

Dear Prayer Partners,

This is a report to share the objectives and the results of the trip to AFRICA made on October 6th-19th of 2011 by five team members of the *Garments of Praise* board.

Our objectives of the trip: according to Isaiah 61: 1-3

- 1) To check out Shalom Learning Center, a school for disadvantaged children who are in need of support, to see if we should partner with them. They are in need of food, clean water and a good education which has been denied them prior to being able to attend this school,.
- 2) To check on the progress of the new building being constructed for Garments of Praise on the Bible College campus so that we can expand our options in job skills training and possibly start a small manufacturing plant.
- 3) To evaluate the tailoring school training, check on and encourage the students we sponsor in the Tailoring Institute and the Bible College at the Kangundo Mission compound.
- 4) To go in the love of Christ to bless, equip and encourage the ministries we are presently working alongside in both Kangundo and Nairobi.
- 5) To meet with Kenyans who have expressed a desire to help us with the founding of a *Garments of Praise Africa* so we will have a charitable foundation there to oversee the different ministries we are involved with.
- 6) To gain a clearer idea of how we can help the refugee church in Nairobi and move forward to establish a training center in job skills training close to the women living in the slums who are attending the Eastleigh Evangelical Church which serves the Ethiopian refugees in that dark area.

What we were able to accomplish

We shared a full day at Shalom Learning Center, a school for 74 disadvantaged children who were behind in school, because of serious home situations. Stephen and Caro have been lead of God to found this much needed work to be a hand up to the many children that would be forgotten and have no future without education. This is a very poor area and most of the children don't attend school because of finances or they are helping earn food money for the family even at very young ages. What a wonderful day was had by all! 64 students (some were not able to be there) enjoyed the puppet shows, the songs, the crafts and bag of goodies that each received at end of the day and the big finale of face painting. The team outdid themselves in changing the kid's faces (oh excuse me the children's



faces; kids are little goats there) How they loved it (yeah both team and kids). The kids thrilled us with songs, poems, bible verses and big smiles. Stephen had to tell them to just do 4 verses because he said they knew 100 and would have recited them all if he hadn't said just 4. What a joy to see them so firmly grounded in the Bible and its teaching as well as the academics. We had taken down many books, soccer balls and a bean bag game, that were much appreciated. We all hated to leave even after six hours which ran almost two hours over our scheduled time but all agreed that this was a big "YES" as far as Garments of Praise partnering with them. We took down new tee shirts for all and Stephen said they wore them for days after we left.



We are looking forward our first project for them which will be a water storage tank of 4000 liters. The cost is less than \$700. It will make such a difference in their health to have clean water for domestic use. There is no water source that is available to the school so they harvest rain water when it rains and make it useable for drinking and cooking. When it doesn't rain they just have to do without. This is a partnership that will yield great eternal rewards and much joy now.

New building being constructed



It is 90% completed and in use for group activities even though we can't move the machines in yet. We hope to have it completed by end of the year. The group on right that is enjoying being out of the hot sun, is the Grace Children Home families, parents and kids, who were celebrating their semi-annual get together. These are orphan children who have been placed in two parent Christian homes. What a joy to be there to enjoy this special day with them.



Evaluate the tailoring school training, check on and encourage the students we sponsor



We were very pleased with some areas of training and spotted areas that needed more attention and hands on effort. This, along with other needs for the work in Nairobi, has prompted Will and Ilowee Owens to decide to go down to Kenya for an extended stay of 8 to 12 months in March 2012. One of our tailoring students, Anna was saved while we were there after Troy and Lisa spent time with her. We have 33 students enrolled with 8 taking exams to graduate in Dec. Sally was a great hit as she instructed students in proper ways to act and "smell" during a job interview session to help prepare the graduating students.

On right Eric with Martin the newest student we are sponsoring.



Go in the love of Christ to bless, equip and encourage the ministries we are working with



Coloring pictures that matched the Bible story.

Members of the team taught chapel everyday at the Bible College when we were in the area. We were able to teach seminars with sessions for men and women as well as preaching service in 4 churches and also had great puppet shows and songs to teach God's word to the children.



Students from the Tailoring, mechanics, computer and Bible



Some of the 100 children at Emmanuel Church

To meet with Kenyans who expressed a desire to help us with the founding of a *Garments of Praise Africa*



Rose, is a very talented young women who is committed to help us find a way to do job skills training in the slum area of Eastleigh. She has overseen several high profile projects, including one for the United Nations on aids in Nairobi and has written a proposal for the job training project we are praying to set up for the refugees living in the slums. **We** had made numerous attempts to reach **Wanjau**, who is the main contact we have in Kenya to expand our job skills training, but to no avail until the evening just before we left Nairobi he silently appeared at our table at the guest house we were staying at. Ilowee calls him her "silent angel" as he has just quietly shown up at three different times and places when all human effort was unable to connect us with him. He is well known, throughout Africa as an independent non-profit management professional and he has been such an encouragement to us in the work we feel God wants us to do in Kenya. He was able to give us information on an attorney with whom we were able to meet and start initial work on the formation of **Garments of Praise Africa**.

To gain a clearer idea of how to help the refugee church and establish training in job skills in Nairobi



The Church in Eastleigh meets for three hours each week as they are only able to rent a portion of a community center on Sundays from 2-5 am. A new addition has become available that they could possibly rent full time but they lack the \$300 plus per month to make this possible. We are praying to see if this could be used for a dual purpose room to serve as a training center and a place for the church to meet throughout the

week. The area of Eastleigh has become a nest for the terrorist movement in Africa and the Kenya government is very concerned about the violence there. Members of this brave church, the only one remaining out of 20 after 20 years, risk stoning as they go out and witness for Jesus to share the **HOPE** of the Gospel. Because it is so dangerous and the Muslims have sworn to stamp out all the Christians in Eastleigh there are reservations by Rose to have her workers travel into this part of Nairobi. Please pray we will have wisdom as we move forward to be a blessing and encouragement to this church and find a place to help those that are helpless to help themselves without a hand up.

Even though they don't have much they gave out of their little to bless us and show us how much they appreciated our coming to bless and refresh them. Please pray for this "light house" in this area that desires to turn many to repentance. We had three young men express the desire for salvation with two coming forward to the platform to affirm their desire to be saved after Troy's message on being born again.



Rachel pictured left, has taken the name of Philip also as she goes out each Thursday to witness of Christ's love. It was shared with Ilowee that she was at the point of committing suicide by hanging when we first met her. She had been totally without hope and life didn't seem worth living for until hope was shared first in training to make jewelry along with a suitcase of beads and then the gospel message from the pulpit of this brave church. Please pray for her as she goes each week to witness and share Christ; she fully understands the dangers but "the love of Christ" compels her to go.

"We went to bless and came away blessed; we went to encourage and came away encouraged; we went to equip and came away edified; we went to supply needs and came away realizing our God would supply all our needs for every good work. May we obey Him and press forward to go through each open door He sets before us and become His hands and feet to bring HOPE to our brothers and sisters in such great need in Africa."

Thank you for being faithful in prayer for us!!! We fully realize that it was the major reason God worked on our behalf to accomplish everything He blessed us with.

The Garments of Praise team

Isaiah 26:12 " LORD..... all that we have accomplished you have done for us..." NIV