

Youthful beginnings...



Nairobi, January 2021

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2021, we are saddened by the on-going challenges which many of you are having to face due to COVID 19. We are thankful for the good health which God has blessed us with until now. Kenya has not been as badly affected as many parts of the world and whilst many people have had the disease, we know few people who have been hospitalised. Schools opened this month for the first time since March, and it has been lovely to see happy children out and about in school uniform.

The Beginnings of Christ Church, Loresho

Our big news is that we have begun the church plant for which we have been preparing since coming to Kenya in 2017. In November, we began meetings in our home. We have been fitting 35 people into our house and veranda with social distancing, and now have an overflow of children who sit in the garden. Two families have joined us from our old church and a Japanese lady who is a gifted pianist has joined us temporarily, for which we are very thankful. Lillian, a student

who comes from the slum and who has been mentioned in previous newsletters, comes with

various siblings, nieces and nephews. Thank you to those who have prayed for her. Sammy, a young man who works for us as our gardener and dishwasher, has

been faithfully spending time in the slum and inviting people to church. We now have kids at



Christ Church, Loresho saying hello!

our gate from 8 or 9 am on a Sunday morning, eager to come in! Most of them do not have access to a garden, a park or a swing and even basic things such as water are not always readily available where they live. They come excited, and each week we have to review how we can manage the growing numbers of children.



Sunday school in the garden (each family on a different mat for social distancing)

After the service, we have refreshments outside and then the adults have a discussion time around the Bible while the children sit on picnic mats for Sunday school. We have story time together, then the older kids have a simple Bible study and prayer time, whilst little ones do a craft. We are thankful for Ephraim and Peter, two young men who

have had Bible training with iServe Africa, and who help Rachel to lead the groups. The growing number of children from the slum presents an interesting challenge as their level of English and general education is quite different from that of the middle-class children who come. Please pray for wisdom and for more mature adult Christians who can help us to minister the gospel to all these various children. Our desire is to establish a church that reflects our unity in Christ, with different tribes and socio-economic groups meeting together and serving one another as one forgiven people.

Since Sunday school is weather dependent and our house is already filled to capacity, we need to find another venue for church. Kip' has made contact with an estate agent as well as a man who knows the slum very well, and we ask you to pray that just the right plot becomes available to us. We need somewhere that is accessible for those walking from the slum, secure for those coming from middle class homes, affordable and large enough to accommodate social distancing.

[Pray for new life in Christ...](#)

We continue with our weekly Bible studies on zoom and ask you to pray that more of those who attend would join the church plant. One lady who attends also meets with Rachel for Bible study, but her husband is still quite muddled about the basics of the faith. He has been open to chatting with Kip' and has even attended some of Kip's teaching at iServe, Africa. Pray that he comes to a personal knowledge of Christ as Lord and Saviour.

Many young people here in Nairobi struggle with drugs. One of these is a student who sometimes comes to church. Another is a 10 year old boy called Peter who also comes. Pray that Ephraim and Peter, the men who are helping us from iServe, would be able to get alongside these boys, and that God would work through his Spirit to bring new life in Christ.

Family News



Bako after surgery, delighted to be able to see again!

This month we have enjoyed hosting an old friend from Madagascar, where Rachel's parents worked as missionaries. She is already blind in one eye and came to Kenya for emergency retinal surgery. It has been special to witness God answering the prayers of many as she was blind but now sees. She needs a second operation in a few weeks' time and would appreciate prayer that it is successful.

Rachel's parents celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this month and we are thankful that Rachel's mum has been generally well, and Rachel's dad is able to look after her.

Elijah is delighted to be back at school, and Ezra is hoping to join him as soon as the COVID situation stabilises. The Christian kindergarten that Susanna attended is sadly closing, but she and Bethany are content with home-schooling for now and glad to have some friends in the neighbourhood to play with.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. May you know the encouragement of the Lord even amidst the challenges of this New Year.

Blessings in Christ

Kip', Rachel, Elijah, Ezra, Susanna and Bethany



Happy Golden anniversary to Granny & Grandad

For more about our work see <http://www.ufm.org.uk/member/kip-and-rachel-chelashaw/>

For regular news by WhatsApp, contact Kip' on Tel +254 722 772 700

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Had a few days away after Christmas. Notice the size of those bones? What could they be from?