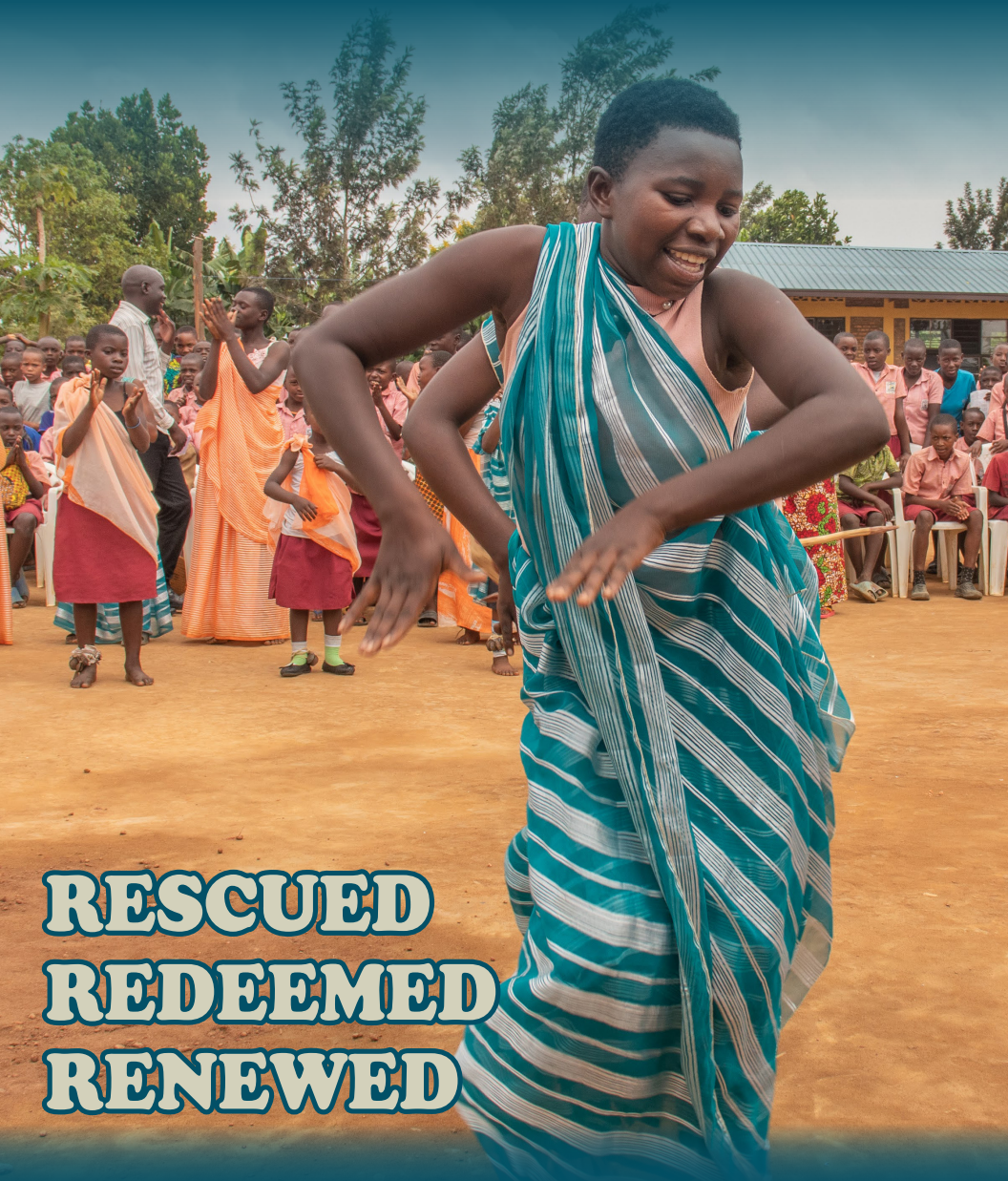


July 2024



harvesters

Spreading the Gospel, Serving Others & Building Community



**RESCUED
REDEEMED
RENEWED**

DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rescued. Redeemed. Renewed.

I love those words and how they express what I continually experience in Christ at many levels, both spiritually and in daily life. The Bible is filled with the stories of people whose lives were redirected by God to know the joy of living in the reality of His grace, purposes and care. Certainly, the Apostle Paul comes to mind as well as Jesus' disciples, along with Daniel, Joseph, Rahab, Jonah and many others whose lives were spared and futures filled with meaningful service to God and people.

Such stories are still happening every day! God is still working by His Spirit and through His people to radically change and redirect lives. In this edition, we are sharing just a few of the stories we have witnessed - lives and communities impacted in wonderful ways as a result of God using the prayers and generosity of people like you. We pray you are blessed and encouraged by what you read.

As always, please never hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Blessings!
Doug Radford, Director
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Harvesters International Ministries



harvestersinternational

Pray For Our Partners

India

We are praying for a solar panel system at our city school. Also pray for additional monthly support for our teaching staff.

Pakistan

Please prayer for us to obtain motorcycles for four pastors and additional support for church planters.

Uganda

We are praying for four motorcycles for our Pastors who serve in difficult areas. Funds to construct and update churches. Currently, we have two locations in need of buildings. Additional support for our ongoing Pastor training.

Rwanda

Pray for our new church plants and for the support needed to construct the required church buildings. We also need more pastors and leaders to serve our growing churches.

D.R. Congo

Many thousands of widows, orphans and others are suffering daily here because of the violence and resulting hardships. Please pray for them and for our ability to help as many as possible.

We need help in providing university or technical school education for the orphans in our care who are now young adults.

India

We need more support for the children we care for each day in the SAC Children's Home. Please pray for us as we travel to the churches and hold crusades.

Kenya & S. Sudan

Pray for sponsorships for the children in our orphanages including educational sponsors. Pray for our first Pastor's Wives Conference on July 16-19. Pray for our special evangelistic outreaches.

Russia

Please pray for God's guidance and provision as we develop a program and seek to purchase a location to help the young adults who are transitioning from HFL Homes. Also pray that God continues to stir the hearts of Christians to take orphans into their homes.

China

Please pray for people to remain faithful. Ask that the Lord bring a long term (younger man) pastor who can be trained over the next year.

RESCUED

Salome's Rescue

Pokot is a predominantly arid region of Kenya, frequented by severe drought throughout the year except for a few pockets which receive small amounts of rainfall that cannot raise up a crop to maturity. The effects of retrogressive cultural practices, practiced over the years – among them female genital mutilation (FGM) and early forced marriages – have had a very negative effect on the development of children in this community. Hundreds of such children who need care and protection are rescued every year.

Salome Chebet was born on 05/01/2008 at Kaptolomwo in Kasei ward and was brought up in polygamist family. Salome loves school and has always wanted to be in the medical profession. Unluckily, her father never wanted the girls to go to school, only boys. But her mother broke the odds and took her to school. In 2021, aged 13 in grade 8, her dream was almost snatched away from her. “My brothers and father informed me that I had to stop learning so I could have FGM and be married off. The money from my dowry would then be used to pay school fees for my brothers,” she says. Despite crying and pleading to be spared from the agonizing fate, her father insisted that she be mutilated and forcibly married to a much older man.

Her mother snuck her to a nearby boarding school. Salome would later learn that her mother was severely beaten and chased away. Her father ordered some men to go and abduct her from school. A week before the Kenya National Examination (KCPE), students were sent home to collect examination requirements. Sadly, when she reached the nearby village she was forcefully abducted and taken far away from home and school. She tried to resist but was severely beaten until her whole body became full of bruises. Luckily, she escaped from where she was held and ran to a nearby homestead where she got assistance from a woman who reported the

matter to the local chief. Those culprits were arrested, and she was taken back to school. She missed exam reviews while in the hospital for three days recovering. Salome went back to school and sat for her KCPE examination with passion and determination, and she passed her exams with good grades! Her father still vowed not to pay her school fees and insisted that she must get married off. She ran to her pastor's home for rescue. Her mother supported her rescue through the church while seeking justice from the local authorities.



During a training session for POM's Anti-Female Genital Mutilation program, Salome's pastor approached our staff, and soon the plans for her rescue were developed and executed. She now lives at POM's Kodich Rescue Dorm where she is loved and cared for each day.

Salome was taken to her dream school. She is progressing well in her academics and is currently in 10th grade. Salome is a good role model to other rescued girls. She leads the choir team and participates in teaching God's word. “When I am here, I feel safe and protected. I know that I will finish school and achieve my dream. During holiday breaks, I remain here with other rescued girls because this is now our home. And we love each other like sisters,” she said.

“I thank everyone who participated in my rescue, for believing in me, giving me a chance to go to school and supporting me fully. May the almighty God bless you abundantly,” Salome adds.

Pray for me to excel in my education so that I can give back to my community and prove to my parents that girl child education is important. ~ Salome

Shukuru's Fight

I am Shukuru Chirimwami. I was born in Goma, D. R. Congo, in 2003. In 2008, both of my parents were killed by bandits who entered our home and demanded money, which my parents didn't have. They were killed. My life changed after the death of my parents as no one could take care of me. For a while, I lived with my two elder sisters who worked as house workers to try to support us, but the wages were very small and we could barely afford to eat.

I grew up in the fear of God and had hope that one day God would help me. I started going to church at age seven with the help of the UBC. I started primary school and was involved in children's church and other church activities. God was my only help.



I finally joined the orphanage when I was 12. Thankfully, a family sponsored me, and I call them my second parents. With their help, I am now in my second year at university where

I am studying law. I only have one year of studies left! I want to become a lawyer so that I can fight for women who have been denied their rights. My sister was raped and impregnated by the man she worked for, but no one would help her because she was an orphan and had no money. I want to change that!

During my childhood as an orphan, I didn't feel on the same level as other children with parents. Now I thank God for everything that is happening in my life. My hope is one day to defend and claim the rights of those who don't have support.

I continue thanking God, the church, and everyone who is involved in supporting me and my fellow orphans at the Orphan's Framing Center. May God bless you all!

Donor Testimonies

My journey to D.R. Congo and Rwanda goes much deeper than accepting an invitation to join a Harvesters' Vision Team. Being able to readily reply "yes" goes back many years and was built on many "yeses" along the way, poignantly reminding me of the Scripture from Isaiah 6:8, "Here am I. Send me."

In reality, all the "yeses" to serve were affirmations of faith that led to volunteering in a variety of ways throughout my Christian walk. Ultimately, this led to volunteering with Harvesters and meeting a precious group of people – Harvesters' ministry partners in the D.R. Congo. They live under harsh circumstances themselves, yet, choose to serve by giving destitute orphans the chance to have hope for the future. Their love and care is unselfish, authentic, and life-changing for the orphans.

It was life-changing for me to see this story first hand and experience how beautifully these children are thriving spiritually, physically, and scholastically under Project Hope 127. It was especially sweet to meet my sponsored child! (seen on the left) – **Barbara Scott**

Truly, it was a blessing and pleasure to visit Africa with Harvesters. There were many experiences I will always remember, but a couple stand out in my heart and mind. First was meeting Eshua, the child that my family sponsors through Project Hope 127. He lives at the Free Life Children's home in the D.R. Congo. Just being able to speak to him, give him a hug and see his smile in person was an incredible experience. It was hard to leave Eshua. Likewise, witnessing the expressions of pure joy at the many churches we visited made a lasting impression. Often the congregations would meet us outside as we arrived and embrace us with loving smiles and a sense of excitement, and of course with dancing. All of this carried into the worship services. At Kabugeri, Rwanda, they literally pulled us off the platform where we were sitting and urged us to join their celebration of God's love and grace. I'm certain that our dancing was funny to watch, but nonetheless it was a moment I will never forget and look forward to repeating again someday. – **Wayne Boswell**



REDEEMED

THE REDEMPTION OF SAM

Over the years, Harvesters has reached many lives in Uganda through evangelism and church planting. This is the redemption story of our brother in Christ, Sam Outa.

Seven years ago, I heard the Gospel clearly for the first time through the River of God Church mission team at my high school. I realized that I was hopelessly lost spiritually. When I responded by putting my faith in Jesus Christ, I was born again.

The evangelist, Eliazer Kabugo read from Ephesians 2:1-5 where I realized my lost status without Christ. I decided to personalize this passage:

I was dead. I had no spiritual life due to my sinful condition. I was living in sin because I followed the crowd, which is to say that I followed the devil. I was just like everyone else. I could not obey God even if I wanted to. I always gave in to my fleshly thoughts. Like all those who disobeyed God, I was destined to be the target of God's wrath. But since God loved me personally and showed me the richness of His mercy, He made me come alive to faith in Jesus, despite my spiritual separation from Him. It was His grace that saved me.

Good, but not good enough

I grew up in a church-going family. I always thought I believed in God. However, I had never heard the gospel preached in such a way that I could understand how to begin this relationship with Jesus Christ. I was moving in a company of bad friends. My school performance was very poor, and my parents had lost trust in me. And yet, God was working on me, and was paving the way towards faith in Him by protecting me from so many dangers.

I can't remember much about what the team did or all what the speaker said. I do recall that he explained to me for the very first time that Jesus wanted to come in and change me from the inside out. This was exactly what I needed to hear. I was doing my best to be a good boy, just like the other young men I knew. However, I was only focusing on my exterior: what I did, how I looked, and what I said. I tried to be that funny, smart, popular, handsome guy everybody liked, but I always seemed to fall short.



The message I heard loud and clear was that if I invited Jesus to come in and change my heart, then His goodness would last. When the preacher asked for us to bow our heads, close our eyes, and raise our hands if we wanted to follow Jesus, I did. I eagerly accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord. I have not been the same since that day.

How did I change?

I saw little things change in me at first. I prayed often, I joined the Youth ministry every Sunday. I started reading and understanding the Bible. I had a peace and newfound joy that was not based on circumstances. I was less concerned about myself and I became much more interested in helping other people to know Christ.

My Christian faith has impacted every single area of my life: my family members, my career as a plumber, what I do, what I think, what I say, where I've been, and where I am going. My pastor and church have helped me to strengthen my relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that definitely has gotten richer over time. I have had quite a spiritual journey over the past 5 years.

THE REDEMPTION OF MUSA

Musa Lotukan grew up in the hostile East Pokot area of Kenya where he was raised in a very humble background. His father was a polygamist and, like any other Pokot boy, Lotukan took care of his father's animals.

Lotukan grew up and was very influential among his peers. He lived to believe the fallacy that the Turkana tribe who borders the Pokot in the North are a permanent enemy. In his lifetime, Lotukan fought many battles with the Turkana, and he led many raids that led to the loss of many lives. People in the community honored and respected him for being a hero.

Lotukan lived in such status until 2019 when our ministry visited his village to assess the possibility of church plant. In the first preaching of the gospel, he and several other men gave their lives to Jesus. Many celebrated the decision while others did not. Later, he was baptized.



Since then, Lotukan grew in the Lord under Pastor Joseph Kapchewan. He is now a member of the church in Kambi and a peace ambassador among the Pokot and the Turkana tribes. He goes around telling people to live peacefully without shedding innocent blood. Furthermore, the government has also supported him in that initiative, and he is often sent for peace talks all over the country. He is also among the first elders to take his children to a newly started school at Kambi.

Our ministry has supported this community with a well, a church, and an upcoming school that uses the church building as classrooms. Lotukan is determined to convince members of his village, and the neighboring ones, to change their perspective and receive Jesus. He is passionate now about church planting and peacekeeping. Many young men have come to church because of his story. For sure, he is a changed man.

We pray that many other lives that are still unreached would come to the saving knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. We equally pray that the few who have given their lives to Jesus will grow and be strengthened in faith and be used of God to impact the lives of others.

THE REDEMPTION OF SUNITA



Sunita Singh was very hungry in her search for the true God. She came to know about our senior citizen fellowship in India through one of our prayer partners. She joined the meeting and slowly started sharing her problems. Her husband was a drunkard and abusive toward her, and she was fighting poverty with her three children. All the members of our seniors' group gathered and began praying for her and her family.

Jesus is so kind! He listens to our prayers and answers. We praise God that Sunita's husband stopped drinking. Her elder daughter is studying nursing, and the second daughter is preparing for the same course. Her son is finishing his studies and wants to go into hotel management. God has blessed them!

THE REDEMPTION OF SHAZIA

Since 2018, Pastor Younas Nayyar from Pakistan has visited Sister Shazia and her family almost every week. Her husband prohibited her from attending weekly church services, but Pastor Younas and his wife never stopped visiting and praying for them. Just a few weeks ago, those prayers were answered. Shazia and her son accepted Christ! Here, you see her being baptized as her son looks on. They have joined the church fellowship and, already, several of her family members have attended church with her. Praise the Lord for changing these hearts!



RENEWED

NYAMUGARI

The families of Nyamugari, located in southeastern Rwanda, have experienced many difficult challenges – from the dark days of the genocide when countless innocent lives were violently ended to the ongoing challenges of feeding and educating their children. The need for churches who share the Gospel, disciple believers, and serve their communities there is great.

A few years ago, a pastor established a church, however, it experienced many challenges. Droughts and food shortages resulted in many people leaving the area. Eventually, in 2018, the church closed, and its pastor moved away from the community. Those who remained in the area were left with no church where they could meet to worship.

Alphonse, an energetic young man with a heart for God and people, was serving as an evangelist in the church when its doors were closed. Right away, he began working to continue serving the people. He and 12 other leaders started regularly visiting the congregation members in their homes to pray, share God's Word, and encourage their faith. Their prayers included a desire for a church building since home churches are not allowed in Rwanda.



Pastor Alphonse and his wife, Clementine

Alphonse became excited when, in 2023, the opportunity to purchase the previous church building and property occurred. Harvesters' leadership visited the site and felt led to pursue the funds to buy the property and assist Alphonse in reopening the church and becoming the pastor. God blessed us with donors who responded, and the support was raised. The church was dedicated in September 2023. The Rwandan government requirements dictated that the building be upgraded with better windows, a new roof and other modifications. Again, donors responded, and the building was refurbished ahead of the deadline.

The church is now having a great impact in the Nyamugari area. Since reopening, 46 people have been baptized! They have grown to 189 members and are active both in outreach and meeting the needs of the congregation. The church has 12 small group leaders who each meet with a group of families for prayer and Bible studies and to learn about their needs. Harvesters' donors have bought numerous goats which have been distributed at the church, as well as sewing machines. The congregation has also constructed a separate building which has a meeting space, an office for the pastor, and a room to accommodate visiting pastors.

Pastor Alphonse, as well as Bishop Aphrodis, have tremendous appreciation for the donors in the U.S. who God has used to bless, encourage, and touch the people of Nyamugari in such wonderful ways.



NEW DAWN FOR KAMBI

Kambi is located among the remote villages of the East Pokot region of Kenya, bordering Turkana County, with an estimated population of over 3,000 people. For decades, Kambi has been a highly volatile area due to cattle rustling and intertribal animosity. The area became relatively peaceful in 2015. Kambi started receiving new residents, and those who were displaced by cattle raids and tribal animosity returned to a stable settlement. In the rainy season, the land has lush and leafy vegetation from shrubs and low lying trees, ideal for goat herding. This is short-lived as the waters in the ponds disappear just a few weeks after the rains. The community is forced to temporarily move to other places.

In 2019, Kambi became a preaching point for our church planters who were ministering in Amaler nearby. The first believers of Kambi would walk about 22KM (13 miles!) to go to church there. In 2021, a fellowship was established at Kambi which has now grown to be a local church. The evangelists who visited there continued to tell us about the community's challenges and needs.

In January 2022, leaders took a vision trip to the area and saw a very dire need for water due to the sufferings in the area. We fell in love with the place and people and instantly started to think of the means to include them in our water initiative. However, our hearts were broken when we found that there was no way the drilling rig would navigate the existing road.

In late 2022, the government made a new road to Kambi, which became a great blessing and a game changer. The drilling rig could now make it to the site! We had originally planned for four locations to be drilled in East Pokot in 2023, but when someone in the U.S. offered to raise funds for a well, everyone on our team unanimously voted for Kambi!



The blessing of water at Kambi has stabilized the community. They no longer worry of the dry season. The clean water has improved their health. The established local church is growing, both numerically and spiritually.

We have supported the church construction with iron sheets, while the local congregation participated in purchasing of timbers and other materials. The believers in Kambi are prayerfully reaching out to other villages. The church structure acts as a nursery school during the week days. The kids within the community are now attending the church school. We believe that this will lead to developing a primary school in the area which will continue the transformation and renewal of Kambi.



On a recent trip to East Pokot, Kenya, I took part in a well dedication ceremony. As I consider the events of the day, the word gratitude came to mind. I felt gratitude for all the individuals who prayed for and/or donated nearly \$40,000 to fund the well. That same gratitude was extended to all the people involved in the development, execution and ongoing operation of the well. God orchestrated the steps and people followed.

I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to have been part of such a significant moment in the Pokot region. The Pokot people were full of gratitude, because they knew their lives would be transformed as a result of the new water source. It was an extraordinary experience watching and taking part in their jubilation and celebration. The villagers blessed us with their hospitality, but it was their stories of hope and prayers answered that filled me with joy.



Several of the Pokot asked why people who lived thousands of miles away from them, on the other side of the world, would care enough to establish this well for them. Our mission team pointed them to God. At the well dedication, the Pokot people were provided with more than drinking water, they were offered the living water of Jesus Christ. And I was given a remarkable lesson in gratitude. – **Anne Eberhart**

CONNECT

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NEW ADDRESS?

Help us stay in touch by sending your updated address.

We welcome your comments or address changes.

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