



Better Life Mission

Postfach 4, CH-4938 Rohrbach, Switzerland
Telefon: +41 (0)62 962 41 01 Skype: lena_dk3
Email: lena.clerc@betterlifemission.org Web: www.betterlifemission.org

Newsletter - September 2013

It has been a long time since you have heard from us. We understand that many of you are very eager to hear how things have developed and how God has been blessing.

Travel to Kenya

I was in Kenya from 9 to 28 January 2013. My main goal was to proceed with the new Sabbath school class where we are studying the lessons "My Bible First". I also wanted to start another class.

Bible Lessons "My Bible First"

I was anxious to find out whether there would be enough students who wanted to participate so that we could start another class. To my great surprise 18 students volunteered. I remember especially Naomi. She studied her Bible lessons very carefully and while in class on Sabbath she asked many questions. She was anxiously waiting for the moment when she could ask her questions. We had some very interesting and edifying studies.

The greatest challenge was to help the young teachers to understand that they should not just *preach* to their students. They should rather *teach* and motivate their pupils to be active themselves. So it was with great joy that I saw how Duncan Okuku was teaching the children on the last Sabbath and how he succeeded to get the children actively involved in the topic.



Freciah teaching Sabbath school

Let me share a few excerpts from the letters the children wrote to me:



Naomi: "... I was very pleased with the new bible studies and with the new class. I will miss you very much ..."



Elmelta: "I like the lessons very much that our teachers are studying with us every Sabbath. I am so happy because now I understand the Bible. It is my desire to be like Jesus. We should all be like Jesus and obey him in all things that he wants us to do ..."

In the bible lessons reference is made to the book "Patriarchs and Prophets" as further study help. I had ordered a box of these books. The children are using them during their morning devotion.

Gifts for the Children

This time I had ordered the booklet "The Marked Bible" for the children. I used it as a gift for those children who could read the book and understand its message. The younger children were given the booklet "The Fruits of the Spirit" which Silvia Pel had put together. For the little ones I had prepared a colouring book.

During our evening devotions we went together through the booklet "The Marked Bible" and studied the various topics. This was a great blessing to all of us. We got a deeper understanding what God's purpose with his day of rest is.

Books in Swahili

In December 2012 we were given the offer by another ministry to order books in Swahili from a print shop in Nairobi. We ordered 2,000 copies "The Great Controversy", 1,000 copies "Steps to Christ" and 300 copies "Christ's Object Lessons". For a long time we have had the desire to get



Books in Swahili are being picked up at the print shop in Nairobi

books in Swahili for the Charo family. That is why we were very happy for this opportunity. While I was in Kenya last January the printing of the book “Steps to Christ” was just finished and we could go to the print shop in Nairobi and collect the books. So it was possible to give some books to the Charo family and also to the Fiwagoh Mission. We pray that the Lord may bless the use of these books. We are aware that it is a comparatively small number of books. As soon as the finances will allow we would like to get more books printed for Kenya.

Bible Workers

As already mentioned in the newsletter of November 2012, Fiwagoh got a container of books “The Great Controversy” in October 2012. During my last visit in January I was talking to four bible workers who told me more about their work with the books.

Patrick Kiama

Patrick told me that he had been handing out 180 books during the last three months. Many have heard about the book and are very happy when they get their own copy – especially those who know that the book normally costs KES 700 (USD 8). Even Adventists who are poor are very happy. Nowadays it is very seldom to get something for free.

Before the container had arrived Patrick promised a man who sells carrots in the market a copy of the book. The man was waiting for the book. When the container had arrived Patrick went to him and gave him a copy. The man promised to read the book. But Patrick was not so sure whether the man would keep his promise. But nonetheless he gave him a copy. A few days later Patrick went to see the man again in order to find out whether he was really reading the book. The man had already read a few chapters. Whenever he came across a passage that he did not understand he made a note in the back of the book. In the meantime he read the whole book and wrote down a lot of questions. Now it is Patrick’s duty to go through these questions and to answer them. Patrick realized that the book has already had an influence on the man. So far the man had been visiting one of the most popular Pentecostal churches in Nakuru. Having read “The Great Controversy” he hesitates to go there. He has begun to understand part of the truth.

Laban Kosgei

Laban told me that he had been distributing more than 300 books. When he goes out in the street in order to meet people he always carries some books with him. He has met many people that were really very thankful to receive a book. He also met a man who had been looking for this book for some time because he had heard about it. He was very happy when he saw the book and he grabbed it eagerly. He started to read it right away. Later when Laban met him again he told Laban that he had started to keep the Sabbath.

Another lady to whom Laban is giving Bible studies also got a copy. She read the book several times. Finally she was convinced that the three angels messages are the truth. She intends to join the church.

Laban also gave a book to each neighbour. He also visited the local chief and gave him and his soldiers a copy of the book. Everybody was happy. They began to read the book.

At the university Laban has more than twenty students. He took the book “The Great Controversy” with him to the university and handed out a copy to each of them. Now the group meets and studies the book chapter for chapter. Whenever time allows Laban studies with them. Otherwise the bible students study on their own. Later Laban took even more books with him to the university. He gave them to the bible students asking them to distribute them among those who were interested.

Laban would also like to take the books to his home town. He wants to give all his old friends, his neighbours and his relatives a copy.

Laban is so grateful to God that he gave the bible workers these books.

Mary Wakonyo

Mary told me that when they had received the books last October 2012 she started to take them to the people everywhere. Mary goes from door to door. She talks with the people. She also visits the super markets where she meets many people. By now she has handed out 180 books. Especially the educated people are interested in the book. There are also a few who ask whether they could get the book in Swahili. But Mary told them that she did not have any copies in Swahili. So Mary decided that she would go and visit those people who had asked for the book in Swahili and talk with them about it.



Mark organized the printing of the books in Nairobi



Patrick, Lena and Laban in the container with the “Great Controversy”

A man told Mary that he had read in the book and that he had been very surprised. He was very impressed by the book. He wanted to join the church.

Mary also gave the book to 90 college students. She told them that if there were passages they did not understand they should just come and see her. Some of the girls came and Mary explained to them the meaning of some of the chapters.

Mary also visited some of the smaller villages that are located about 30 km from her home. When she meets Adventists they are very surprised that it is possible to get a free copy. They know that normally this book costs a lot of money. They are very happy when they receive a copy.

The book "The Great Controversy" has had a great influence and is being distributed far and wide. There are people who tell Mary that now they have a better understanding of church history.

Mary is happy that she has received the books because she has experienced what effect they have. She likes to carry books with her wherever she goes in order to meet people.

Mary does not conceal that she also meets opposition when she hands out the book. But this does not keep her from doing her work.

Henry Ndungu

Henry told me that having received the books he started to talk to his neighbours about it and to give them a copy. One is still reading. Another told him of the wonderful things he had discovered when reading the book. Now they are studying the book together. People gladly accept the book and are happy to read it. Some ask whether the book can be obtained in Swahili.

The distribution of the book causes many people to ask questions. This brings good opportunities for personal talks and bible studies. Henry is convinced that this is one of God's methods to finish the work.

Henry also said that not all are appreciating the work. He was labelled as a Satanist. But he thanks God that he protects him in this work. Henry has had good experiences when he distributes the two books "The Great Controversy" and "National Sunday Law" together.

Visit from the Authorities

On 14 February 2013 8 officials visited the orphanage. Among others there were representatives from the police, from the educational and from the health department. Even the local area chief was present. The orphanage had been accused in several aspects: that there was not enough room in the dormitories, that the food was bad leading to sickness and death and that the school education was inadequate.



Benson and Florence with the children

When the orphanage had introduced Christian education they got a lot of opposition from those people who do not understand the advantages of such an education. When the authorities had received such serious charges against the orphanage they were forced to investigate things on-site. The officials did their work of investigation thoroughly. They checked the dormitories, the bill of fare and the conditions of education. They asked the children regarding their lifestyle habits. The officials also wanted to know why they did not eat meat and dairy products. The children delivered a powerful testimony and told the men how happy they were in this orphanage. They also explained in detail to their visitors what the consequences of a meat diet are. Because of these testimonies and the healthful faces two officials said that maybe they should also become vegetarians.

Despite this accusation concerning inadequate education the officials found out that one of the pupils of Fiwagoh wrote the best exam in 2012 in the whole district of Nakuru. All this ended with that the officials thanked Benson and Florence the directors of the orphanage for their great commitment. They said that all the other orphanages in the district of Nakuru should take Fiwagoh as an example.

This experience was a great encouragement for all of us. God is always with those who follow and obey him. It has been seen that Christian education bears good fruits.

May this experience comfort all those sponsors who have lost their god child over the issue of Christian education. Some relatives came and took their children from the orphanage because they were not in agreement with the educational system. Either the children were taken to another orphanage or they go to a public school or they live in poverty their basic needs not being covered. Unfortunately we cannot do anything for these children. But we want to focus on the many other children who are grateful to get a Christian education.

Baptism at Fiwagoh

On 27 April 2013 fourteen young people gave their public testimony that they had decided to follow their Saviour Jesus Christ and to give their lives to him. Together with three teachers, an employee and the wife of one of the teachers they were baptized. Unfortunately it was not possible for me to be present at this baptism but my joy cannot be described. It is wonderful when we have the privilege to see the fruits of our efforts. All sponsors whose god child was baptized were informed directly.



Johari

New Car for Fiwagoh

When I visited Fiwagoh in January 2013 I realized that the situation concerning their vehicles was unbearable. Almost every time they did some commissions the vehicles broke down. Besides losing a lot of time this caused extra expenses for getting the cars repaired. Actually it was never our intention to buy a car for Fiwagoh. First we are not knowledgeable enough when it comes to cars and second our burden is to build a library. Every project you get involved in takes a lot of efforts and time. But when we realized that the orphanage was dependent on our help we decided that we would assist them with the purchase of a car. It was the agreement that the orphanage itself should pay for the car through the donations coming in for the operating costs and through saved expenses for public transport.



The new car is being admired



Students on the way to the polytechnic school

When Benson and I had in vain searched for a car in Kenya we realized that the only way for us was to import a car ourselves. After some laborious months on 18 April 2013 we could buy a Toyota Hiace from 2010 in Japan with the help of my brother Allan and of a lawyer in Nairobi. During the whole process of searching we continually checked how much we would have to pay in customs in Kenya. Despite our investigations we finally had to pay twice as much customs expenses than originally expected. We had already paid USD 20,200 for the car including the transport to Kenya. Now we were to pay an extra amount of USD 22,000 for customs. It was clear that this far exceeded the possibilities of the orphanage. We decided to inform all sponsors by email and collect funds for

the customs expenses. By now we have received USD 15,700 for the customs expenses. We are still short of USD 6,300.

On 20 June 2013 the ship carrying the car arrived in the port of Mombasa. The Fiwagoh orphanage is very grateful for the new car. For the employees as well as for the teenagers who have to go to the polytechnic school daily everyday life has become easier.

Trade School

Fiwagoh is in the process of building a trade school so that in the future the young people will be able to get their education at Fiwagoh. Sponsors from Australia and America are carrying out this project. We from *Better Life Mission* decided not to involve ourselves in this project. Instead we have begun with the planning of building the library. It is our hope that the actual building process can start in 2014.



Property for the Church in Kitale

For 14 years the church in Kitale has been accommodated in rented localities. The church has about 20 members. They are renting rooms in public schools. In the course of time it got more difficult to hold church services in the rooms of public schools. Regulations change all the time. When it is no longer possible they will have to search for another school. Since more and more lessons are being taught on Saturday in the public schools, the disturbances during the church service are increasing.

For some time we have had the desire to help the churches of the Fiwagoh mission and to support their needs. In April 2013 it was possible to send money to the church in Kitale for the purchase of a property.

Sponsorships



We are continually in need of new sponsors for the children. You can visit our website www.betterlifemission.org to see what children are in need of a sponsorship. Shadrack Kamau is an example. He is 10 years old and his story is very sad. His parents were always fighting and finally they divorced. Shadrack fell very sick. He got a big sore in the face that became rotten and stinky. Shadrack was crying in pain and his sister Hannah was crying of hunger. The mother finally took the children and abandoned them. She left them in the street. Some strangers took the children to the local area chief for assistance. The area chief tried to seek the father, whom he finally found. The father was asked if he was ready to take care of the children. He accepted to take the children. The father is very poor, but he has tried his best to take care of the children. He even refused to marry again, because he knows that a new wife will not accept the children. He has managed to take care of the children for five years, but he has finally felt himself forced to get help of the orphanage to raise his children. (Shadrack's sister Hannah has already gotten a sponsor).

Actual Need

The greatest need at the moment is to cover the customs expenses for the car. For this purpose we still need USD 6,300. We are also collecting funds for literature.

We are very encouraged by the good work the bible workers are doing. We are also very pleased to see how they are using the book "The Great Controversy" in their work for the people. We are convinced that these books will be a blessing to many and that in heaven we will meet people that will be saved because of this work. We are also very happy that we were able to buy a limited number of books in Swahili. But it is our desire to get more books printed so that the cost per piece can be lowered and that in this way we can make the most out of the donations at our disposal.

Thank You to All Sponsors

We would like to use the opportunity to thank all the sponsors for their efforts. We would like to express special thanks to all sponsors of those children who are going to the polytechnic school for the positive responses we got. All expenses for these children are covered and they are studying hard in order to get an education that will help them to support themselves in life. Thank you also for the nice letters and the greetings that were an encouragement for the young people who were baptized. Finally I want to thank you that you are so faithfully supporting the work even if I do not always have the time to inform you about the work as often as I would like to. Whenever I visit the orphanage I am always very busy. In January 2013 during my last visit in the orphanage because of the united effort of Benson, Florence and the teachers it was possible to write reports of 55 children in regard to their development and their thriving in the orphanage. These reports could then be sent to the sponsors. I hope that I will be able to continue this work during my next visit. For the sponsors it is always encouraging to know how their god child or their god children develop. Nonetheless I try to inform the sponsors continually when something significant happens in the life of their god child such as a baptism or a serious sickness.

In closing I would like to thank you all for your prayers for the children and for the different mission projects.



Bank Information

Receiver: Better Life Mission, Schweinbrunnenberg 2, CH-4938 Rohrbachgraben, Switzerland

USD Account:

Bank: Swiss Post, PostFinance, Nordring 8, CH-3030 Bern, Switzerland

Account number: 91-765570-9

IBAN: CH02 0900 0000 9176 5570 9

Swift Code/BIC: POFICHBEXXX