

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

A Different Kind Of Year

By Bonnie Parker

As 2020 began, we at Teleios had a very busy year of travel scheduled! You may remember seeing that tentative listing in the previous newsletter. God's plans for us are not always the same ones we place on our calendars!

Travel restrictions and border closings due to the worldwide pandemic shut down all ministry related trips scheduled to date. However, work with our partners has continued throughout the months of "sheltering in place."

While all of our international partners and friends have had to deal with COVID-19, modern technology has given us the ability to continue to pray with and for one another, as well as to encourage and provide support in their God-given visions and work.

Additionally, Floyd has been able to continue leadership development sessions, mentor pastors, and receive updates on the progress of various projects.

Among our partners, we have only one report of illness due to COVID-19. A Gypsy family who are members of the Hungarian Baptist Church in Reghin, Romania, contracted the illness. One family member died, and several others are in the process of recovery. Please pray for them and Attila Toth as he ministers to them.

Romania and Tanzania are slowly beginning to open their borders and resume their normal ways of life. Kenya still has not opened its country to international travelers, and schools, universities and larger businesses are closed.

Closer to home, the Teleios Fourth of July event will NOT be held this year due to the coronavirus and an abundance of concern for those who traditionally celebrate with us.

Plans are still in the works to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Teleios Ministry in October. Watch our website, Facebook page and future newsletters for details.

Praying God's strength and protection for all during this time.



In spite of the pandemic situation, construction on the additions to Bellevue Church in Kenya has been able to continue.



Alex Mwaisumbe makes his rounds through the farm in Tanzania keeping a close watch over the crops.

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Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

A Refresher On What Teleios Ministry Does...

At the heart of Teleios Ministry's vision of helping God-given visions become present-day realities is the practical expectation of sustainability. When the vision becomes real, the question then becomes how will it continue after Teleios is gone?

God has led Teleios Ministry to be involved in farming, local business development, and local financial support of the indigenous vision. What does that look like?

TANZANIA

Farming in Iringa District – Kidete Village

- To provide vegetables, milk, meat, and fruit for Daily Bread Life Children's Home (DBLCH), Bread of Life Secondary School, Asante Sana Children's Home, and Kidete Nursery School Meal Program. The farm is managed by Alex Mwaisumbe in the picture.

Businesses in Iringa District

- The safari tour company, café, and executive car rental agency have been invaluable sources in meeting the needs of DLBCH/Asante Sana/Bread of Life and so many other ministry needs led by Mpeli and Neema Mwaisumbe. All of these businesses had been closed due to the pandemic restrictions but are reopening as business opportunities return. In addition, there is also a mechanic's garage and carpentry shop seeing customers return now.

ROMANIA

Farming in Mures District – Glodeni Village

- The past year, under Attila Toth's leadership, the farm has added specialty breed pigs. Polytunnels (a type of greenhouse) built by English partners have produced the year's first harvest of onions, radishes, and "salad."



The farm in Glodeni, Romania, has expanded its livestock profile with specialty breed pigs adding additional revenue opportunities.

- Second-hand items sold in the first quarter of 2020 by Assistant Manager Iza with Associata Teleios have helped provide funding for labor costs on the New Life Children's Home construction, as well as mission support with the Roma ministry.



Opportunities exist to help young people gain new skills and find employment through farming.

KENYA

Business in Nyeri

- Paradise Café had to close for the Coronavirus but is reopening to sell takeaway meals.

The Café is owned by Life Change Investments providing valuable support for Life Empowerment for Transformation's ministry in the area. It will provide income and training opportunities for graduates of the Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) program.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Our Teleios partners have been a vital part of fulfilling the vision of locally supported ministries and dreams. We are not stopping now. Some new investment opportunities have evolved:

- ◇ Establishing a café to train young women freed from human trafficking.
- ◇ Automobile garage to employ graduating children from the OVC program.
- ◇ Farm sites to train and employ local young people and provide food for children's homes and food relief for those in need.

If you would like to be involved in this part of vision fulfillment, you can contact Floyd Parker at Teleios Ministry by calling 864-230-3223 or emailing him at: floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org.

Putting The Needs Of Others Before Your Own

By Attila Toth

For the last 15 years, I have been working with the Roma (Gypsy) people in the Reghin area of Romania. This includes the town of Reghin and the communities of Apalina, Peris, Gornesti, and Glodeni. There are many Roma living in each of these communities.

Even though I have been working among Roma here for 15 years now, I am still shocked at how poor some families are among them. There are hundreds of families without any

income or very small income, and because of that many of them are literally starving. Most of them are going to a garbage can to find some food there, or the young ladies are doing prostitution to be able to feed their children.

My heart is breaking, especially for children when they are saying that they are without any food for days.

We know that giving them food is not resolving the poverty, but for immediate need we set up a little food bank where the most needy families can come. We can

give them some food that lasts (potatoes, oil, rice, can meat, pasta, corn flour, flour, canned vegetable or something similar) which helps them survive for a few days.

During this pandemic, we were able to provide hundreds of food packages thanks to our generous friends who supported this effort.

New Life Children's Home Nearing Completion In Peris

By Attila Toth

The idea to start an orphanage is not a new one. Since I am working as a pastor here, I see so many orphans or semi-orphaned children in these communities. Several times, children asked me if they can come and stay at our home.

Our desire was to create not just an orphanage, but a family home. Our vision was to have one set of parents who will take in these children as their own. The home would provide for the basic needs of food and shelter.

However, it would also provide care and instruction and a safe



The Coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on Roma communities, but Pastor Attila Toth's caring congregations have created a food bank to help families in need.



home environment for these children. We wanted this to be a place where these children grow up knowing they are loved and cared for. It will be a place where they will grow up learning how to provide the same things for their families in the future.

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The Well Springs Forth For Robert, Lucy And 'Little' Floyd

For the past year, all of us have been praying and working to get a borehole well drilled on Robert and Lucy Muteithia's farm in Kenya.

So many delays occurred. First, the geology report had to be redone three times. Second, the well drillers attempted numerous times during the rainy season to get to the property, but repeatedly the trucks were stuck in the muddy roads. Through each setback, we all waited and prayed.

Finally, on May 18, WATER! After drilling 170 meters, there is lots of clean, clear water! Little Floyd took a drink just to test it!

So excited for what this means for Robert and Lucy with their farming and providing for their family. Also, the well has enough water to help some of their neighbors.



Robert, Lucy and 'Little' Floyd are all smiles as the water from their new water well flows forth.

Polytunnels Create Option For Year-Round Growing Season

Behind the New Life Children's Home in Peris, we have three polytunnels where we are growing vegetables like onions, radishes, salad (lettuce), tomatoes, green beans and cucumbers.

Polytunnels are like greenhouses which allows us to basically develop a year-round growing season. The plan is that we use some of the vegetables to feed the children in the house, but then most of the vegetable is for sale to generate income for our work.

In the coming years, we want to build three more polytunnels to help us maximize the potential of a longer growing season.



CHILDREN'S HOME

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In 2015, we were able to purchase a property in Peris. Since then, with the help of many different people, we were able to build a very beautiful building with many rooms as the local law requires for children's homes.

The building is 90 percent ready. Hopefully, by the end of the year the first children can come and start a New Life here.

SECONDHAND SHOP IN THE WORKS

Next to the orphanage, there is an old building that we are

starting to renovate. Our plan is to open a fully operational secondhand shop there.

Because this is located next to a very busy road, and there are no secondhand shops in that area, we think that this would be a very good and easy way to generate income for our work.

Already, in the first quarter of 2020, Assistant Manager Iza with Associate Teleios has been working on this plan. Her selling efforts have helped provide funding for labor costs on the New Life Children's Home construction, as well as mission support with the Roma ministry.

Solar Power For Life~Changing Water!

Forty years, two generations, political setbacks and a global pandemic couldn't keep a God-given dream from becoming a reality!

On May 26, the installation of a solar-powered pump to power water from the tanks was the final step in a 14-month journey that saw Teleios partners from Sunbelt Marketing, Kenny Pipe & Supply and Life Change Investments/Life Empowerment (LCI) joining with the Gatarakwa Water District, led by Stephen Kibishi, Chairman, to supply water to this area of Nyeri County.



Over the course of more than a year, this labor of love between the partners and Kenyan brothers and sisters working together helped build the water tanks, connect water lines to houses and support the borehole drilling. Nyeri County Water

Chief Environmental Commissioner Fredrick Kinyua was also a vital part of assisting the partners' dream of bringing water to hundreds of families.

So, it was, indeed, a day of much rejoicing as the water flowed from the Kienjero Borehole to the Kienjero Water Tank which will provide water to three tanks supplying clean, fresh water to the people in surrounding villages.

Stephen's father and father-in-law had the vision along with others in the area to provide water to this Kieni West area over 40 years ago. Sadly, both passed away this past year before they could see the fulfillment of their dream.

Now, this life-changing water is flowing because the Living Water Jesus Christ brought His followers together to provide.



GREEN CHAIR

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this boxing is what we do to help us process the world around us.

In countries of people with the same skin color, there are tribal boxes. In Romania, there are ethnic boxes of Hungarian, Romanian, Roma, and German. Even among the ethnic groups, there are sub-groups.

Jesus confronts us with being transformed

to not see people as the world sees people. We are to see people as our Heavenly Father sees people.

God our Creator did not make us all alike.

Yes, there are characteristics that are present in the different people, but not all apply. All men are not alike. All women are not alike. All whites are not alike. All Hispanics are not alike. All blacks are not alike. On and on we could go.

We are each uniquely created by God for relationship with Him and for the purpose of His intent.

These externals do not define us or those we meet. There is one box that encompasses the whole world and that is the earth is the Lord's.

In God's Image,

Floyd

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Reflections From the Green Chair.....

One night recently, as my routine of getting everything ready for the next day's garbage pickup was winding down, I made a big decision - to get rid of the various boxes that I had been holding onto in case I needed them.

During this time of pandemic and especially with the unrest over many things, the time has come for followers of Jesus to get rid of the various boxes that they have been holding on to. The challenge for the 21st century church is to get rid of the boxes that separate, divide, and allow us to order our world. Jesus came to set us free from the boxes. Paul was called by Jesus to follow Him and to open up a whole new world outside the box of the Judaism of his day (his family).

Truth is we box people for identification purposes. The problem with this is that we most often use externals to make these determinations, even using things people have no control over. This was Paul's problem because it was hindering the mission and message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was killing the Way; the ones called out by Jesus.

Paul wrote in Galatians 3:26-29, "*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ*

Jesus. ²⁷For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise."

And in Colossians 3:8-11, "*But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. ¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all."*

Notice the boxes Paul has identified, none by choice... Born Jew or Greek, parents chose circumcised or uncircumcised, born barbarian or Scythian, born or captured slave or free. These were the boxes of Paul's people in understanding those around them.

Paul said, "This is not what Jesus came to accomplish." Stop putting people in boxes, see them for where they really are:

In Christ or away from Christ. Look at who I am as "boxed" by the U.S. Census and medical forms: American citizen, White, male, senior adult, Christian. I only chose the last one — Christian. I chose none of the others. I came into this world, or I have lived long enough to qualify.

Yet, look at how we box or generalize people. Paul reminds us that none of these boxes apply except Christian. This new me, Christian, is understood solely as free in Jesus Christ.

Jesus was clear that it was not the outside but the inside that determines who we are; it is "from the heart." He also said, "*The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.*" (Luke 6:45)

The great problem we face in the world and our American culture is the boxes that we hold onto, just in case. These boxes help us to sort and separate.

Traveling the globe and being involved in different cultures, I have come to see that
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