



This is the first edition of our quarterly newsletter that I intend to send to keep you updated with *Children With Hope*.

I'm delighted to report that we have reached the initial goal of \$40,000 for the *Children With Hope Home* near Eldoret, Kenya. God has truly blessed!

Dean Miller and I just returned from Kenya in February and had the privilege of staying with Justus who is our primary Kenyan contact. Justus has played a critical role for us as our "eyes and ears" in Kenya and has helped with the purchase of the land for the Children's Home. One of the highlights of our trip was spending some time there on the land near Eldoret. I'm happy to say that six acres of land is larger than I imagined it to be. We heard more than once about how "good" the land is from both Justus and other Americans there who are currently working at another Christian orphanage under Ushindi Ministries around two hours from Eldoret.

There is a well already on the land, but it is quite shallow, I'd estimate it at only about 15-20 feet deep. This will be a great asset as we begin building, but we will likely need to plan on raising funds to dig a deeper well for more adequate drinking water as part of the project.

The *Children With Hope* board has a few important decisions that we need to make in the weeks ahead:

- 1) We need to decide if we should have a more formal arrangement with Ushindi Ministries to have *Children With Hope* under the umbrella of their organization, or if we should proceed with becoming a recognized entity there in Kenya. This decision will be based on what we believe to be the best long term approach. *Children With Hope* is committed to being used by God to make an impact that we trust will last for decades, so we want to be cautious in the early stages in terms of how we establish ourselves in Kenya. We also have the option of being under the umbrella of Ushindi Ministries temporarily, and then separate once we have our organization properly registered. We would ask for your prayers in this regard as we seek the Lord's wisdom.
- 2) One of our most pressing needs is to have an American, or an American couple, who will be based in Eldoret to oversee the building portion of the project and then transition to be our American administrator once the children move in. This is a critical need, as the American presence will assist in moving the building project along, be accountable for finances, and help with "cultural translations" that are needed. As you can imagine, the American way of doing things is not necessarily the Kenyan way.
- 3) Another matter is the issue of what the orphanage will look like in terms of size and structure. The Kenyan government prefers orphanages to have completely separate housing for the boys and girls. I certainly see the wisdom of this and our options are virtually unlimited. Ideas could range from having two separate structures connected by a common area, to having individual home type units that house 8-12 children each. There are advantages to both of these structures and we'll be considering which will best meet our long term needs.



We'd especially ask for your prayers for wisdom in these areas as we seek God's direction. We have a wonderful board that is committed to using the financial resources that have been entrusted to us in the wisest possible manner. The initial decisions of how to properly establish *Children With Hope* in Kenya may take some time now, but we'd rather move wisely and cautiously to plan for the future.

Prayer needs include the three specific areas mentioned above as well as a number of financial needs that we will have in the months ahead. These financial needs are as follows:

- 1) Money for the well. We understand this could range from \$2,000 - \$7,000.
- 2) Vehicle for the Children's Home. Once we have an American and/or Kenyan on the ground there in Eldoret, transportation will be critical. Cost for a vehicle – approximately \$10,000.
- 3) Sponsorship of the children. We will begin a campaign in the months ahead to raise sponsorship for each child. The sponsorship amount will be approximately \$45-\$50 per month. We will assign each child to a specific sponsor and encourage two-way communication by way of letters, pictures, etc. This is really where *Children With Hope* gets exciting as we see God provide in such a tangible way for each child with one or two American sponsors. The sponsorship amount will provide food, clothing, school, Kenyan staff for the children, school books, uniforms, medical expenses, and all the other necessities for the children.
- 4) Monthly sponsorship for the American missionary/family. The American family or individual will likely need to raise support of \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, and if you feel led to make a donation either on a general basis, or for any of the specific needs mentioned, please print the donation form attached and mail it with your gift to the *Children With Hope* address provided below.

Also, if you have planned on making a monthly donation, please print and complete the monthly donation forms for March, April and May which are also attached to this email.

If you have any questions or input, we welcome your comments at any time.

On behalf of the *Children With Hope* board - I thank you. We've already seen God do so much, and we know the best is yet to come! May God richly bless you and your family.

In Christ,

Thom Seagren
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