

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities



The Lord brought together Believers from America and Africa in medical missions work in Sipili, Kenya.

Partnership Grows Into Oneness Of Spirit, Unity

By Floyd Parker

Umoja is a Swahili word that means unity, oneness. Grace Church Medical Mission Team of Greenville, S.C., Outspan Hospital Team of Nyeri, pastors of Laikipia West District, FOBOCK pastors, and Teleios Ministry, all under the leadership of Bernard Mwangi and Peter Wanjoi, came together to serve the medical and spiritual needs of 1,200 people in four days at Sipili Baptist Church, Sipili, Kenya.

During these four days, every person who received medical treatment also received spiritual counsel from a pastor. The end result was that 30 people made decisions to follow Jesus Christ. Pastor Michael said, "This is not a medical mission, this is a Medical Crusade."

The Grace Team, led by Mike Collins and Chuck Arnold, included Mark DeMoss, Grechen Dobbs, Julie Ellingson, Donald Spann, and Ryan Voelkert. They each brought two suitcases of medical

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Living ~ And Learning ~ Mark 10:27

By Michal Parker

I went to Africa in December and felt the trip was something impossible that God did; with acquiescence from me.

While there I met a young man, Robert, who translated language and culture for me. In talking with him, I found that his dream is to attend school and become a leader in his community. I knew I wanted to be a part of his dream, and I felt God was calling me to guarantee Robert had the financial resources to go to school beginning this April.

I was convinced it was my mission and that God and I would, once again, do the impossible. Then the bottom line on tuition, books, room, and board came. Being an advisor at Furman University should have pre-



Robert and Michal worked with children during Bible Camp at Koinonia Church.



In His time and His way, God brought together Michal and Robert for His purpose in learning that all things are possible through Him.

pared me for all of the "extras" that exist apart from tuition, but in my quest to "do the impossible" I missed the reality. I am not financially equipped to be solely responsible for Robert's education, but I had already committed to providing.

Being a slightly independent sort, OK, fiercely independent, I was confused as to why God told me to commit to this if WE couldn't do it. He reminded me that He could do it, but I had to join His team; He wasn't joining mine.

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supplies with only a backpack for their person items. The translators and the Grace Team developed very effective working relationships. By the end of the week, these relationships were obviously more than just about work. They grew into a true respect of mutual partnership in ministry.

The Medical Mission Partnership was a first of its kind for all involved. Almost every aspect of the four days of ministry was a “pioneer” experience – the length, the location, the partners involved, assignments, lodging, transportation, and more. Of course, there were times of discomfort, disagreement, correction, and adjustment, but the partners just kept working together with each obstacle overcome only strengthening the relationships and making for a more effective ministry opportunity.

The greatest difficulty for the teams was the number of people who came for treat-

ment. Each morning hundreds were there. Each evening hundreds were there. Some days as many as 500 had to be turned away with others still waiting, and that was after more than 300 had been served that day. This remains one of the lasting “difficulties” for the team. Yet, there are so many amazing stories.

She was over 80 years old and had come from more than 40 miles away. Dressed in traditional beads and cloths, this Turkana woman did not know Jesus Christ. As her son translated, Pastor Peter shared the gospel, answered her questions, and prayed with her. In just over an hour, she made a commitment to follow Jesus Christ.

Two young men, one, named Haran, about age 20 and another young man who appeared to be the same age came for treatment. After introducing ourselves to each other, I asked Haran if he had ever made a decision to follow Jesus. He answered in a strong voice, “No, but I want

to know how I can.”

As Pastor Michael and I talked with him, Pastor Peter was talking with the other young man. To our surprise we discovered that they were twins. Neither one knew the other was making a decision to follow Jesus. Both made commitments to follow Jesus Christ. When Haran left, he gave me a big handshake and said that he would tell others. Everyday after that he road his bike the three miles from his home to Sipili and stood outside the gate of the church telling others who were waiting about Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for those involved in this medical mission team. You, your church, or your group can be a part of a mutually beneficial partnership like the one that included this medical mission team. Join us as we join together, Umoja!, as Jesus prayed in John 17.

See more photos on page 4.

LIVING

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A few days later, I was praying that I believed in mission, I believed that God could do it, and I was willing to do whatever He wanted. So He showed me who was on this team.

I sent an e-mail to a few people, some of whom I am very close to and some of whom I am merely an acquaintance of, but all by His grace. It was amazing to see the response from these people. One e-mailed to say she had helped with education of an African student in the past and she “would love” to help educate Robert, too.

Another called to say that her family was planning a gift and looking for direction on where to give it; Robert’s tuition was her answer. Yet another sent me an e-mail and said that she had a specific amount that day, and more on the way. In less than a week God had provided the exact amount needed to send Robert to school!

I was ecstatic ... And then his e-mail came. I had e-mailed Robert to see how he was doing working in the refugee camps, but he had not responded. On the day I found out we would have the money, he e-mailed to say he was excited because his pastor told him that his schooling was going to be paid for but he was concerned that he didn’t have a computer. He remembered that I offered to help him so he was writing to ask me if it was possible to help purchase a computer.

I was heartsick because I didn’t have any money left for a computer that he obviously needed and he had, not knowing that I had already given all I could, stepped out in faith to ask for my help.

That night one of my favorite people called and said she hadn’t returned my e-mail, but she had some money for Robert’s education.

Her gift ensured that a computer could be given. God provided every penny needed

to send Robert to school fully equipped!

After I danced around my house for a few minutes, God reminded me of Mark 10:27. I know the NIV version but felt led to read The Message version. I read it and laughed out loud. “*Jesus was blunt: ‘No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you let God do it.’*” I say “not a chance” all the time, and there it was, Jesus saying it to me.

I know without a doubt that God is doing great things through Robert. Robert has been instrumental in helping relocate, soothe, and assist Kikuyu people who have been displaced due to the violence Kenya experienced earlier this year.

I am so excited by his potential and so grateful that God allowed me to join his team on this mission. For those of you on this mission with me, he’ll be graduating soon; maybe we should all go see him throw his cap...

Tanzania Providing A Field Of Opportunity

By Floyd Parker

Mpeli Mwaisumbe, Frank Mwaisumbe, and I met in Dar Es Salaam in April to evaluate and plan for future partnership opportunities.

When I am with these two brothers of mine – they are biological brothers, but we are brothers in Christ and have a deep love for each other – first on our agenda is to laugh and enjoy being together.

Suzanah Raffield, from Elba, Alabama, joined us on Saturday after a long bus ride from Arusha, Tanzania. Suzanah is the Global Minister in Residence with Covenant Community Church in Elba.



Suzanah Raffield gets to know some of the children of the Children's Home.

Children's Home as a result of Suzanah's trip. Please pray for them as they prepare to serve.

On Sunday, we had the opportunity to worship with the Riverside Community Church in Dar Es Salaam. The church is led by Pastor Ephraim Mwansasu and his wife, Prisca. The church's heart is to reach young people and those who live on the streets of Dar. The church is located in an area with a large street population. Pastor Ephraim grew up on the streets of Mbeya, and God has used his experience to call him to reach out in Dar Es Salaam to those who were just like him before following Jesus.

Riverside has two services each Sunday with over 500 in attendance at each service. The church has a critical need. They currently lease the property that their church is on. Now, someone is seeking to purchase the property from the owner. The church and Pastor Ephraim and Prisca ask that you pray specifically with them in this matter.

First, pray that they will be open to God's leadership regarding a place of worship. Second, pray for partners who will assist them in securing a place of worship and ministry in this area of Dar Es Salaam. The current church structure is like a large picnic shelter. Third, if they have to move, that they will recognize God's leading as to a place. This will be their third move.

Teleios Ministry is seeking long-term partners to assist River-

Mpeli Mwaisumbe Coming To Greenville

Join us in welcoming Tanzanian partner and brother in Christ Mpeli Mwaisumbe to the United States.

Acts Fellowship will host a special worship service on Sunday, May 25 at Grace Church at 5:30 p.m. The service will be followed by a Welcome Reception for Mpeli.

Grace Church is located at 2801 Pelham Rd. in Greenville, S.C.

side in discipleship development, develop resources for a more permanent church building, and supporting their outreach to the young people, mostly college/university students.

The rest of the trip was spent preparing for Mpeli's visit to Greenville May 22-27, the two teams going to Tanzania in June and the Covenant Church Team's visit in July.

90 POUNDS OF BEANS

In the last newsletter, you read about and saw a picture of the Field of Dreams. Due to the climate in Iringa, this field of dreams has already produced a harvest of 90 pounds of beans. Still to be harvested is the corn. The children planted the beans during Christmas break, and now they are enjoying the harvest.



The Children's Home 'Field Of Dreams' has already produced a bountiful supply of beans and is set to provide a bumper crop of corn.

KIDETETE FARM

We were able to visit the newly purchased farm in Kidetete. The great news is that the farm has a year-round spring on the property.

Also, another small farm of about two acres has come available. We are seeking partners now to assist in its purchase and development (\$1,500).

Spirit Of God Moving Mightily In Seven Villages Area

From Otto Kis

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus!

In Purkerec Church we had evangelism week last month, from April 7-13. Some were touched by the Word of God – Istvan, a young man from Purkerec, Paul from the Hope Group and who has cancer, and Zsofi, a lady from Sacele. Please pray for them. Pray for God to continue His work in their lives.

The Youth Club in Sacele meets every Sunday evening. We have a small group with 10-12 members who are committed to come regularly. Please pray for these meetings.

On April 9, the children who came regularly to the Kids Club had exams. We finished a Bible Study with them, which contains three volumes. We gave for the children Bibles and study books. At the end, the children had exams from that material and they got a charter (certificate).

The good news is that more children started to come. In last two weeks, three more children joined our children's group and others are interested to come. Now we have 18 children. I think our flat will be too small for the children to work. Praise the Lord!

Elizabeth started a women's meeting with the mothers. On May 8, we had a special meeting as we celebrated Mother's Day. Eight mothers and two grandmothers came to this celebration. We had 31 people in our home with for this event. The motto was from Psalm 127:3. So that meeting was a new opportunity for testimony and to build relations with the mothers.

Fülöp Dalma helped the children make special cards (hand work) for the mothers, and the children were greeting their moms with the Bible verses and some songs.



More than 30 mothers and children attended a special meeting to celebrate Mother's Day.

The next meeting with the mothers will be on June 12 when Adina Mike will teach about the child growing and education.

Please pray for the mothers and also for the children from Sacele to know and accept Jesus as personal Savior.

We will have evangelism services in Brasov Church May 15-18. Sunday morning we will have Mother's Day celebration on the Church. The Purkerec Church and Sacele Group will be there, too. Please pray for this also.

SUMMER WILL BE BUSY

We will go to Harghita Camp with the Hope Group on June 26. We will be there until July 4.

In line with this will be the Children's Camp. We would like to take 15 children to the Camp this year. We don't have money for this yet, but we know that our God will provide. Please pray for us.

From July 10-18, we will have a group of 14 from the United States working with us here in the Seven Villages area.

Lee Wisdom will bring this group, and we will do mission work between the children, disabled people, with mothers. Please keep us in your prayers during this time.

SACELE MISSION HOUSE

We are praying to find a plot or old house for the Sacele Mission House. The plot I mentioned to you earlier was sold, but it was too narrow for our plan. In Sacele, plots and houses are so expensive. Please pray that God will provide for us a place.

We are thankful for everything you have done and that you are doing for Sacele Mission and for us.

PARTNERSHIP PHOTOS

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Medical missions work in Sipili, Kenya, actually took on the spirit of a 'medical crusade' as teams from Grace Church, Outspan Hospital, FOBOCK pastors, Laikipia West District, and Teleios Ministry came together to work in the name of the Lord.

Koinonia Fellowship Moves Into New Facilities

Looking across the valley in Ruaka, Kenya, the new tin sheet building of Koinonia Fellowship shines brightly in the sun. Over the front door leading into the worship sanctuary is written: *Koinonia*

Life Empowering and Community Transforming Center. We rejoice that Koinonia now has its own property with its own buildings on the property.



This Just In...

From Romania...

- The annual Hungarian Baptist Association Women's Conference is scheduled to be held the last week of May. Please pray for safety in travel for the many women who will make their way to Harghita Camp for the conference and that the Spirit of the Lord will do great and mighty things among these women. If you'd like to help sponsor the conference, please send your contributions to Teleios Ministry.

- In July, Bonnie Parker will lead a small team to assist Attila Toth with camp for Gypsy children of Apalina. Please pray as preparations are made for this trip.

From Kenya...

- Bible Camp at Koinonia Baptist Fellowship in Ruaka will be held Nov. 28-Dec. 10. Pray that God will lead people to join the Team for His work with the children of this area.

- Though the post-election violence has subsided, the situation for many displaced families still exists. Koinonia Fellowship needs help with the sponsorship of nine displaced families. For only \$200 per family, you can help a refugee family reconstruct their lives. Pray that God will lead people to assist Koinonia in aiding these families.

Help Send A Child To Camp

More than 30 Gypsy children got their first opportunity to experience summer camp last year as a result of the generosity of many of you.



This July, many of those same Gypsy children and others can have another great camp experience, and you can, once again, help them make new memories.

For only \$40 you can sponsor a Gypsy child for a week at camp this summer.

Pray that God will lead people to become sponsors so these children can come to know Him through the camp experience. Contact Meg Hunt at mhunt21@msn.com to sponsor a child.

Miller Family To Experience Fulfillment Of The Dream

Kip Miller, wife Kim, daughter Meagan and husband Caleb Owen, son Derek, and daughter Tricia, will travel to Iringa, Tanzania, to meet and work with the children and staff of the Daily Bread Life Children's Home. Please pray for safety in travel and for the experience of sharing with the children to be a blessing to all.

June 4-5: Travel from GSP to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

June 6: Travel from Dar to Iringa – Meet with the children and staff of DBL Children's Home.

June 7: Bonnie Parker, Kim Miller, Tricia Miller and Meagan Owen will lead Bible School for the children. Kip Miller, Derek Miller and Caleb Owen will begin construction of a clothes drying shelter for the Children's Home.

June 8: Worship and Afternoon Bible School

June 9: Bible School and Construction continue

June 10: Bible School and Construction continue

June 11-12: Ruaha National Park Safari

June 13: Travel from Ruaha to Dar Es Salaam. Fly home at 10:50 p.m.

June 14: Travel Home to Greenville, S.C.

Teleios Team To Spearhead Farm, Water Source Development

Floyd and Bonnie Parker, Greg and Becky Wood from Gray Court, and Frank Strickland from Marion, will be going to Tanzania to assist in the development of a hog farm and supplemental water resources for the Daily Bread Life Children's Home and Kidetete community.

Please pray for safety in travel and for a spirit of cooperation to exist as work begins on establishing the farm.

June 1-2: Travel from GSP/Marion, S.C., to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

June 3: Travel from Dar to Iringa – Meet children and staff at DBL Children's Home. Assess repair needs at the Children's Home.

June 4: Visit Kidetete and assess spring water well, hog farm needs, and hostel

June 5: Visit Mbeya and Tikuyu for future farm possibilities

June 6: Return to Iringa after Tikuyu visit

June 7: Bible School and Farm Work

June 8: Worship

June 9: Bible School and Farm Work

June 10: Bible School and Farm Work

June 11: Ruaha National Park Safari

June 12: Travel to Iringa

June 13: Travel to Dar Es Salaam. Fly home at 5:20 PM.

June 14: Travel Home to Greenville and Marion, S.C.

Grace Team At FOBOCK Conference

Please remember to pray for the Grace Team led by Pastor Matt Williams as they will be teaching at the FOBOCK Pastors Conference in Kenya on June 11-14. They will leave Greenville on June 8 and return on June 16.



Reflections From the Green Chair.....

Addition to last edition's Green Chair – add the Scripture: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

More and more, I am reflecting upon the practical realities of following Jesus. They may be theological in nature, but mostly they are about what this means for me when I get up tomorrow and follow Jesus.

Recently, I was struck by the profound reality that I have found my cross. In fact, I have been taking it up for quite some time. I cannot tell you the relief I have found in having that knowledge. Also, I cannot tell you the profound responsibility it has brought to my life.

Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" What does this really mean for us as the church, as followers of Jesus?

All my life, I have heard people refer to "the cross I have to bear." Usually, it relates to something that is difficult or painful circumstance or situation; but,

really it is a part of everyday life. For example, when my parents came to live in Greenville, I could have said as some have that taking a more active role in my parents' care was "the cross I have to bear." A lost job, plant closing, or financial difficulty may lead someone to say, "That's the cross I have to bear."

The simple truth is that is not "the cross to be born." We can endure and come out of these difficulties stronger in faith and deeper in life because of the cross, but they are not our cross to take up.

The cross is something that we have a clear choice to make. A cross is not an accident or a passing situation or circumstance. The cross is something we see and know. The cross is something we understand and with that clear understanding say, "YES." Bearing the cross or taking up the cross is not brought about by some circumstance in life but by a conscious choice to follow Jesus regardless of circumstance or situation.

We can see the cross coming. Look at Jesus just before the passage quoted above. He told the disciples in detail what was going to happen. Gethsemane was not the first time that Jesus prayed, "Not my will but your will be done in

life," or "Not my needs but your will be done." Taking up the cross means that we will pray that prayer a lot.

Several things are involved in taking up the cross.

1. Our cross is always for the benefit of others' relationship with God in Jesus.
2. The cross always costs the one taking it up—in short the cross causes us to say, "God is there another way of doing this that is not so painful or costly."
3. The cross is understood clearly in terms of what God is doing in this world to redeem it.
4. As painful, difficult or costly as the cross may be, we always can see life on the other side. The cross is a means and not an end (*Hebrews 12*). The cross is not an end of life but a way to life.
5. Sometimes the responsibility and cost seem overwhelming; but we are not in despair or overwhelmed by it. In fact, sometimes our lives are just plain joyful.

One day, after our cross is finished; we will enjoy the fullness of a life that has been found and really lived everyday following Jesus.

Love In Christ,

Floyd