

# GPF AFRICA

**Garments of Praise  
January 2014 Update**

*Challenged by Isaiah 61:1-3 (NKJV) it became our desire to provide **HOPE** by bringing **Help** to the helpless, giving the **Oil** of joy to those who mourn, **Preaching** the gospel to the poor, and **Exchanging** the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, with the ultimate goal that God may be glorified.*

"Garments of Praise Foundation Ministry" was officially recognized by the Kenyan government and became an independent legally registered ministry in September 2013. This registration provides us with the legal status to minister in many areas:

- Provide job skills training to "at risk" teens, single moms and Ethiopian refugees
- Partners in affording an education for orphaned, abandoned and destitute children
- Encourage and strengthen local pastors and Christian leaders through biblical seminars and Bible school tuition assistance
- Operation of the "Jesus Cares" benevolence program which provides immediate aid for food, shelter and medical needs to the extremely impoverished
- Support of the Victory Football Club, a soccer team which challenges young men who are 15 to 25 years old to turn away from drugs, alcohol and crime to seek God and His purpose for their lives
- Maintain a "mission base" that houses our feeding program, new believer bible studies, daily prayer and counseling support, temporary shelter and many other needs that arise

**Job Skills Training:** "Garments of Praise Training Institute", our tailoring school, had 35 students in 2013 and 21 of those students graduated this past November with over 200 in attendance. The program began in January of 2010 with 5 students. Later a feeding program was added to meet the nutritional needs of the students who live in poverty stricken conditions. Garments of Praise donors have provided 14 machines to graduates, presenting them with the necessary equipment to earn an income.



Students singing a special at graduation

**Looking Forward:** In 2014 we've added an additional level of training, along with industrial machines, to enhance the students skills. To make this a real life experience, we're developing a program of "group businesses" where 3 or 4 students will join together to share costs and collaborate as they learn to operate a business while under supervision. Exploration is underway into opening a production unit which would allow the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to work alongside experienced tailors and dress makers, as well as generate some income for the school. We are also looking into other areas in which we may be able to provide job skills training.



Shalom has more than out grown the present facility

**Partnership in Education:** Shalom Learning Center began in 2007 to help meet the needs and give hope and a hand up to orphaned, abandoned and destitute children. It has been our joy to come alongside this tremendous work in Tala. We have seen school attendance grow from 78 children in 2012 to over 160 in 2013. These children are not only given a solid education, but food, love and the Word of God. "Without an education they have no HOPE in this life and without salvation they have no hope of eternal life".

**Looking Forward:** Shalom Learning Center is in great need of funds to purchase their own land. This property would afford them room to expand with larger classrooms and a dining hall large enough to feed the hungry in the community. A "Safe Haven" would house children who are orphaned, abandoned or live in abusive homes and would provide them a place to be nurtured in love and safety. Garments of

Praise is also exploring another partnership in an area an hour away from Tala. This collaborative effort would involve opening and operating an orphanage with enough acreage to plant grains and vegetables to help feed both of the children's centers. A resource of this size would give us the ability to have goats, cows and chickens helping these facilities to become self-sustainable. This would also give us the opportunity to train the children in farming skills, as well as other skills.



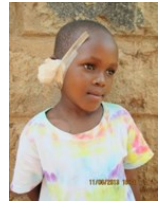
**Support to Pastors and Christian Leaders:** Teaching biblical seminars is one way we're encouraging and strengthening the local pastors and Christian leaders. Garments of Praise also provides school tuition so that Kenyans and Ethiopian refugees have the chance to receive training at accredited Bible colleges in pastoring and counseling so that they may minister effectively. Several Ethiopians plan to return to their home country to minister to their own people. Presently, we are assisting 11 men and women with tuition.



Goje plans to return to Ethiopia to train other pastors



**Jesus Cares:** Many desperate people have been given a hand up with much needed help for food, medical assistance or rent for shelter. Rachel was overjoyed when told she would be given money for food each month while she continued her training in tailoring. Rueben's father went insane and he had gone over two days with no food when he came to us for help. Felix's parents both died and he cares for his grandmother, who is HIV positive, and in poor health. Both young men were in despair of having food daily and the chance to finish school. Others were given medical help that made the difference between life and death for several of them. Over 1 million people die each year from Malaria alone, but often hospital care and medicine is out of their reach. Esther is one who received medical assistance. Her ear had to be removed and then replaced to treat a condition that has been plaguing her since she was 6 months old.



**Mission House:** Home of our feeding program, Bible studies and temporary shelter for those in need, plus many other vital activities. Often, tailoring students will spend the night at the mission house before exams so that they can get in some additional study time before class. Three young Ethiopian refugees call this place "home", and there are many others who find this house a place of shelter where they can receive comfort and encouragement during their storms in life.



Spending the night before exams



Ethiopian "daughters"



Victory Football Team after a Bible study



Tailoring students waiting for food

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ◆ **Prayer:** individually or with our prayer group; this is our greatest need
- ◆ **Sponsorship of Students** or **Feeding Program** in all categories (\$10 to \$40 per month)
- ◆ **One -Time Gifts for Land/Buildings/Equipment** (any size donation is appreciated)
- ◆ **Participate in a Mission Trip** hands on help with projects
- ◆ **Share the Vision and Need with Others** personal friends/ on the web/ arrange a speaker for your group
- ◆ **Assist at Special Events**

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