



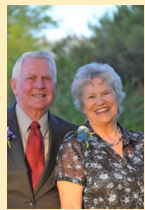
Garments of Praise Newsletter

July 2010

Our desire is to provide **“HOPE, by Helping the helpless, giving the Oil of joy to those who mourn, supporting the Preaching of the gospel and Exchanging the “the spirit of despair with the GARMENTS OF PRAISE”, to the end that God would be Glorified. Isaiah 61: 1-3**

How did it start and where is God taking us “step by step”?

~**The Challenge, 2005-** GOD: *“I allowed your mother to live till she was 95. If I give you that much time, what are you going to do with the next 25 years of your life?”* This was the jolt that pulled us out of the coasting we doing



as we enjoyed retirement.

~**The Prayer, 2005-** Will and Ilowee Owens: *“God don’t let us rust out but show us how we can be fruitful and a blessing in these last years.”*

~**The Invitation June, 2005-**

Hoyt and Lois Osborne: *“Come to*

Kenya and teach seminars to our Kenya church families and a struggling church in Nairobi of Ethiopian Refugees”.



~**The Burden, 2007-**The great need of the Ethiopian refugee women came sharply into focus and God wouldn’t let us get away from it.

~**The Dream, 2008-** After sharing the burden with several wonderful prayer warriors and conferring with the Osborne's, the idea of a sewing center to train these women in skills that would lift them from the terrible poverty they are locked in, was born. **See the story** @<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0ZbKg37hO4>

~**The Seed, 2009-** Our church, Calvary Chapel in Tucson, offered to let us share the dream at the women’s retreat. God used this to not only supply funds for a start but to also introduce us to a number of wonderful partners who have joined and stood strong with us this last year. Prayer is the foundation of this work and we appreciate so much those who have lifted it up faithfully and regularly.



~**The Dream come true, Jan 25th 2010** –The sewing center opened in Kangundo in a rented room on the property of the United African Evangelistic Ministries’ Bible College.

~**The Dream expanded, May 2010-** An apartment was rented as a place for the Ethiopian women to stay, as they trained in Kangundo, 50 miles from Nairobi. We also added teenage Kenyan girls, who are orphans and widows with young children, to the training.

Mitike, a woman from the refugee church, is finishing her training in June so she will be able to teach hair dressing skills to the women. Philips, Tsion, and Kusha have been trained in jewelry making, and as they increase in skill, we hope



they will train other women and men in this skill. ~**We are also sponsoring two young men**, a Kenya pastor and a Deacon from the Ethiopian church, in the Bible College, to further equip them for their work.

~**Over the last year** God has knit together a group of faithful Christians who have planned, prayed and prepared as we investigated opportunities to make a lasting difference in the lives of these dear Christians and fulfill the word of God as found in...

I John 3:16-18 *“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”*

~**As we seek to follow God’s heart** it has led to the formation of the **Garments of Praise Foundation** in early May, 2010. Garments of Praise Foundation is structured under the umbrella of the Servants Christian Community Foundation (SCCF), an IRS recognized holding foundation. SCCF will accept all donations on our behalf and issue all tax-exempt receipts to our donors, but our funds will only be directed to our approved projects. See our website at:

www.garmentsofpraisetoafricawithlove.org

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“LORD...all that we have accomplished you have done for us.” Isaiah 26:12

God has been leading and providing through your faithful prayers and giving. This is what God has accomplished in our first year:



~Mitike has completed her hairdressing training and will now be able to teach others. This fulfills the intent of our Mission Statement **“...establish hope through practical skills building”**. *Please pray for a shop where we will be able to teach the skill of hairdressing and jewelry making.*



~Philips, Tsion and Kusha (the Ethiopian Refugee ladies pictured here) are making unique and beautiful paper beads. They learned the art of paper bead and jewelry making from teachers that God supplied. **This was the start of “Kusha’s Collections”**. They have made hundreds of items for us to offer for donations here. They may be viewed at:

A Fine Line Paperie & Gift Boutique
6538 E. Tanque Verde Rd., Ste. 180, Tucson, AZ

“WHAT A BLESSING TO HEAR PHILIPS EXPRESS HER DESIRE TO LEARN ENOUGH SO SHE COULD TRAIN OTHERS TO HELP THEM OUT OF THE TERRIBLE POVERTY THEY ARE TRAPPED IN.”



~7 Kenyan and 6 Ethiopian girls/women are now attending the **“Garments of Praise Tailoring Institute”**, which is in it’s second term. This two year Institute will provide graduates with a Tailoring Certificate recognized by the Kenyan government. This will enable the women to obtain employment in any tailoring shop or manufacturing facility. If they are able to purchase their own machines, they can even start their own business.

~**Thanks to your generous giving**, we were able to purchase ten additional treadle machines and one additional embroidery machine; along with the machines that we rent, each student now has a machine to train on and eight students have received full scholarships through August.

Please pray for the provision of electric sewing machines and sergers which will increase their employment opportunities for the future.



“GOD HAS BEEN LEADING AND PROVIDING!”



Betty, our cook (left) and Veronichah, our sewing teacher



Students in the skirts that they had sewn



First class with rented machines

~We leaned heavily on our Kenya family to accomplish the huge task of getting



the apartment ready for the Ethiopian gals to have a place to live while they train. Thank you Fitz, our “energizer bunny” and Lois our “mighty organizer”. Thank you, our supporters, for providing the means to make this home for the girls.

The happy girls are pictured here (right) in their new



apartment!! One just kept saying over and over “room, room” and then she would giggle. This, even though we had three sets of bunk beds in one bedroom that was maybe 12 feet by 10 feet. They only had cold water for the shower (when there is water) but they couldn’t believe they had a shower!! *Your prayers were answered as they adapted to the different environment and were warmly welcomed by the Kenya students.*



“We are also sponsoring two young men, a Kenya pastor and a Deacon from the Ethiopian church, in Bible College, to further equip them for their work.”



~"When the ladies first came to the college they didn't bring anything with them, as they were afraid it would be a very dreary and maybe dangerous place. After seeing the beautiful campus when they arrived the next day, they were joyous and thankful. One of the youngest put her arms around me and laid her head on my chest and just sobbed saying over and over, “thank you mama, thank you mama””.

“AFTER SEEING THE BEAUTIFUL CAMPUS WHEN THEY ARRIVED THE NEXT DAY, THEY WERE JOYOUS AND THANKFUL.”

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support !

Current needs:

Scholarships:

Full scholarships \$100 * for tailoring and bible students, who board
This includes tuition, travel and room & board

Full scholarships \$50 * for non-boarding students

**Partial scholarships are available.*

Jewelry scholarships are \$50 for the month long training.

Equipment:

20 - Sewing machines - 10 electric \$350 each; 10 manual \$200 each

10 - Sergers (Seam Finisher) \$300 each

10 - Embroidery machines - 5 electric \$350 each; 5 manual \$250 each

Building: **30 x 60 foot** Total projected cost \$20,000

♥Any sized gift is most appreciated

Make checks payable to: Garments of Praise Foundation

Mailing address: 7739 E. Broadway Blvd

PMB 138

Tucson, AZ 85710-3941

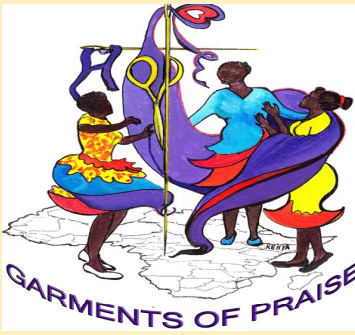
Telephone: 520.289.5957

Email:laurieannbl@yahoo.com

www.garmentsofpraisetoafricawithlove.org



Pastor Fitz baptizing new believers at a local dam. “He has been a great blessing to us. He is constantly looking for ways to help us and make it all work. Fitz is the one who set up our first meeting with Veronicah to start the sewing center.”



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Hope for the Hopeless Oil of joy for mourning Preach the Good News Exchange the spirit of heaviness for the garment of praise

