

Garments of Praise to Africa with Love

Volume 1, Issue 5

June 2012

A Vision Coming Into Focus

Often, when God gives us a “vision” it is usually cloudy, at best, and we have no idea of how to carry the dream forward. Fortunately our Father knows how very limited we are and will, if we let Him, equip us to do the very thing He has called us to do. God does the calling and makes the provision. We just say “Here I am, send me”. And so it is with the Garments of Praise Tailoring Institute.

One long held dream was to have the tailoring students make school uniforms to help the orphaned and poor. Now, with great joy, we can report this vision is being fulfilled, providing uniforms for the most needy primary school students at Shalom Learning Center. It has been



Tailoring students making school uniforms

exciting to see the tailoring student’s skills progress to a point where they too are blessing others in need.

Garments of Praise Tailoring Institute has 24 students enrolled in this school session, 17 are first year students and 7 other students are at various stages of training. Earlier this year the decision was made to admit students every January, the start of the school year in Kenya, so that each class will be at the same learning level. This change has improved the quality of learning, as all students work on the same projects together.

Please pray with us as we explore opening a tailoring and dress-making shop within our facility. Such a shop would be able to make school uniforms during the school year, and produce other types of clothing year-round providing additional employment opportunities for students.



Receiving individualized instruction



Classes in session with our wonderful teachers Veronicah and Josephine

Another enterprise that has presented itself is the need for silk screened tee shirts. Printed clothing items are used extensively for school uniforms, college happenings and by various event promoters. We anticipate that the making and printing of tee shirts can be accommodated within our current building. Printing will provide additional employment prospects to young people within this community to aid in the plight of unemployment and the resulting hopelessness.

Pray and ask God to direct us in these endeavors.

Exchanging “the spirit of despair with the Garments of Praise”

- Help for the helpless, the
- Oil of joy to those who mourn, to
- Preach the Gospel to the poor and to
- Exchange the “spirit of despair with the Garments of Praise”, to the end that God would be Glorified; as described in Isaiah 61:1-3

Inside this issue:

A Vision Coming Into Focus **1**

Exciting Changes for Shalom Learning Center **2**

A man’s heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps **3**

Praises and Prayer Requests **3**

Hairdressing College Update **3**

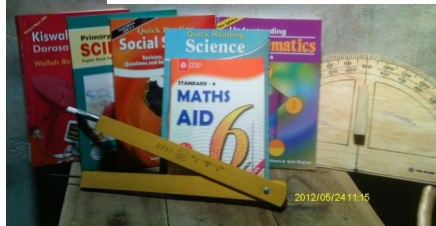
Sponsorship Opportunities **4**

Exciting Changes for Shalom Learning Center



Through the faithfulness of our supporters, Garments of Praise has been able to make several improvements for Shalom Learning Center. We provided paint to cover the rusty tin fencing around the school yard and posts were repaired or replaced to help keep the children safe. The dark dingy classrooms have also been brightened with a new coat of paint.

This is such a heart-warming ministry and the children are so grateful for the smallest of things



New desks and school books

Speaking of brightening, there are no windows in the school, only a large double door that opens out onto a busy highway. So some of the solid tin roof has been replaced with two clear roofing panels to provide natural light. Once the panels were installed the children kept looking up and saying "electricity!"

New "desks" have been built so that the students have both the right height for their little legs and enough desks so that they can sit 4 to a desk rather than 5 or 6.

Probably the most significant way we can help is to keep hot meals available for the children in both the morning and afternoon. Good nutrition is paramount!



Newly painted fence

Who does not love a new change of clothing to wear? The Garments of Praise Tailoring Institute students are busily completing 39 new school uniform shirts for the boys. Isn't it great to see how God provides for those he loves!

It is our desire to provide the Shalom students with ear and eye checkups. Ear infections are a common and painful problem. Also, there are several children who have to stand close to the black board or hold their papers just inches from their eyes to do their work because they need glasses. Please pray with us that God will help to meet this need.



James with new school clothes



School yard before fence painting



*Thank you for your support!
It is making a real difference*



Painting inside classroom

"A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps"

Proverbs 16:9 NKJV

Sometimes God takes us in a direction that we didn't anticipate. When Garments of Praise began the Eastleigh Refugee Women's Project we saw the great need for job skills to help these women become independent and self-sustaining. After working closely with the refugee women, we realized that behind the smiling faces is much pain and uncertainty.

One of the first young women trained through this program was rescued from committing suicide. Another was raped and as she nears delivery of her child, she has no family to support her and no place else to go. One woman has serious health problems that need to be addressed quickly and, she also, has no family or friend who can help her. Employers of these desperate women take advantage of them by paying very low wages or attempt to force "special" favors in order to keep their jobs. As you can imagine, they have a tremendous need for counseling and security. It seems God is telling us to carry through to "total rescue", not just jobs skills, to truly enable these women to support themselves.

Behind the smiling faces is much pain and uncertainty



Zenash working on a bag

The cost of this type of facility and the necessary support required is more costly than originally planned. Lean cost estimations are \$1,000 per month for 6-months up to 1-year to rescue 6 refugee girls from the streets. Thanks to the tireless efforts of Rose Natecho of Kavod International, we are currently 2-months into the program and are greatly encouraged by the progress of some. We feel within a couple more months they will not only be on their feet, but will be prepared to train and help others. It is a different story with the rest as the social, medical and emotional issues need to be dealt with adequately so that they can focus and move ahead.

To carry out this rescue effort, we have partnered with Rose Natecho who is founder of Kavod International and her assistant, Cylia, whom the girls love. A rescue center would be a significantly larger effort, so we ask that you pray with us as we re-evaluate the program and discern how God wants us to proceed.



Field trip to see how other refugee women have been successful in business



Girls at lunch



Ilowee and the girls

Hairdressing College Update

The Garments of Praise Hairdressing College training will take place in the room built especially for it in our new building. Our original instructor, Mitki, and her husband were called away by God to minister to Muslims in a very difficult part of Kenya several hours away. We're sorry to see them go, but rejoice with them in God's leading in their lives. Pray God will supply us with an instructor who will bless our school.

Praises and Prayer Requests

Praises

- Will and Ilowee have full possession of the mission house
- Successful roll-out of the Garments of Praise Scholarship Program
- Improvements made for the children of Shalom Learning Center
- Revelation of the deeper needs of the Ethiopian refugee women and how we might meet those needs

Prayers

- Direction for the Eastleigh Refugee Women's Project and/or rescue center
- Set-up of the mission house for accommodating teams coming to minister in Africa
- Wisdom in overseeing present and developing projects in all ministry areas
- 3-year work permit application for Will and Ilowee

We cannot say "adequate" thanks for the prayers that you offer faithfully for the Garments of Praise work. Your prayers allow us to move forward and accomplish what God desires for us to do.

Garments of Praise
to Africa with Love

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We're on the web!

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Exchanging "the spirit of despair with the Garments of Praise"

Opportunities to Sponsor a Student

You have the opportunity to minister to those in Kenya Africa through the Garments of Praise sponsorship and scholarship programs. As part of the mission team, you can sponsor a child at the Shalom Learning Center, a student enrolled in the Tailoring Institute or Bible college, or provide a scholarship for a pastor to be further equipped in biblical studies.

*"Without education they
have very little hope in
this life, and without
salvation they have no
hope for eternal life"*



Instructing students
Garments of Praise Tailoring Institute



Shalom Learning Center
students
Thankful for this meal!



Pastors eager to share the
Good News of Jesus

Your sponsorship provides education, uniforms, supplies, exams, basic meals and a commitment of love in action to help them thrive spiritually, socially and economically. We not only provide for them financially, but in prayer and correspondence with our sponsored student. Make a life long difference today in the lives of the extremely impoverished people of Kenya Africa and send the message of Jesus' love. Contact Lisa at lisa@garmentsofpraisefoundation.com for more information.

Invite a Speaker

Consider hosting a speaker. We would be happy to share our ministry with your church or group. If interested, please contact us at 520-329-9255 or at hope@garmentsofpraisefoundation.com.

Donations Online or By Mail

We greatly appreciate any donation that you can make toward the work being done in Africa on behalf of these precious people. Donations can be made online at

www.garmentsofpraisetoafricawithlove.com

or by mail at: **Garments of Praise Foundation**
7739 East Broadway Blvd.,
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Tucson, Arizona 85710

Garments of Praise does not promote dependency, but rather enables individuals to become self-sustaining through education, job skills training and the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Thank you for being faithful in prayer for us!!! We fully realize that it is the major reason God works on our behalf to accomplish everything He has blessed us with. *The Garments of Praise Team*

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