

# Garments of Praise to Africa with Love

Volume 2, Issue 1

April 2013

*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

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## A Legacy of Surviving and Thriving

*"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." 2 Corinthians 4:7-9 NIV*

In May 2012, a project began to help young Ethiopian refugee women discover their self-worth, their importance to God, to identify career paths they would like to pursue and to develop life skills toward becoming independent. Unfortunately, this aspect of the overall program had to be suspended because of unforeseen difficulties and the realization that



This mother is praying to earn enough money from the beads so her children can attend school; they haven't attended for two years

the scope of this project was greater than what Garments of Praise is able to support at this time. This concentrated effort did, however, produce fruit as four women stepped into areas they had identified. While still struggling, they are making progress toward their goals.

Rachel gained confidence in her ability to teach the art of making jewelry from paper beads to other refugees in Eastleigh. She has already graduated one class of 8 students and has 8 current students in her class.

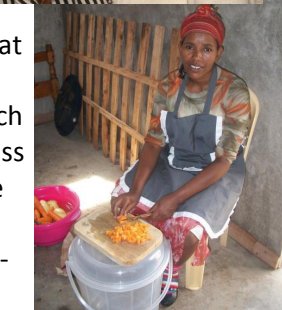
Two of the women are living in Kangundo. Birtukan, is cooking for the tailoring school feeding program

and is a blessing in her hard work and dependability. Joy, her beautiful little girl born last July, lives up to her name, as she makes everyone smile.



Zenebech and Lisa  
October 2012 Mission Trip

Zenebech, is very earnest in obtaining an education and learning English. She began studies at a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level, but is already doing 7<sup>th</sup> grade work. Zenebech recently suffered a serious illness that nearly took her life. Praise God that He spared her. Diane Clements sent this great praise report, "When I arrived, I honestly hardly recognized Zenebech, she was positively glowing! She had gone to the Ethiopian church in Nairobi and a pastor asked if he could pray for her as God had shown him something about her. As he prayed, she was healed, completely! She is doing so fine, none of the persistent pains, headaches and problems she had before for over a week! God is so good. You should hear her pray now. She could not explain it all to me, she just kept repeating "I have joy, joy". Her joy gave me joy and I am still smiling widely 5 days later. Thank You Lord and thank you for praying for her. You are making a difference!"



Birtukan and baby Joy  
Birtukan up early to prepare soup for the students

## Smartly Dressed for Success



2nd year students in dresses they made

In Kenya being “smart” has little to do with your intelligence and everything to do with how you look. Garments of Praise Tailoring Institute students are not only learning how to craft smart outfits, but are gaining confidence in their skills and ability to succeed. There are 17 second-year students and 8 first-year students currently enrolled. Tucson resident Jo Ann Hoffert shared her time and talent with the students during the months of March and November 2012. She helped to identify problems and made suggestions on how we could improve the program. Jo Ann also carefully evaluated each student’s personal needs.

What a blessing it is to see former students making great strides. Three have their own businesses and others are working around Kangundo or in Nairobi. When Eunice first began in January 2010, she was a terrified orphan who had been told she must earn her own way with no job skills. However with a full scholarship, she mastered tailoring skills. Now in January 2013, she is a confident young woman who is her own boss and doing well. Generous donors provided the help she needed to purchase machines making this possible. Without this “hand up” she would still be struggling barely making \$20 a month and working for someone else. There would be no way to save and get ahead.



Eunice in 2010, now a confident young entrepreneur in 2013



Assumpter and sons

Assumpter is a second-year student who is bravely determined to obtain job skills training enabling her to care for her two sons. Her abusive husband often beats them and will lock them either in or out of their house. Fully sponsored, Assumpter has a small room for her and the boys to live in and is attending the tailoring school. She is one of the top 5 students in her class. The spiritual and emotional support is as much appreciated as the financial assistance and she is thankful to those making this possible. “HOPE” is all she needed.

Rachel is an excellent student who also has a little daughter to support. She often misses school to dig in her neighbor’s gardens to earn money for living expenses, her daughter’s schooling fees and for food. When the mission team came in October 2012 to help and bless our students, Rachel confessed to one member that she hadn’t eaten in two days so that she could provide for her child! She is determined to succeed and is one of the top 5 students, even though she walks over an hour each way to attend school. Rachel now has a full scholarship and Garments of Praise provides support for food at home from our benevolence fund. You have made it possible for these, and other young people, to have a hope and a future.



Rachel  
a portrait of grace  
and strength

*“He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless”*

*Proverbs 2:7 NIV*

**"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate "**

Proverbs 31:31 NIV



Tailoring students busily making school uniforms for the children of Shalom Learning Center

Tailoring students learned the joy of giving, along with sewing skills, as they stitched uniforms for students of the Shalom Learning Center. These new uniforms allowed many children, who otherwise could not have afforded one, the joy of a NEW uniform to replace their worn and tattered one.



Posing in new school uniforms

**Surprise Christmas Celebration**

Many Garments of Praise supporters asked if they could send Christmas gifts to sponsored students. So that question did get us to thinking. Since we had a group of 18 very enthusiastic people who would be going to Kenya on a mission trip in October 2012, we thought; let's have the group of missionaries carry small personal care and gift items to leave for the students to be given at Christmas. Then another brainstorm hit. We'll have the Tailoring Institute students make stockings to hold the gifts for the Shalom Learning Center children. The tailoring students were so excited to be a part of this Christmas surprise, but what they didn't know is that we had volunteers here in the U.S . making stockings for them, too! We wanted to give you, our ministry supporters, an opportunity to be a part of the Christmas celebrations in Africa and you responded in an amazing way. We not only were able to provide gift stockings, but also hosted Christmas dinners for the students and their families.

Thank you for giving to "the least of these" and making their Christmas celebrations truly special!



Tailoring students opening stockings



Traditional dinner of chapattis', rice and soup



Yummy cake

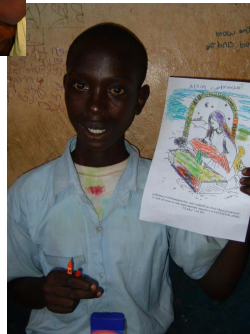


Shalom children opening stockings



Families celebrating together

Coloring Christmas pictures



## “Jesus Cares” Benevolence Fund

It is very heart wrenching to turn down those in desperate need asking for help because you do not have any funds to lend a hand, or having to choose whose situation is worse as there simply isn't enough money to help everyone through their hardship. Felex, one of our soccer boys, is an example of what we're faced with



Felex is a member of Victory Church's Awana Soccer Team

daily. His mother, in the last stages of AIDS, could no longer work. His father had already died and his elderly grandmother, with whom they live, is HIV positive and had just broken her leg. His situation seemed unbearable. Not only was he losing his mother who had sacrificed to keep him in school, but was told he could no longer attend school as his fees hadn't been paid the previous year. Now all hope for his senior year seemed lost. He is a very bright young man, but his future is very bleak if he can't finish school.

Our benevolence, “Jesus Fund” is a tremendous help to those in situations, such as Felex. Through generous giving, these monies have also subsidized churches programs for youth evangelizing and training, giving them an alternative to drugs, thievery and crime. With just one soccer ball, we have seen over two dozen young men saved who are now active in church activities and programs that honor God. What a witness they are to the whole village. Even the village chief came to congratulate the sponsors of such a wonderful program because it made his job so easy stating, These “bad boys” are no longer a problem because they are now active in sports and church.

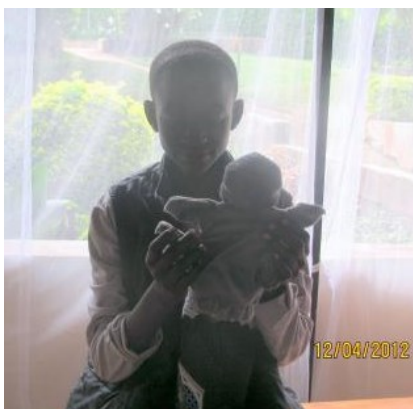
Our “Jesus Cares” fund helps with medical emergencies where just a few dollars can mean the difference between life and death. Little ones often get malaria and typhoid, but their parents are too poor to even buy \$5 worth of medicine that would soon have them up and racing around. Those with AIDS



Victory Church's Awana Soccer Team

need medicine and extra fruits and veggie to build their bodies. This precious 9-year old has had AIDS since

birth. In addition to receiving money for medicine, he was given a Christmas stocking. The look of wonder and love on his face was beautiful to behold. Another young boy going blind was able to receive proper treatment and he is now slowly regaining his eye sight.



The look of wonder and love at receiving a Christmas gift

It has helped a rape victim with hospital expenses for the birth of a precious baby along with clothes and a safe place to stay off of the streets. Frequently money is given for food of the most basic kind, staples such as porridge or maize flour and cheap “Ugali” they can survive on.

## “Jesus Cares” Benevolence Fund...Continued



This boy is receiving the gift of eyesight after receiving proper treatment

Young men have finished their training only to learn that they must first do an internship for a period of 6-months to a year to qualify to be paid for the 48 hours they put in every week for their “boss”. This money helps them to survive until they reach that probationary period in their jobs.

Funds have gone to house refugees as they seek a way to generate a living. The streets are a brutal place for anyone, but especially innocent girls with no place to go. A brother was robbed and his head smashed, 8 teeth knocked out and left for dead, but with help for medical treatment from the “Jesus Cares” funds he has not only survived but is back with his family.

Your generosity has served as a “hand up” through the purchase of sewing machines or materials for business start-ups for those who have no family to help them. New Christians, with hearts hungry for God’s word, have been given a Bible of their own to learn of His great love for them and His will for their lives. Thank you for your faithfulness to Jesus by responding as Simon Peter did in John 21:15, "Yes, Lord," ... "you know that I love you", I'll feed your lambs.

## Eastleigh Evangelical Fellowship Church...Braced for Battle



Pastor Samuel Jarso

Garments of Praise provides support to Eastleigh Evangelical Fellowship Church by renting the “upper room”, in a local community center for the little church to worship and disciple those who are being saved through faithful preaching and street witnessing. Please pray earnestly for this church as there have been bombings nearly daily since October 2012, as well as fighting and rioting. Many lives have recently been lost in this region. 33 people were

killed in a terrible bus bombing not long after the mission team had visited the Eastleigh church. High tensions in the area had caused church attendance to dwindle, but as the bombing continued after the bus attack, the church was filled beyond capacity the next Sunday and people had to sit outside the door. They recognized that God is their only real security. Growing insurgency has caused the church to scale back its street witnessing activities until political unrest abates.



Eastleigh Leadership Day Conference  
at Mennonite Guest House with October 2012  
Mission Team

## Feed My Sheep



Serving lunch at Shalom Learning Center

Garments of Praise's first feeding program venture was to join with Shalom Learning Center to help provide hot meals for nearly 100 children at the school. Many more students now attend at the school because of this benefit. Before the implementation of this program, children were hesitant to go to school for fear that the little food at their homes would all be gone when they returned. Those who did attend were often listless or even fell asleep and were frequently ill.

Thanks to the caring hearts of our board members, we began a feeding program for the tailoring students in November 2012, as they felt that what the student's were receiving was inadequate for healthy bodies and minds. The impact has been greater than could be imagined. With sufficient food and steady meals the students are now flourishing not only physically, but in their skills and ability to learn. May God bless each one of you who have "given to the poor". The Bible tells us that you have lent to the LORD and He will repay you.

The whole community has taken notice and has thanked us for our practical help and caring hearts for the extremely needy. We are thankful to the many faithful supporters that have helped us by taking to heart Jesus' words in Matthew 25: 40, "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'"



Morning porridge served at the Tailoring Institute



Eating lunch and relaxing in the shade at the mission house in Kangundo

### Note of Personal Gratitude and Thanks from Will and Ilowee Owens

*We are involved in many aspects of ministries in Kenya, but the greatest ministry is "people". Individuals who need someone to care, someone to pray with them and for them, someone to counsel and comfort them, someone to just listen or hold them as they weep, or as is often the case with the boys hug them till they can control their emotions. Someone to rejoice with them at the milestone they have achieved, in a word, someone to share "HOPE". Our rewards are so abundant and we feel very blessed that God would choose us to serve his people in this wonderful country. But without you, our partners, none of this could happen. Thank you for being those who lift up our hands when we get weary, for providing the funds so we don't have to say "sorry I have nothing to give" and most of all for the prayer support that holds the very real enemy at bay and overcomes the "spiritual wickedness in high places" paving the way to victory in Jesus. The Bible says, "a threefold cord is not easily broken". I am not sure if this is proper, but I like to think of it as Jesus, you, our supporters and prayer partners, and those of us on the ground in Kenya all working to the glory of our God and King!*

*Thank you!!!*

### Shalom Learning Center... More Than ABC's and 123's



140... That's a lot of children!

As you can see, this burgeoning school is in need of a new facility. Pastor Stephen has architectural plans drawn up and is praying that God will provide property nearby the current school that is off of the busy highway.

Please pray with us that God will grant our prayer to help raise funds to build a new facility for the school to expand. The needs are vast and ever growing. Meanwhile, dark unsuitable rooms are being renovated to improve the current conditions. Clear plastic panels are needed to provide light through the solid tin roof, as the door and small window are insufficient as the only source of light in the classrooms. The school is also in desperate need of a dining hall. At the present time children sit anywhere to eat, including on the dirt floor which also serves as their table.

Happy chatter and joyful shouting is the welcome sound that greets us when we visit this haven for little children. School enrollment has leapt from 84 students last school year to 140 students this session. Pastor Stephen, the principal, is hard pressed to stay ahead of it all, but he is such a terrific ministry partner. The cup is always half full no matter what hurdle he is facing. His attitude of gratitude is always on display because it comes from his heart.



Happy boys despite being in a dark classroom



Class of twenty 4 and 5-year olds



The children at Shalom have chosen to be there not solely for an education, but because of the love they receive from Pastor Stephen and his teaching staff. One little girl in a wheel chair had her year-long wish granted as room was made for her to attend. Several other handicapped children, that no other school wanted, are now able to attend school and join with the other children in realizing HOPE and seeing the plans God has made for their lives fulfilled.



Prospective dining hall at Shalom Learning Center

Every child loves to swing.  
Thanks team!



Garments of Praise  
to Africa with Love

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We're on the web!

garmentsofpraisetoafricawithlove.com



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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.garmentsofpraisetoafricawithlove.com)

or by mail at: **Garments of Praise Foundation**  
**7739 East Broadway Blvd.,**  
**PMB 138**  
**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**