



Agape in Action

LIFE. OPPORTUNITY. HOPE.

Newsletter 10

Sept. 2009

FAMINE in Kenya



"...A devastating drought is sweeping across Kenya, stirring up tension in the slums where the water taps have run dry, and spawning ethnic conflict in the hinterland as communities fight over the last remaining pieces of fertile grazing land. The twin hearts of Kenya's economy, agriculture and tourism, are especially imperiled. The game animals that

safari-goers fly halfway around the world to see are keeling over from hunger and the savanna is littered with sun-bleached bones..." Jeffrey Lokori - The Age, Sept 9/09

"...The World Food Programme (WFP) has described the crisis as a "very difficult situation" and appealed to donor countries to offer funds. Currently some 2.5 million people are receiving emergency food aid in the country but the effect of the drought has meant that a further 1.3 million now also need help... The regions affected normally harvest their crops once a year, planting them in April and collecting in September after the rains. But this year those rains have failed to come. The Kenyan government was supposed to have built up a sizeable stock of maize but, following allegations of a corruption scandal, it only has enough to last another six weeks..." BBC NEWS, Aug. 20/09

This drought is affecting our brethren and sisters. There has never been a better time for individuals, ecclesias and Sunday schools to step up and sponsor. We currently have many children (& their families) waiting for sponsorship. Please spread the word to those who might be willing to sponsor a child and therefore provide food for the family, especially as this drought worsens.

Currently, our family in Christ is being help through this by CBM UK famine relief and AinA sponsorship. As October approaches and anticipation in Kenya rises for the short rainy season, please pray for rain to provide some relief to the situation and more importantly for the return of our Lord when *"Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."* Rev 7:16-17



**2010
CALENDARS
Available**



These make great gifts and feature AinA children and projects with descriptions. You can place your order or be an ecclesial distributor – contact: agapeinaction@rogers.com

Fieldworker Experiences:

There has been a lot of field work going on in Kenya since our last newsletter. Reports have been posted at www.agapeinaction.com/about_publications.html In particular you can read part 2 of Robyn's experiences (continued from the last newsletter), Sue & Bev's experiences conducting tailoring courses in the coastal region (upcoming), Jane's experiences doing Women at the Well Sister's Classes and Jeannie's experiences doing nursing. Special thanks to all these volunteers for their work.



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Imagine being 19 years old, from a poor family in rural Kenya. You had to miss some years of primary school to walk each day and collect water for your family or work in the fields to be able to get something meagre to eat and drink. This was hard work, walking several kilometres each way to carry heavy buckets of water and to work in the burning sun all day in the fields. Your father has died and your mother and you try to look after the other 4 children in the family. You have managed to finish primary school though you are older. The question becomes - Now what?



This is the situation that many Christadelphian young people in Kenya find themselves in. They have no means to go to high school or to learn a trade. Their futures, in this life, have no 'hope' of ever getting out of the cycle of poverty that their grandparents, parents and they have been born into – a struggle for life each day. They spend their time again collecting water and searching for small bits of work to be able to feed themselves.

'Atashinda'

(he/she will succeed) has changed this for some of these young people. Via this program these young people are

sponsored to go to high school or to learn a trade, to have a hope of being able to support themselves, and to look after their own families and ecclesias. As this program grows, it not only helps these individuals, but families and their ecclesias. Our prayer is that those being supported now will be able to support themselves in the future and not dependent on continual 'aid'. In 2009, over 20 young people started high school or their trade through Atashinda.

Currently we have still have a large waiting list for a January 2010 start.

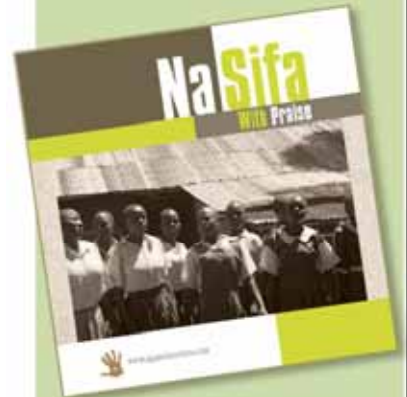
- 13+ young people are waiting to go to high school (\$35 CAD or equivalent/mth)
- 8+ young people waiting to do a 'trade' (general donations to the fund or single donations to put a young person through – these trades cost up to \$1500 over 2 years. AinA has a grant, loan, family pay scheme in place)



Trades that are currently being waited for are: primary school teaching, welding, electrical, nursing aid and hair dressing.

If we do not have the funds to send these young people in January 2010 they will have to wait another year while we try and raise the funds and find the sponsors needed.

(continued on next page)



They sing with such feeling, making melody in their hearts to the Lord. This choir is comprised of children who have come from absolutely nothing. Most are orphans. Supported by AinA's child sponsorship program, the children in this choir have been provided with life's necessities. They attend the Kamukuywa Christadelphian Sunday School and during the week they go to the Lubokha Primary School. This school has 780 children and just 15 teachers. Approximately one third of the children are orphans. The school is in dire need of classrooms, a library and other basics, such as washrooms and teaching materials. All proceeds from this CD will go to the school to will help these wonderful children and the generations to follow.

\$10 CAD/US \$12 AUD
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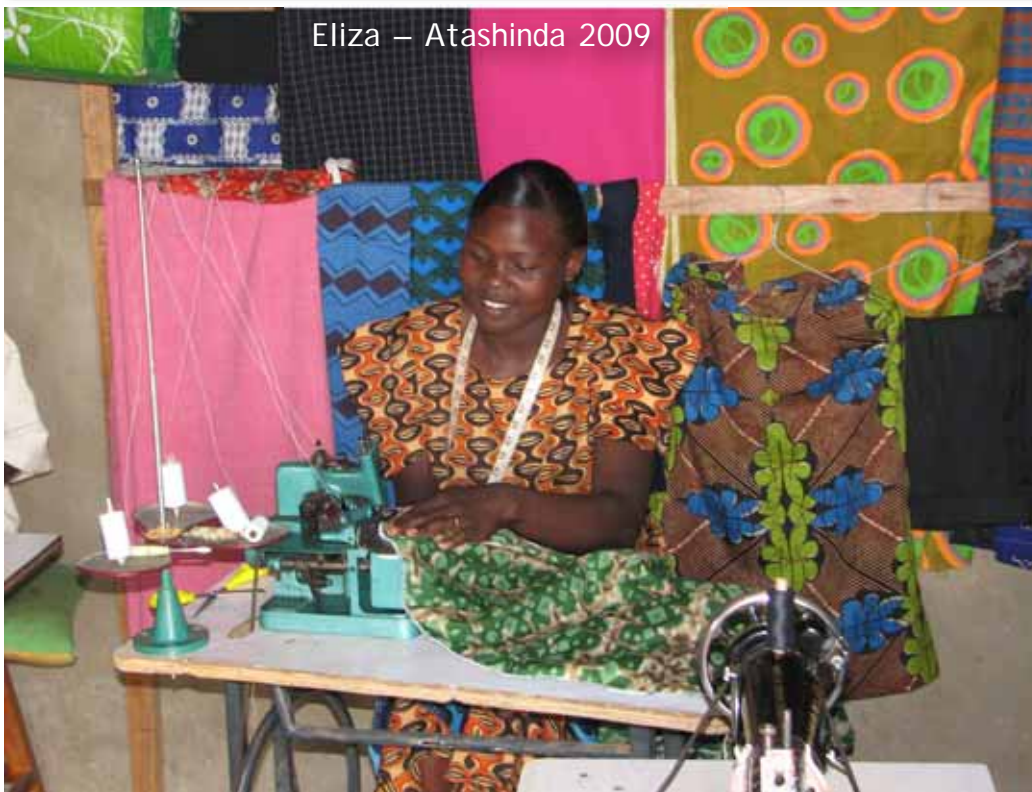
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'Atashinda' *(continued from previous page)*

The responses we have received from the young people who have benefitted so far in 2009, both on their application forms and in their thank-you notes, has been tremendous. In response to the question 'what will you do with your education in the future', they have expressed their desire to help their ecclesias, whether it is to help those who find themselves in the same situation as they now find themselves, whether to support ecclesial activities financially, to care for those in need, or to teach the youth.... very encouraging!

Here is an excerpt from a letter to a sponsor from one of these young people.

"...I am continuing well with my work. I practiced until I knew how to sew clothes. I am working hard so that I can do more now. In addition, I am putting God first in my life because it is only Him who can bring me success. I promise that I won't let you down because you have struggled to ensure that I am doing this job. I thank you so much, may the Lord Almighty bless you...." Eliza (20 years old, tailoring)



We are thankful also for the instruction of Sue & Bev from Australia who have spent time in the Coastal region and in Kamukuywa instructing a group of young people and sisters in tailoring. We hope to have a report of their experiences on the website soon. (See picture on last page)

VIDEOS

We continue to edit videos and upload them to our website. The latest is **Sponsors visiting their kids in Kenya** This 16 minute video follows two sponsors as they meet their sponsored children in Kenya. A couple of months before this video was taken Nzau, one of the sponsored boys in this video, suffered acute paralysis and nearly died. Nzau continues to make tremendous progress, and since the completing the editing of this video, he is up and walking again. If you would like a copy of these videos on DVD for ecclesial presentations contact agapeinaction@rogers.com

FACEBOOK

If you want to periodically stay updated with news from Agape in Action please join our facebook group.



TOUR D'AGAPE

A huge success this year, 8 bike riders travelled 312km to raise money for Clean Water & Atashinda. We are waiting for the final tally, but between \$5000 - \$6000 was raised. Thanks for all the hard work! For pictures of this event join the Tour D'Agape facebook group. Another tour is planned for early 2010 in Adelaide Australia God willing. If you are interested contact agapeinaction@rogers.com



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Christadelphian Faith Home ~ India ~



Across the ocean, cradled in the heart of South India, one finds the complex and vibrant state of Andhra Pradesh. Seven hours east of the state capital, Hyderabad, accessible by train, rests a large village renowned for its luscious vegetation and breathtaking flower nurseries. Kadium, a melting pot of Hinduism and Christianity, remains fertile soil for the work of Jesus. Home to over 100 Christadelphians, the week fills with praise and worship. One family's contributions to their community here, clearly exemplify the Bible truth of love in action.

Welcome to the Christadelphian Faith Home, the lodging of Brother Andrew and Sister Subha. This young couple, along with their family, has transformed their home into a hostel for children. Currently thirteen adopted children reside with them in addition to their own baby, Nissi, and some other family members. For many of the children here, their guardian is either too ill or too poor to provide any stable care from them. Several have lost mothers or fathers to serious illnesses, such as HIV.

Before coming here, the children resided in poor villages, slum areas or destitute tribal regions. Some labored at construction sites, and one little girl even went about her slum selling dried fish to contribute her family's income. Malnutrition and open sores affected their small bodies, and their behavior and manners left much to be desired. At Faith Home, and through Agape in Action child sponsorship, all the children receive spiritual and physical nourishment, better clothes, and access to clean water for washing and drinking. The morning opens with a daily Bible reading and the evening closes with family prayer. The main ambition that generates the work here is to raise the children as loving Christians, who will in turn grow to serve others in a Christ-like manner.



Sometimes we think of missionary work as a great preaching expedition where strong individuals get out on the streets and declare the gospel, and this daunting task deters us from volunteering in the mission field. And while this admirable effort holds an essential place in service for Christ, there exists another fundamental dimension to witnessing: community outreach. In fact, especially in India, a lot of the mission work is pure fellowship: individuals connecting with their fellow believers through listening, sharing, nursing, teaching, playing, communicating, assisting. Anyone of any age and with any particular skill or talent can find something to do in one of the above categories.

In my own experience, there were days when I felt like nothing was accomplished, and I questioned what I was really doing there. The heat and humidity was exhausting, the food took an adjustment period with guaranteed sickness along the way, the ants and the flies and the mosquitoes everywhere! Not to mention the different standards of hygiene and lack of many western conveniences. And one may wonder if it is worth all the effort. Yet by simply interacting with the children and bringing a smile to their faces, I knew that a difference was made in someone's life. Even the presence of a visitor from the other side of the world communicates the love of Christ: the very fact that someone would take the initiative to come all that way to play with them and teach them demonstrates God's work in all our lives.



In India, childhood is, for some, a luxury that they cannot afford. Yet in one small area, in no small way, brothers and sisters are working to preserve and nurture this precious time for a number of God's children. While Kadium presents many challenges to Westerners, for anyone interested in mission work in India, Faith Home is one place where efforts in Christ's name will thrive.

(Volunteers to teach at the school in Kadium and at the home are greatly needed and very much appreciated, to help with English classes, playing with the children and teaching Sunday School.)

Sis. Marley Higham (Canada) – for the full version please visit our website.



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Sue & Bev teaching tailoring - Kenya



PRIORITY PROJECTS – Please help!

1) Atashinda Education Fund

2) **Kenya Nursery Schools** – support Christadelphian and destitute children from the communities by sponsoring 1 of these 2 schools. For \$30CAD/mth you give these children food, clothing, education and health care in a group environment. These projects have also been great outreach tools as several of the children and their parents from the community now attend ecclesial functions.



Snoozing at Faith Home - India

TRAVEL PLANS

God willing

- An AinA Team will visit Kenya in January 2010. Projects include mini youth conference at Kamukuywa, ferro cement rain water tank building, distribution of school materials, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, assessment of famine needs, updated photographs for sponsors, piloting of nutrition drink program, Sunday school & Bible classes
- 2 teachers to be in the field for 2+ months volunteering at AinA schools in July
- Large medical team travelling to coastal region of Kenya in August for medical checks on children and training on health issues

For more information, to become a child or project sponsor or to make a donation, please contact us

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"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another. If any one of you has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in you? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 Jn. 3:16-18