

MISSION UPDATE

SPRING/SUMMER 2023



- ▶ MISSION UPDATE P2
- ▶ KITHUMULA P4
- ▶ CLINICAL OFFICER P6
- ▶ KAAYO P8
- ▶ MISSION TRIP P10
- ▶ BOARD UPDATES P16

FAME
Friends of Africa Missionary Endeavour



SPRING/SUMMER MISSION UPDATE

RODNEY & ALMA

Welcome! As I write this introduction for our latest mission update, dear friends of Africa, I trust we can all say as King David did in Psalm 103:

**BLESS THE LORD,
O MY SOUL,
AND FORGET
NOT ALL HIS
BENEFITS.**

Dear child of God, like me, I am sure as you read the Psalms, your soul resonates with what David is saying, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

David often expresses sentiments and feelings we would be reluctant to express audibly in a public prayer meeting:

“Bless the LORD, ... who forgiveth ALL thine iniquities, who health ALL thy diseases. Who redeemeth thy life from destruction”!

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.”

Praise the LORD, every child of God who has

been redeemed by the precious blood of Christ and saved by His amazing grace, whether from Northern Ireland, Eastern Kenya or wherever, can say like David in this psalm, “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities”.

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. Last year FAME Mission financial support increased by 23%, not including a very generous legacy gift, for which we thank and praise the Lord.

I trust as you read this short update of what the LORD has been doing through FAME Mission in Eastern Kenya, you will be saying like King David and the FAME Board: “Bless the LORD, O my soul and forget not all His benefits”!

To God be the Glory: “For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things; to whom be glory for ever, Amen.”

LET US NEVER FORGET: IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM, FOR HE IS WORTHY!



NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

F.A.M.E.
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KITHUMULA

IN DECEMBER, 19 OF OUR CHILDREN FINISHED PRIMARY SCHOOL. AS A TREAT WE TOOK THEM ON A SAFARI TO MERU NATIONAL PARK TO CELEBRATE.

This has become an annual event. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for them, so they all look forward to it being their turn.

We give praise to God that we have received our Charitable Children Institution (CCI) registration for another 5 years. FAME is the only orphanage in the county to receive this.

The vegetable garden at the centre is producing a good amount of fruit and veg. This not only offers cost savings but also gives the children the opportunity to learn some essential skills for when they leave the centre.



Two Bible college students have put together a teaching program (curriculum) for the children in the centre. They stay at the centre alternating weekends for the Sunday services with the kids. As part of discipling the children, they pray with them each night and discuss what they have been learning. Please pray for Pastors Noah and Caxton as they take on this important role under the guidance of Rev. Titus. Pastor Titus continues his translation work and is now finished with chapter 20 of Matthew.

CHILD RESCUE

An 18-month-old abandoned baby called Prince Kyalo was rescued recently. The child was collected by police officers in Mwingi (the nearest major town to our centres). The child was only two weeks old when the police rescued it. To date, the parents are unknown. We thank God that although he was very small when he came to us, he is doing encouragingly well.



CLINICAL OFFICER

PROACTIVE HEALTHCARE



We are so thankful to God for providing a Clinical Officer at FAME. Samuel Wambua Gardiner has jumped into the role with enthusiasm and has started many new initiatives to improve the healthcare of the community.

One of the first changes is that each of the children in the Cole Baby Unit (CBU) now receives a biweekly health check. This takes place on a Monday morning and Friday evening. He has announced 24-hour treatment to the local community during the week,

greatly improving accessibility. (Only emergency services are performed on the weekends.) Samuel also plans to provide an outreach service in two local villages: Maai and Kawala. We also plan to have a monthly open public health awareness day.

As a board, we would like to thank a few individuals who have given very generously towards the clinic upgrade. The community at Kithumula and beyond are grateful for your kindness.

KAAYO



NEW CHURCH AT KAAYO

Please continue to pray for spiritual growth in Kaayo. We thank God that there are now 20 members in the new church in Kaayo and now it's overflowing. They have a good problem—they don't have enough chairs now that God has provided a full-time Pastor (Daniel Muthui Kalyong'e) who will

serve in the church at Kaayo and the surrounding evangelical churches. Daniel has a heart for evangelism, so please pray for souls to be saved. He is also a trained social worker, which is an answer to prayer for us. Every Saturday afternoon Pastor Daniel does catechism lessons. He started with ten and



that number is growing and now an average of twenty attend.

A young man, Stephen Kitonga Mulwa, from the Kaayo area has joined our Bible college. He is the first man from the area to join this kind of theological training. Pray for Stephen KM as he serves alongside Pastor Daniel MK.

FAMINE CONTINUES

Unfortunately, the famine continues in the area. The food relief intervention has helped over 2,000 people to survive this extremely tough period. Words cannot describe what this food means to these people, but through it,

they see something of the beauty of the good news of the Kingdom of God. We thank you for continuing to support FAME which enables us, by God's grace, to meet the needs of these very needy people, who God has called us to serve.





MISSION FIELD TRIP REPORT FROM DAVID GARRETT, BOARD CHAIRMAN

**AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH, OUR
CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY, DAVID
GARRETT AND GORDY MARTIN
VISITED THE FIELD FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN A FEW YEARS. THIS WAS A
REAL ENCOURAGEMENT TO THEM,
OUR STAFF AND OUR CHILDREN.**

Gordon and I set off for Eastern Kenya on Monday, 6th March 2023, to visit the work of FAME. Gordon had already made several visits to Kenya before joining the FAME Mission Board three years ago. This was a very special visit for me because it was March 1998—almost exactly twenty-five years ago—when I made my initial trip to help prepare for the first team of workers that would build the Curran Clinic at Kithumula.

Praise the Lord that we have brought back an encouraging report and praise for Stephen Kameti since he took the job of directing the FAME work in Kenya as our Board representative.

At Kithumula, where the work commenced 25 years ago, it was a joy to see all the children in the orphanage looking healthy, well-dressed and in great spirits. I want to say a special word of thanks to all

those who have taken on the responsibility of sponsoring these orphan children.

The staff are all working as a team to ensure the children are kept safe and happy. We were also thrilled to see unity among the staff.

Gordon and I counted it a joy and privilege to see the staff that we have known for many years, and also to meet the new staff that Stephen has employed on our behalf in the last few years. We can say we are working together in Christ for the furtherance of the Gospel.

We also visited our Bible College, across the road from our clinic, where Rev Titus Nzoka is the principal. What a joy to see 12 students preparing to go out and preach the Gospel to their people. Titus continues to make good progress with the translation work. He is currently more than halfway through the Gospel according to Matthew, with the Gospel according to John already complete.



We reported in our last update that because of the ongoing lack of rain, there is much hardship and famine in this semi-arid area of Kenya. We are delighted that a charity called S.D.F., who share our biblical word and deed convictions, supplied a significant amount of revenue so that we can help families in need. During our visit, we travelled to Munou Clinic, a distance of approximately 30 km where around 350 people had gathered

to receive food aid. In normal FAME practice, before giving out food relief one of our Pastors preached the Gospel to the waiting crowd, and before we helped to distribute the food we both had the privilege of addressing that crowd. Pray that the Word in the Gospel will reach the hearts of many in Munou.

We were looking forward to travelling to our new Clinic at Kaayo. Due to COVID restrictions, none of us had been

to Kaayo since it was opened. Kaayo is a long drive into the bush and most of the way is on dirt track roads, so it is a slow journey. But eventually we arrived to meet Titus coming along the dirt road to inform us he had led another soul to the Lord. What better news to arrive anywhere, and most of all in Kaayo, where God is working and bringing many to Christ? Titus had travelled before us to Kaayo to speak at the new church he had opened

because God is moving and many have opened their hearts to the Lord. We must follow up with the new converts, discipling them in the Word of God. The day before was the Lord's Day, and the little church was overflowing; many sat outside under trees, eager to hear the Word of God.

That evening we paid a visit to two who had recently professed faith in Christ: one man who is 97 years old and another elderly lady who testified to the fact that God had given her the strength to give up old habits that she had for many years. We must give God all the glory.

The next day in Kaayo was a big day. Early in the morning, a young woman gave birth to a baby they called Blessing. After breakfast, we met 12 pastors, some had come 20km just to meet us. What a joy to encourage each other in the Lord. By the afternoon many people had gathered from the surrounding area, and many had walked for hours. They knew this was the day FAME was giving out food aid, and what a crowd! Around 1200 people arrived. It was



a very hot day—even the locals could not stand the heat, but again the Gospel was preached in the open air and we both addressed the people reminding them that it was only Christ who can give them the Bread of Life and prepare them for Heaven. The great news is that since we set off for home others have come to trust Christ.

Gordon and I came home exhausted but blessed that God had allowed us to be part of this great work of bringing the Gospel to such needy people.

Our request to all who read this report and support FAME Mission is: please pray for us on the Board of FAME that God will give wisdom in the things of God because we are aware that everywhere the Lord is blessing, the devil is always in the background seeking to undo, to sow discord and keep souls from coming to Christ.

**“SO THEN NEITHER IS HE THAT PLANTETH ANYTHING, NEITHER HE THAT WATERETH; BUT GOD THAT GIVETH THE INCREASE.”
(1 CORINTHIANS 3:7)**









NEWS FROM THE BOARD

We are delighted to welcome Richard Lockhart onto the board. Richard first visited the work back in 2010 with the youth from Hillsborough FPC and made a return trip in 2013. We thank God for laying a burden and love for this work on Richard's heart, and we are grateful for the additional skills he brings to the team.

Please pray for Sharon Van Harberden as she completes her first year in the Whitfield Bible College and as she will be spending most of the summer in Africa. This time will be split between the FPC work in Uganda and FAME in Kenya.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
US AS A BOARD,
AS WE LOOK TO
GOD FOR HELP TO
DIRECT HIS WORK,
FOR HIS GLORY.**



We count it a great privilege to serve the Lord as instruments in His hand for the furtherance of His kingdom. If you have a similar desire, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact any of the board members.

There are always children in need of sponsorship. Please contact Jonathan about Child Sponsorship on **07968188794** or **jonathanl@famemissions.org**.

If you wish to know more about the work, please contact Rodney regarding deputations on **07563399591** or **rodneyd@famemissions.org**.



JORDAN'S TESTIMONY

CAN YOU IMAGINE SITTING IN YOUR LIVING ROOM AS A 12-YEAR-OLD, ABOUT TO GO TO BED FOR SCHOOL IN THE MORNING?

All seemed very normal, but that quickly changed when my Dad (Rodney Davidson) came home from the prayer meeting. He asked me a question with a tone in his voice that let me know it was serious:

**JORDAN,
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF WE MOVED TO KENYA TO SERVE GOD AS MISSIONARIES IN THE BUSH?**

Not just a normal Tuesday evening anymore! Immediately, floods of thoughts and emotions



filled my mind. Wow, that sounds incredible, it would be some adventure, but on the other hand, it would be hard leaving friends and family. That was December 2009. Four months later we were on a Boeing 777, heading for the capital of Kenya, Nairobi. After a 4-hour journey along the Garissa Road, through pineapple fields, then maize, then just dry bush, we arrived in Nguni, where we said goodbye to the tarmac road (or what was left of it!). The next six miles along a bumpy dirt road, through riverbeds were an eye-opener!

KITHUMULA WAS OUR NEW HOME, FAR FROM TULLYHOGUE IN SO MANY WAYS.

Entering the centre for the first time and seeing and hearing the excitement of the 180+ orphan children, is an experience that none of us will forget. I remember the kids being baffled by my wee sister, Grace, who was only three at the time with her bright blonde hair and blue eyes. They had never seen anything like her before!

After a few months, the excitement of the whole thing wore off and I clearly remember struggling a lot with learning

maths especially. One day after the blackboard had been filled with equations and I hadn't a notion, I walked back to our home and cried to mum and dad about how bad it was and told them I just couldn't understand even though I wanted to. So, we prayed together. That night my mum was reading through her bible when she came to this verse: Isaiah 54v13, "And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD and great shall be the peace of thy children." Instantly, mum knew that God had answered prayer, and the very next day dad was speaking at the local secondary school after he had finished one of the teachers asked how I and my brother and sisters were being taught? Shortly after that, I started studying under a tree with the local secondary school teachers, which was much better. After completing my IGCSEs, I came back to NI to do my A-Levels. Praise God, He is able and willing to provide for our needs.

During this time in Kenya I was surrounded by God's Word, which was such a blessing, but seeing sin in my life and knowing how little I loved God and His Word, made me question my salvation and I asked God to be saved again multiple times. I suppose this is not uncommon

for those like me who were saved when they were very young. I was only four when I asked Jesus Christ to forgive me for my sin. The devil was trying to get me to think I am not good enough to be saved, but it was during this time I was able to rest on verses like Ephesians 2 v 8 & 9, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” Praise God for His amazing salvation!

After returning to NI and completing my A-Levels, I started studying Aerospace Engineering at Queen’s in Belfast. During the beginning of my placement year in Kilkeel, I came to a turning point in my relationship with God. I started to lean on God and spend more time reading and praying, and listening to sermons as I drove. I started praying along the lines of “Your Word says, “Blessed is the man who hungers and thirsts after righteousness”, and You are my righteousness, so please help me to hunger and thirst after You.”. This was a wonderful time for me spiritually, over the next couple of years God grew in me a real love for Him, His Word, and a burden to win people for Christ.

During my 3rd year at uni, I was leading the Queen’s team to design and build an aircraft to compete

in a competition. This was an extremely busy time, so I had been asking God for more time to spend with Him. A few weeks later the lockdowns began and I was able to spend hours with the Lord every day. It was amazing.

In September 2020 I went on a blind date with the girl I now call my wife. We got married just over a year later. Hannah has been such an answer to prayer. We now live near Ballyclare and we are members of Apsley Hall in Belfast, where we worship and serve the Lord. I now work as an engineer in Belfast. And in June 2022 I was asked to join the board of FAME, where I am now responsible for Media.

Looking back over the last 25 years of my existence has reminded me how amazing it is that the King of the Universe would ever rescue, transform and call His own, a sinner like me. What can I say but, “Who is like our God?” or as it is written in Psalm 113 v 5 & 6:

**WHO IS LIKE UNTO THE
LORD OUR GOD, WHO
DWELLETH ON HIGH,
WHO HUMBLETH HIMSELF
TO BEHOLD THE THINGS
THAT ARE IN HEAVEN,
AND IN THE EARTH**





PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- SHARON AS SHE FINISHES HER FIRST YEAR IN BIBLE COLLEGE & WORKS IN AFRICA THIS SUMMER.
- RICHARD LOCKHART AS HE SERVES ON THE FAME BOARD.
- OUR NEW CLINICAL OFFICER, SAMUEL WG.
- PASTOR DANIEL MK AT KAAYO.
- TITUS AS HE LEADS THE BIBLE COLLEGE AND TRANSLATES THE BIBLE.
- STEPHEN KAMETI AS HE LEADS THE WORK IN KENYA.
- OUR CHILDREN AT THE MAIN CENTRE - KITHUMULA.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

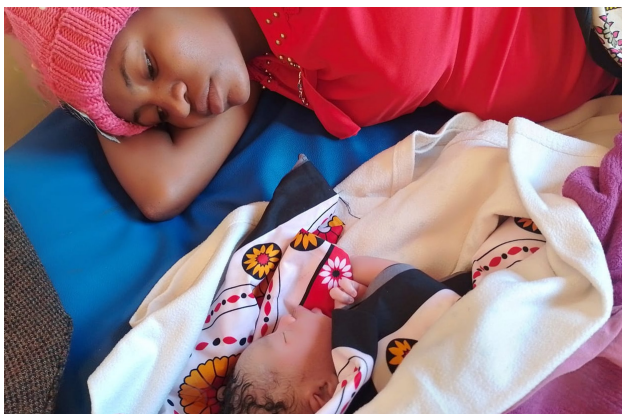


FAME PRAISE SERVICE
28TH OCTOBER 2023



Due to an increase in scams and fake emails etc from Africa/Kenya we ask that you please refrain from sending funds to anyone directly without first consulting a member of the FAME board.

This is a baby boy that was born recently in our clinic at Kaayo.



This lady received Christ and went against unchristian traditional practices which she has been in for over 90 years. She is happy in Christ and is now a member of local evangelical church.



WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

NEW POSTAL ADDRESS

FRIENDS OF AFRICA
MISSIONARY ENDEAVOUR LTD.



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FAME

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