



# Let's Grow

## THE KINGDOM

"Cariboo" is a special greeting that means "Welcome". That is how the team felt during our time this May and June in Africa planting seeds and nurturing relationships with both new and existing partners, all for the purpose to grow the Kingdom.

In this month's newsletter, we extend that welcome to you and we ask you to explore the good work that is being done in Kenya and throughout Africa.

Read about Tom's world-changing experience from his most recent engagement trip to Kenya and then read on to learn about our Sustainability Project in that same country to impact 43 villages through Agricultural and Literacy training.



**Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."**

MATTHEW 9:37



# Words of encouragement do make a difference.

I came away challenged and impressed how our Words of encouragement do make a difference. One example is a year ago I was in a small church in West Africa with one of the Village Church Plant leaders. He asked me to say a few words of encouragement in the church service as we were walking into the church. My memory does not recall what I said but I do remember asking the Holy Spirit to give me the words. They were asking for money from Mercy to finish a widow and homeless center and church. Mercy does not fund those type of things. But I challenged the little church that they could fund the need by assisting their neighbors and those without means. The leader who shared this with me said that within 4 months they had the funds locally to finish the project and now have the center and church operating and caring for the disadvantaged in the community. A wonderful example of servanthood and how God will provide when the local people are willing to be involved. Both churches are showing growth due to their actions. God is so good and our Words and willingness to being God's servant with action does make a difference.



**Doug Hoffman**

## A few God moments from team's time in Africa



Joined Godly leaders, who at great personal cost, worked to strategize and plan to have a Bible-teaching Church in every village in Africa by 2050.



Visited 8 farms of families transformed by the empowerment training as now they could feed their children, pay school fees, medical bills, etc. with funds from hatching and raising chickens.



Visited the Kibera slum, where we witnessed the power of a local group of 5 young adults trying to help some of the young mom's that are part of the 2 million people living there in extreme despair and poverty.

## ENGAGING NUMBERS

On our most recent trip to Kenya, the team of 6 worked with Empowering Lives International (ELI) staff in the Lugari community. This is a community that we have been invited to but the ELI Team has not done much work in yet. We hope to open the community to transformation and present the Gospel.

Door-to-door Evangelism to pray and offer encouragement in **48 homes**.

**30 plus Sunday School teachers** in the area to offer encouragement and prayer.

3-hour VBS program to more than **300 children and adults**

**200 children and adults** attend Sunday service

**60+ children** attend Sunday School Class



Experience a trip for yourself, visit: [www.mercyinc.org](http://www.mercyinc.org)



## A world changing experience

This was my second trip to Kenya in the last year. I continue to be moved and excited for how God is working there in many ways through the work of Mercy. We experienced so many things on this trip and God made a way for us all to be used of Him many times as we served there.

One of the areas of work that I am most passionate about is the work to lift up the farmers that is being done in partnership between Mercy and Empowering Lives International. It is a beautiful hand up for these rural small farmers. Often, these farmers are simply unable to generate any kind of cash income. With no income, children are unable to go to school and parents are many times simply unable to provide basic needs for them.

Mercy with ELI is stepping in when asked with some of these farmers to show them how they can maximize what they can produce. They are shown how and where they can add additional crops with some real marketable cash value. They are helped all along the way with guidance and expertise and even after the farmer totally understands and is living it, they are mentored, and assistance is available where needed.

One of the greatest benefits of these ag programs is how it is empowering the women of the community. They most often are who we are working with, and they are so thankful to be able to bring some material help to their families. Often the work begins with one family and when the neighbors see what is happening, they seek help from the one or ones who have gone through the training. These ladies are called "World Changers", and they really are changing their communities. This way, the work is multiplied over and over.



Most important is that God gets all the glory. This work is lifting people up spiritually as all involved experience the love of God and His provision. The gospel is shared, and people are deepening their walk with Jesus as they see Him working in their lives. God is at the center of this amazing work. I am so thankful for the opportunities I have had to see and experience these efforts.

To God be the glory both now and forever!

**-Tom**

# A project to sustain lives in Africa

Together with our partner, Empowering Lives International, we will impact three identified areas of extreme poverty in 43 villages in Kenya. We will provide the resources and training that will empower self-sufficiency, open doors for the gospel to be proclaimed, and plant seeds of hope where there has been generational hopelessness.

We will provide skills training and resources that will empower self-sufficiency through smallholder farming providing sustainable and practical methods. As we work together this training will help families transform their villages. Skills training builds hope and community resilience through the gospel message and intentional discipleship.



## Support the Kenya Sustainability Project

[www.mercyinc.org/donations/kenya-sustainability/](http://www.mercyinc.org/donations/kenya-sustainability/)

## GET INVOLVED

01.

### P R A Y

There is tremendous power in prayer. We update our prayer calendar monthly for various initiatives.

02.

### J O I N U S

Mercy is hosting in-home share nights! Come hear about the work we do in an intimate setting with your friends and family.

03.

### D O N A T E

We would not be able to do this work if it weren't for the generosity of monthly givers. You can make a tangible difference by partnering with us financially.



[www.mercyinc.org](http://www.mercyinc.org)