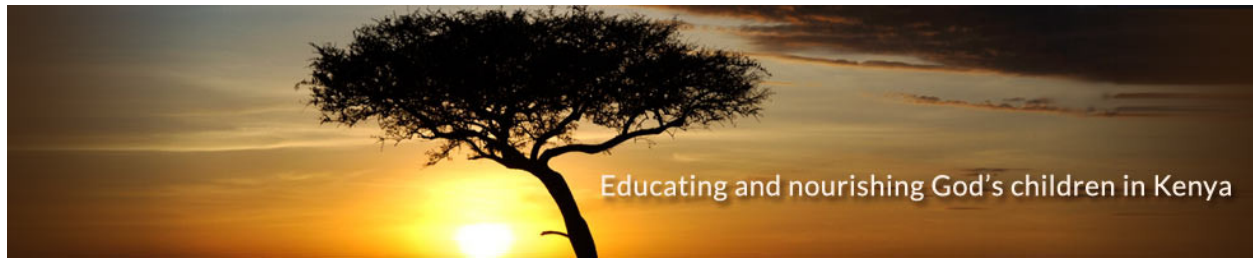


# KIJABE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND



April 2018

Dear KCEF friends and partners,

In late January, six of our board members visited the KCEF schools and programs in Kenya, representing 1500 primary school children—and over 100 who are now being sponsored in secondary school.

It was a wonderful and encouraging visit, affirming the significant difference KCEF and its supporters are making in the lives and future possibilities of these very special students.

Post-election violence in Nairobi prevented us from visiting in person two of the schools in the Kibera slum, KICOSHEP and Blessed Children's Centre (BCC). Because much of the violence was centered in Kibera it was not at all safe for us to go in, but the leaders of these schools came out to meet with us.

Kibera is the most infamous slum in all of Africa, over one million people crammed into one square kilometer. On school visits, we have observed, and our partners have shared with us, that Kibera has:

- almost no bathing or toilet facilities
- raw sewage in the streets
- often 5-10 people living, cooking, and sleeping in 2 small rooms
- approximately 40% of the children who do not attend school
- incredibly high unemployment, with most residents living on less than \$1 per day
- primarily single parent families

In the midst of this KICOSHEP and BCC are beacons of light and hope, but they desperately need help. Often we talk about the need for feeding, paying teachers, books and school supplies. However, the urgent need RIGHT NOW is for their facilities.

KICOSHEP SCHOOL has 350 students, and the 8th graders typically do very well on national testing. Teachers are well qualified and committed. Few parents can afford school fees or uniforms. Ten percent of the students are HIV positive. The school was located on the edge of the slum, near a railroad that has been expanding from the coast all the way to Uganda. Last fall, the school was forced to move so it could be torn down by the government for railroad expansion. This appeared to be a disaster, but much to our amazement the World Bank provided the funds to build a new facility for them, about 200 yards away. That is the good news.



The bad news is that:

- no electricity was provided
- there is no new water supply and a borehole is urgently needed
- the kitchen was not completed, so the kids could not be fed
- when they moved all of the desks and chairs from the old site to the new one, half of them were stolen or destroyed
- they must have security fencing and window guards

BLESSED CHILDREN'S CENTRE, also in Kibera, has 275 students. When we first met them, the school had 4 grades and was operating in one large room with a dirt floor, holes in the roof, no class dividers, and very few desks and chairs. We were able to help them buy five classrooms nearby, and then later add a second story with 4 more rooms. They now have classes up to 8th grade, and have had two graduating classes. The classrooms have basic benches and desks, but are quite crowded. One major problem for a school of 275 students—no toilets. So we are helping them add an adequate number of toilets, and also much needed washing sinks. This, however, has led to a huge increase in water use. They now have to purchase water twice a week. We are committed to helping them get set up for piped water, which will save a lot of money, improve hygiene and health and even provide some income by selling to neighbors.



We must find a way to help with these needs. These schools simply cannot function well in the current conditions. The TOTAL COST to make these critical improvements for Kicoshep and BCC is \$30,000.

Can we count on you to help? All board members are personally and financially committed to this. 625 students, their teachers and parents are waiting to hear from us. We look forward to your response and will keep you updated on these projects. Thank you so much for your careful and prayerful consideration.

Craig Hammon and Nancy Mering  
On behalf of the KCEF Board

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