace wrote, *"We arrived safely yesterday. We have just come back from the morning service at the village church and will be headed for evening service shortly. We are all so excited to be here. Mpeli, Neema, Maka and Sam and the entire family are such a great host. I already love them so much and am looking forward to a great time (over the) next few days as we serve together."*

June 10 was the beginning of Bible Camp. Grace noted, *"The first day with children went well. Lucy and I had the little children from age 5-10 and we had a great time. Our theme is "God Is Love," and our lesson was "God Loves Me" based on John 3:16. We do so much appreciate your prayers."*

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Students at Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School walked with purpose to help raise funds that would finish a water well project for a school in Tanzania.

## Greenville Students Embrace Opportunity To Provide Water For Students In Tanzania

In January, staff from Renewable Water Resources (ReWa) and some teachers from Dr. Phinnize J. Fisher Middle School were brainstorming ways to communicate the value of water to the students.

During the discussions, the teachers stated that they wanted to plan a day focused on water that would allow the students to experience what it would be like to have to find their water every day, and they wanted to hold some kind of fundraiser for a water project.

Rebecca West, owner of RFW Consulting, LLC, attended the meeting with the ReWa staff and

knew that the teams from Kenny Pipe and Sunbelt Marketing were currently in Kenya laying water lines and connecting water taps for some villages in the Kieni West area.

During the meeting, she shared the photos that had recently been posted on the Teleios Ministry Facebook page. The teachers immediately decided that they wanted Fisher Middle School students to raise funds for a similar water project.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

Knowing that there was a need to finish the well project at Bread of

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# ‘Who Is My Neighbor?’ Is Theme For Gypsy Camp

As you read this newsletter, Gypsy Children’s Summer Camp 2019 is under way. Jeni Dover and her daughters, Sarah Grace, Abigail and Hannah, once again joined Attila and Adel Toth and the Romanian team to lead the camp for the children in the different areas of Romania beginning July 12.

This year’s theme is “Who Is My Neighbor?” based on the verse from Luke 10:27b, “...love your neighbor as yourself.”

The Bible stories and activities each day will focus on followers of Jesus who showed love to those who were different from them by presenting the Gospel and ministering in His name to those in need, regardless of ethnicity or disability.

Expectations are high that it will be a fun-filled time with crafts, recreation, dramas and learning activities.

Please be in prayer for the team as they lead the various activities and as they travel to and from camp, as well as in preparation to return home. Camp ends July 20.



## GREENVILLE STUDENTS



Fisher Middle School students carried buckets of water to try and experience the physical requirements others face each day as they walk for water.



Fisher Middle School staff and teachers and ReWa representatives presented Teleios Directors Floyd and Bonnie Parker with a check for \$8,000.00 to complete the well project at Bread of Life Secondary School.

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Life Secondary School (BLSS) in Iringa, Tanzania, the idea of having the students at Fisher Middle participate in a 5K Walk for Water and fundraiser to complete the well needed for BLSS was a perfect partnership orchestrated by God.

Over the next three months, students at Fisher Middle and employees at ReWa raised money for the ReWa/Fisher Middle/BLSS Walk for Water which was held at Fisher Middle School on April 4.

Approximately 1,000 students and teachers walked 3.12 miles (a 5K) carrying buckets of water to experience the physical requirements so many across the globe must do in order to have access to water.

A bonus of the April 4 event was that students from BLSS were

able to briefly Facetime with students at Fisher Middle during the walk so that the students of both schools could connect.



We are excited to announce that our partnership in the Walk for Water event with Fisher Middle School raised over \$8,000 to build a well and piping infrastructure to provide clean water to the students, faculty and staff at Bread of Life Secondary School. That project was completed in May, and the water is flowing!

Once school resumes in the fall, there are plans for the students at Fisher Middle to reconnect via technology with the students from BLSS to continue to build a relationship that started with the need for water.

Please pray thanking God for students and adults who want to make a difference in this world. Looking forward to seeing where God will take this relationship in the future!



# Kenya Drought Relief Helping To Save Lives

The conditions in the Kieni West area of Nyeri County in Kenya are dire. A drought was declared in early spring, and the situation has not improved much.

While our partnership with Life Empowerment for Transformation, Inc., (LEFTI) and Bernard Kabaru and Robert Muteithia, and Life Change Investments (LCI) and Charles Mbuga helped us provide life-changing water in this area with water tanks and taps, the long rains did not come to replenish the groundwater sources. As a result, a very serious food shortage is impacting the people of Kieni West.

In March, LEFTI distributed one month's amount of food for over 500 families (approximately 2,500 people). In April, another distribution was made to 1,080 families (approximately 5,500 to 6,000 people). Over the course of these two months, Robert discovered some nursery and primary schools in the Kieni West and Shalom areas did not have food. One school had not received food supplies from



the government in four months. Robert responded by providing the schools with a monthly food supply. This impacted more than 500 children.

Also, replacement seeds were provided to help those who had spent their resources buying seeds to plant in anticipation of the rain. The good news for a few is that rains did come, but they were not widespread, nor as plentiful as usual. However, the seeds have provided some families with food allowing for their needs to be met. The drought has also had a devastating impact upon livestock.

LEFTI anticipates that there will be a continuing need for food relief support through September.

Teleios partners have responded to this challenge in a generous way. Please join in prayer for LEFTI, the churches that assist in the food/seed distribution, Teleios partners who have assisted, and, especially for the families deeply affected by the drought.

## NO BOUNDARIES

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*The children enjoyed a lot. I am so much excited about the partnership. The staff gave us all the support we needed. Neema, Maka and Sam are so supportive and spent the whole day with us at camp. Mpeli's health was not good and though was willing to join us, he was not able to."*

After arriving home in Kenya safely on June 16, Grace wrote, "Our Mission was such a blessing, and we thank God for the opportunity to serve with the Mwaisumbes. The children appreciated greatly our time with them and it was such a great learning experience for us too."



*The Mwaisumbes are such a loving family and we formed such a strong bond and it is just the beginning of mission with them.*

*Thanks so much for your prayers and support. We are thankful to God for the partnership and a safe return home."*

Lucy was equally as excited about the time in Tanzania and wrote, "It was a good experience. We really enjoyed everything and learned that Daily Bread Life really loves God!"

**At left, Lucy shares Bible stories. Above right, Grace and Neema meet ladies in the village. Below right, Charles talks with older children.**



# Spring Kenya Trip Presents New Opportunities

By Bonnie Parker

On April 1, Floyd and I met Tom Menefee of Sunbelt Marketing and Mitch LaPlante, an architect from Kiawah Island, in the Atlanta airport to begin a trip to Nyeri County, Kenya.

Tom and the Sunbelt family have been partners with Teleios for a number of years, so for him it was a return trip. At his invitation, Mitch was coming on an introductory visit to Kenya and a tour of what partners are doing in the Kieni West sub-county. We participated in a variety of things over a 16-day period. The OutSpan Hotel in Nyeri town was our “home away from home” during our time in Kenya.

The team spent the first week traveling throughout Kieni West looking at the work being accomplished through the partnership that is providing infrastructure to bring water to this semi-arid region.

Tom was able to see what the Sunbelt team, in partnership with the local water committee and other Teleios partners, had accomplished by digging trenches and laying pipe in January. We visited homes that now have water for the first time as a result of this labor. How amazing to see the amount of work that was done by the two teams earlier in the year on this project!

The four of us, along with Robert Muteithia and Charles Mbugua of Life Empowerment For Transformation, Inc., (LEFTI) and Life Change Investment (LCI), met with the principal and local school committee of the Lamuria Secondary School to discuss the possibility of expanding a partnership.

## ENHANCING PARTNERSHIP POTENTIAL

Sunbelt Marketing has already funded a classroom addition and provided a much-needed computer for the school’s administration staff. The discussions of this meeting centered around the urgent need to expand the existing campus, including recreational fields, toilets, classroom and administration buildings, as well as construction of a cafeteria. This is necessary due to the area’s population growth and new federal government regulations.

These new national educational policies require that local secondary schools provide an enrollment slot for every child who completes primary school. For the new school year at Lamuria, officials know it is short 500 slots for incoming students. The federal government is not contributing any financial resources, and the local government is overwhelmed by the magnitude of the cost in order to comply. Simply stated, it will be impossible to accomplish this mandate without help.

We walked the campus and dreamed for the future. After listening and praying with school officials, Mitch felt he could be of assistance to the leadership by helping to draw up a master site plan for the campus...how to expand facilities already there, drawing plans for some new multi-use buildings and how and where to place them in relationship to one another for the most efficient use of the land owned by the school. They accepted his offer of help and are in the process of sending measurements,



Tom Menefee and Mitch LaPlante, both right, traveled through the Kieni West area observing project progress and the potential for expanding in other ways.

topographical readings, and prioritized lists for the site plan preparation. Pray with us that God will guide this vision of a potentially growing partnership with the Lamuria Secondary School.

## OVC PROGRAM GROWTH

We visited several new families that have become a part of the Orphans & Vulnerable Children’s (OVC) project, kitchen gardens and the goat and chicken projects.

The team also visited the construction site of the new Bellevue Baptist Church. Pastor Stephen met us there and shared the timetable for the building of the new facility. Mitch’s expertise was once again very valuable to the discussion. Anne, Pastor Stephen’s wife, had prepared a meal for us and we had a wonderful time of fellowship.

We met with Pastor Peter Wanjohi who leads the church in Nyeri town. The OVC project for the slum area behind the church building is part of the Sunbelt partnership. Pastor Peter and his wife, Elizabeth, shared of changes taking place in the slum, both good and bad.

The government has provided limited electricity, but gang activity appears to be on the rise. They also asked if Teleios might be willing to partner to help train leaders in some specific areas. We will be praying for guidance on this.

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Participants in the Pastors' Wives Bible Training School focused on pastoral care and Christian doctrine during the Spring workshops.

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## PASTORS' WIVES TRAINING

The days with Mitch and Tom flew by! As they prepared to return to the States, the Pastors' Wives Bible Training School participants were gathering at the OutSpan Hotel where their conference was being held.

Two topics were taught during this session. First was "Keys to Effective Pastoral Care and Counseling" taught by Pastor Daniel Kinyua. He helped the women understand differing personality types and how to relate and counsel those within congregations.

The second was "Survey of Christian Doctrine" taught by Bonnie. The material was some of the intense theological topics that have been covered. The women were up for the challenge of learning and growing in their knowledge and understanding of Who God is.

As we searched the Bible in order to understand who God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are, the Scriptures revealed so many



Time for discussion during the sessions offers the pastors' wives an opportunity to think through what they've learned, as well as how to apply it in their respective ministries.

new things to the women. We studied the doctrine of the church and its mission directed from the heart of God. We talked briefly about the Bible, God's divinely inspired Word, and how it came to us.

Time was short, but there was a need to take some breaks in order to absorb and ruminate on these teachings. During the breaks, Bonnie taught the women how cross stitch simple bookmarks.

The pastors' wives had never stayed at a place like The OutSpan. The staff went over and above the call of duty to make them feel welcome and very special! The workers said they could tell what hard-working women these ladies were and wanted to "pamper them and make them feel extra comfortable" during their stay. They succeeded in their mission! We cannot say enough "thank-you's!"

## LCI BUSINESS CONFERENCE

As the Pastors' Wives' School was finishing up, 18 participants for the Spring LCI Business Conference began arriving. The theme of the conference was "The Timing of God Rather Than Chasing the World." Leading this year's conference were Charles, Robert and Floyd.



The LCI Business Conference underscored the importance of working within God's timing rather than the world's.

Conference sessions centered around business planning and appropriate timing for new investment, expansion, etc., using God's values, guidance and wisdom rather than "get rich quick" methods.

In addition, the economic advisor of Nyeri County, Simon Gachunia, spoke with leaders concerning development of business opportunities in Nyeri County for young people.

Throughout the year, Charles, as LCI Executive Director, works with Kenyan businessmen and businesswomen to help develop successful God-honoring businesses. The conference concluded with a worship service on Sunday morning.

The April trip accomplished many things. The partnership in Kenya continues to bear fruit in the Kieni West sub-county. Floyd and Bonnie will return in August with a team. Please pray for safety and fruit-bearing ministry.

## Romania Mission Camp

# Honoring Christ In Marketplace Is 2019 Focus

In June, Kip Miller, with Eastern Industrial Supply, Inc., in Greenville, S.C., and Floyd Parker participated in a Mission Camp led by Attila Toth and Zsolt Novak in the Carpathian Mountain area of Gheorgheni, Romania.

Five years ago, Teleios Ministry began the partnership with Attila and Zsolt to provide a weeklong camp focused on developing and implementing innovative practical mission. The focus was to reach out into communities with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to impact the community in positive ways that honor Christ.

This year, the emphasis was on honoring Christ in the marketplace and reaching the marketplace with the Gospel through understanding how businesses operate and include employees, customers and vendors. In addition, discussion addressed how businesses can invest in the community to produce life change.

Kip traveled to Romania 15 years ago sharing about operating business according to God's Word. This year, he returned to meet with a new generation of believers seeking to impact the marketplace.



Kip Miller, photo above, led a workshop on how to reach the marketplace with the Gospel.



Otto Kis, photo at left, presents a session on ministering to people with disabilities.

## Peris Children's Home Nears Completion!

The Peris Children's Home in Romania is moving toward completion with the hope of being ready for occupancy in October!

This home is a dream come true for Attila Toth. When he first began the mission among the Roma (Gypsy) people in the Reghin area of Mures District, he saw the need for street children to have a home. Also, in order to effect lifelong change, they needed to have a consistent life. Attila began to dream of a children's home.

Through the Teleios Ministry partnership with Leesburg Community Church in Leesburg, Virginia, this dream became a reality. Now the partnership has grown to include groups from England, the Netherlands, and Alabama in the United States, each joining the other in the common vision of the Peris Children's Home.

Before the home is even finished there have been other "side" opportunities that have developed. On the same property, there is a temporary home for displaced families, greenhouses for producing food and income for the home, and a farm for livestock and hay.

Through the Peris Children's Home, we've witnessed how the Lord does more than we ever envision when He plants a dream/vision in our hearts and minds.



Construction on the Children's Home in Peris is progressing and expected to be completed by October! In other good news, the greenhouses are proving to be quite beneficial and fruitful!





# This Just In...

## From Tanzania...

**Iringa** – Exciting news! Two of the young men we have watched grow up at Daily Bread Life Children's Home are getting married! On June 30, Chris married his sweetheart, Angel, in a simple church service in Iringa. On September 1, Leonard and Npenda will have their wedding. Floyd and Bonnie will travel to Tanzania to participate in the event. It hardly seems possible that enough time has gone by that these orphaned boys are now embarking on new lives as young married men. Both are in their late 20s and have completed their educations and have gainful employment. If anyone wants to help with simple dowry for Chris and Leonard, please contact Teleios Ministry. Pray for God's guidance for these two young couples as they seek to establish God-honoring marriages and homes.

- Soon after his marriage, Chris will have surgery for extreme scoliosis and a hernia. Ask the Great Physician's hand to be with the doctors as they perform the necessary surgeries and for healing of Chris' body. Pray for Angel, his new bride, and for those who will minister alongside her as she cares for him during this time.

- Maka and Sam Mpeli will be return for Mauritius to continue their university studies in just a few weeks. They ask for prayers as they prepare and go. They have found a church home there and participate in worship and activities there, as well as spend time in class and studying. However, we all know, there is NO PLACE LIKE HOME. Pray for good study habits and learning experiences, but also for the days that homesickness occurs. An island in the Indian Ocean is a long way from Iringa!



Chris, a young man from Daily Bread Life Children's Home that we watched grow up, married Angel on June 30 in Iringa.

years. They have remained in touch but had not seen one another in many years. Elizabeth, Benjamin and Blanca traveled to Cluj to visit Kip when he and Floyd flew in to conduct a business mission camp in June. May God continue to bless their lives and friendship.

## From Kenya...

Carol Kabar, daughter of Bernard and Mary, along with three other young women, formed a company, Bweeno, as a project associated with a university course they were taking. The company is a distributor of chickpeas. It has been very successful. As a team, they had opportunity to travel to Australia to compete in a world-wide competition for new student-led companies. Bweeno was one of six companies to be considered for the \$1 million prize. Though they did not win the grand prize, they were chosen as the third best company. It was a wonderful experience, and for Carol, it was a great personal trip, too. It allowed her to return to a place where she had spent her early years. The Kabar family lived in Australia while Bernard was doing doctoral studies. Thank God for Carol and the wonderful experiences she had. Pray God's blessings on the company and as she pursues a degree in international business.

## From Romania...

Thank God for the opportunity that Kip Miller had to reunite with the Vekas family on a recent trip to Romania. Many years ago, he had the opportunity to stay in their home while on a mission trip with Floyd. A bond of friendship formed during those days that has lived on over the



## From Greenville, S.C. ...

The annual Teleios Fourth of July celebration was enjoyed by all! Floyd's barbecue was, as always a great hit, along with a variety of flavors of home-made ice cream. This event is a time for Teleios partners to enjoy fellowship and share stories of various mission opportunities. Along with many regulars and some newcomers, Teleios board member, Alan Stanford of Barryville, Virginia, was able join us this year. JJ Pearson, a local illusionist, provided entertainment along with a few recreational activities. The evening closed out with an awesome fireworks display! Thank God for fellowship and fun times. Praise Him for the freedom we have as American citizens and, more importantly, the freedom we have in Jesus Christ as children of God!

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## Reflections From the Green Chair....

One of the great balancing acts of Teleios Ministry, my personal life, and in following Jesus Christ is the balance between serving others and taking care of ourselves.

When I turned 60 four years ago, I made the statement (now that I getting older), *"I am going to slow down and not travel as much."* That proved to be contrary to God's plans. Since that time, I have traveled more than ever.

I joked about it, but one passage that I cannot escape keeps speaking to me... *"Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."* (Philippians 2:3-4)

This passage is followed by Jesus humbling Himself in coming to this earth, teaching, suffering on the cross, giving His life, raised and glorified.

The simple, powerful message cannot be ignored. Life as a follower of Jesus Christ is based in humility in how we think, how we see others and how we regard them.

1. Regard one another as more important

than yourself. Serving others is more important than serving myself. You are more important to me than I am to me. This drives my decisions. I know God will take care of me.

This is one of the hallmarks of true, Godly partnerships. It is also so contrary to the cultures that we encounter around the world and especially at home.

Every Teleios partner is challenged to think about their partner in the Gospel before they think about themselves. Every partner is challenged to regard the other partner as more important than himself/herself.

What does this mean? It does not mean that you do what they say or want; it means that you think through the partnership from their perspective.

Here's the BIG IDEA. If your partner as a follower of Jesus Christ is giving importance to you in Christ and you are giving importance to them in Christ, God has prepared the mission in such a way that we have confidence in each other, we trust Him for our needs, and we get busy serving each other. This builds trust and respect. This ensures that it's not our agenda but His agenda in the mission.

2. The passage does not say, "Do not look out for yourself." It says we should "look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others." We have a different focus in life. We can better understand this passage if we consider what Jesus quoted from Leviticus 19:18: *"Love your neighbor as yourself..."*

You have to take care of your personal interests, but, not to the exclusion of the interests of others. This is very practical. How can we love others if we do not have a Godly love for ourselves? Love and "looking out for" are not passive. They have real actions; real things you do not do and things that you do. The human side of the Ten Commandments, Paul says, is summed up in *"love your neighbor as yourself."*

Why do I bring this up? This is the foundation of genuine Christian fellowship, partnership, and personal Spiritual Growth. This is not easy. We weigh our thinking, actions, motives, and our interests from the humble perspective of Jesus Christ, Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

In Service and Love,

*Floyd*