

# MISSION UPDATE

## WINTER/SPRING



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# FAME

Friends of Africa Missionary Endeavour



# WINTER/SPRING MISSION UPDATE

**RODNEY & ALMA**

Welcome to our winter update on what the Lord has been doing through FAME Mission. It is ironic that whilst it is wintertime in the UK, it is actually summertime in Eastern Kenya!

**JANUARY  
TEMPERATURES  
OFTEN REACH 40+  
DEGREES CELSIUS.**

It has been a particularly difficult time for the thousands of people living in the very rural areas around our three medical clinics at Kithumula, Munou and Kaayo. A failed harvest as a result of poor rains earlier this year along with inflationary increases across the world has resulted in maize etc doubling in price.

We are therefore thankful to the Lord for your generosity! In response to the famine appeal, made at our FAME Mission Praise Service at the end of October, over £25,000 has been received!

In this update, you will read not only of how many hundreds of needy souls have received maize and cow peas, but—praise



the Lord—how six precious souls trusted Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour! Please pray for them, that their lives will bear much fruit for the Master.

You will also read and see photos of the official opening of our new medical clinic at Kaayo as well as a report on our Annual FAME Youth Quiz which saw more than 70 teams of 4 young men and women taking part, having studied the set books of God’s Word for several months.

One of the greatest encouragements in this edition is the wonderful news that the TBS’s General Committee have approved the Kikamba translation of the Gospel according to John for publication.



## **WHAT GREATER GIFT CAN WE GIVE THE WAKAMBA PEOPLE!?**

We must never lose confidence in the power of the Word of God to bring conviction of sin and lead to repentance and salvation!

Thank you for your prayers and support; be encouraged His Truth is marching on!



# KAAYO OUTREACH CENTRE

**THE OFFICIAL OPENING  
OF THE OUTREACH  
CLINIC IN KAAYO TOOK  
PLACE ON THE 23RD  
SEPT 2022.**

This was a huge event for the local people, literally the largest event ever to happen in the area. A meal was provided for those who came and the gospel was presented to all. Mr. Peter Klok, chairman of the Siloam Development Foundation (SDF) and Julius Mutemi (Lab Technician at the Kaayo clinic) cut the ribbon to officially open the clinic.

Kaayo remains the primary focus of the Mission, despite its relative insignificance. This small poor community in rural Kitui County has grown to be close to our heart. The need of the area is immense. But it is wonderful







to see the impact the new facilities are making in the community. Currently, there are approximately 16 patients per day at the clinic. Some cases still have to be sent to the nearest hospital which is 50 km away. Our hope is to continue to improve the facilities, reducing the need for this.

Many of you will be aware of the drought in Kenya at present. Never has the need for water been so evident, and yet we can praise the Lord for a bountiful provision of pure water for these people! As you can imagine the demand for water, due to the circumstances, has increased but the supply continues to meet the need. Had the borehole not been established in the past year there would have been a very different outlook for these people. Once again we can thank God for his perfect timing.

Whilst meeting the physical needs of the local people is essential, our goal is to point them to the One who has promised “ whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life” (John 4 v 14). The spiritual need in Kaayo is striking. Rev Titus opened the first evangelical church in the area on the 13th of November 2022. Please pray for this outreach, and for a pastor to be called to this area to take on this pioneering work.

**THE NEED IS ENORMOUS, BUT NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH OUR GOD.**

1



2



# KAAYO OUTREACH CENTRE (CONT.)





3

4



- 1 People gathered at the opening of the Kaayo Outreach Centre.
- 2 The borehole mentioned on previous page.

- 3 Planting a mango tree to mark opening of the centre.
- 4 The cutting of the ribbon.



## CLINIC

As mentioned in the previous magazine, the Clinic is being upgraded to level 3. This necessitated only a small number of changes to the current infrastructure, but the biggest challenge we face employing a clinical officer (junior doctor), as we are looking not only for one who is qualified and able for the role but that they are

truly born again with a real desire to reach souls for Christ. We have been seeking to fill this role for a few months.

**PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE.**

The TBS (Trinitarian Bible Society) general committee have approved the Gospel according to

John in Kikamba for publication, which Rev Titus and his team have been working on. We thank God for this. Please pray for them as they translate the Gospel according to Matthew next. Rev Titus and his team are also currently developing a Sunday School curriculum for the children in the centre. The Lord willing this will also be used by the churches in the local





## KITHUMULA

**GOD HAS BLESSED US WITH GREAT UNITY AMONG THE STAFF; THEY ARE SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER AS THEY SERVE GOD THROUGH THEIR WORK IN FAME. PRAY THIS CONTINUES AS THE EVIL ONE IS NOT HAPPY WHEN THINGS ARE GOING WELL.**

area, to nurture the understanding of God's Word in the minds of Sunday School children.

A recent visit from Evangelical Churches in the Ukambani area (EMU) was a highlight for the children in the centre. Those who came brought food for all to enjoy and spent quality time playing with the children. Teams from these local churches recently took part in

the annual FAME quiz which was a huge success. Grace Mbalu (née Sturm) was part of the winning team from Maai Baptist Church.

**THE CARERS IN THE CENTRE GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF EACH OF THE CHILDREN IN THEIR CARE.**

However, due to the age range, this can prove to be a challenge. As you can imagine the needs of a toddler vastly differ from the needs of a teenager and when you have 71 children and only 6 staff getting the balance right isn't an easy task. Please pray for the carers as they seek to honour Christ in their job despite the emotional challenges.



Top: The African 'bus'  
Bottom: The winners of the FAME quiz.





# EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the bedrock of our mission organisation. FAME was founded on our Saviour's command to "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel" (Mark 16v15). Therefore, spreading the gospel remains paramount.

Do and Teach - Every Thursday Pastor Philip leads the evangelism team to spread the good

news of the gospel in the local community. They exercise the "teach and do" aspect of evangelism by bringing practical gifts such as soap, corn or sugar for those they meet and speak to. Luke summarised his Gospel in the first line of the book of Acts by saying, "... of all that Jesus began to do and teach," surely this hints at the significance of BOTH doing and teaching. And

so we continue in the footsteps of our Saviour.

**WE ARE GLAD TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS SEVERAL SOULS HAVE BEEN LED TO OUR SAVIOUR.**

**PRAISE THE LORD FOR THAT!**





# FAMINE RELIEF



Earlier we mentioned the drought that is ongoing in Kenya. Unfortunately, with drought comes famine, and in these areas, famine brings devastation due to the majority of people living on less than £1 per day. The lack of rain has resulted in little or no harvest which has crippled the people who rely on farming for their livelihood. Additionally, many of the livestock are dying due to a lack of forage.

FAME have sought to help meet the needs of the people by distributing relief food from each of the

clinics: Kithumula, Munou and Kaayo. During the initial distribution, at least 1000 people received food at the 3 centres. Our aim is to potentially facilitate 2 or 3 more distributions as the need remains great. Along with the food we have been providing seeds for the people to plant in the hope of a future harvest. This is vitally important because without seeds the communities will be trapped in a famine cycle. Pray for rain to sustain this new crop.

We thank God for the generosity of his people who have given money to support this work. A Canadian charity, SDF, gave an extremely generous amount and we were delighted with the £3,000 raised as a result of our Praise Service in October. The sum raised so far is in excess of £60,000!











## FAME BOARD UPDATE

Over the last year there has been some change to the FAME Board with three of our members stepping down: Francis Lecky (served for over 24 years), Rev. Marcus Lecky (Cookstown FPC) & Ryan Kinney. We are grateful for their faithful service over the years and are thankful that our brother Marcus will continue to assist Rodney doing FAME deputation meetings.

Last year Jordan Davidson, Rodney & Alma's oldest son joined the board of FAME. Jordan comes with the experience of living in Kithumula from 2010-2014.

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





## THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE:

- **DAVID GARRETT**  
CHAIRMAN — FRONT MIDDLE
- **ALAN CUNNINGHAM**  
TREASURER — FRONT LEFT
- **GORDY MARTIN**  
SECRETARY — BACK MIDDLE
- **JONATHAN LOCKHART**  
CHILD SPONSORSHIP — BACK RIGHT
- **RODNEY DAVIDSON**  
MISSION FIELD CONTACT &  
DEPUTATIONS — FRONT RIGHT
- **JORDAN DAVIDSON**  
MEDIA — BACK LEFT

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 [jonathan@famemissions.org](mailto:jonathan@famemissions.org).

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

**THE LORD WORKS AND  
LEADS IN AMAZING WAYS  
AND SO WE ASKED OUR  
CHAIRMAN, DAVID, TO  
TELL HIS STORY OF HOW  
GOD HAS SAVED HIM  
AND LED HIM INTO THE  
WORK OF FAME:**

There is a phrase in Psalm Ch 84 v 10 which sums up my testimony. “I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.”

Born near Saintfield, Co. Down on 17/10/1945, and born-again in the same house in October 1959—that sums up the path I believe God chose for my life. I was born into an Irish Presbyterian home where both Mum and Dad were saved and I attended Sunday School and Church. I knew the Gospel from an early age. My grandparents on both my mother’s and my father’s side were born-again Christians and played an active part in local mission halls. That for me was a special privilege, but no doubt the devil had other plans for my life.

When I started attending Saintfield High School I made many new friends and as winter





approached in 1959 I was asked by a young girl from school to attend a dance in a local Orange Hall which was held each Saturday night. At around the same time, I was also asked to go to a youth meeting in Carryduff. I wanted to feel grown up and to get out on a Saturday night, so what should I do? The dance would be great fun but then Mum and Dad would not let me go to any dance at my age, so my mind was quickly made up: I took the second offer and went to the youth meeting. As I started to attend this youth meeting I quickly made new friends and they were happy young people enjoying themselves. They loved the Lord and with my knowledge of the Gospel I quickly knew what I should do and so after one of the Saturday night meetings at the end of October 1959 in my bedroom at home, I simply called on the Lord to forgive me of my sins and save me. Now my life was changed: no more thoughts of the dance hall. Under the leadership of Frank McClelland (who later became Reverend Frank McClelland) we were encouraged to live for the Lord and in our weekly chain prayer meeting when your turn came to pray you had to stumble out some words. Then when Frank heard you pray he would say, "David,

we are going to a Mission hall on Sunday night and you will give your testimony". With Frank, you never had a chance to say no. I owe so much to Frank McClelland in the early years after my conversion, as he encouraged me week after week. At the age of 15, my uncle asked me if I would teach a small Sunday School class in a little old school-house on a Sunday evening. That was how I began to serve the Lord and it has been a joy over these many years to serve in so many ways.

The question you might ask me is: "how did you get involved in FAME Mission?" I met my wife Norma in 1964 and in 1967 we got married and set up home in Lisburn where we attended Dunmurray Free Presbyterian Church. When we were married a couple of years we decided to go on holiday with friends to the South of Ireland. It was while we were on holiday that I started to feel unwell and the next day after coming home to Lisburn I became so ill that I was rushed into the Royal Victoria Hospital for tests. I do not remember much about those tests, I only know I felt very ill and the thought came to me, "Lord is this the end of my life, only married a short time and all the plans we had hoped for together are they over?" With

all this in my semiconscious mind, I started to talk to the Lord. My simple prayer was, “Lord, if you raise me up to health I will be willing to serve you and go where you want.” That was a big promise, but I had made it to the Lord and would have to keep it. That evening my father-in-law Fred Patterson came to visit me in the hospital and all I can remember was Fred holding my arm. He never spoke but I knew he was praying and that was enough for me. He left and the staff gave me something to help me to sleep and sleep I did until the nurse woke me the next morning and asked, “David how are you this morning?” I was surprised: I felt well and ready to go home. That day the hospital put me through many tests but all came clear and the doctors said “whatever you had it has gone away.” I knew God had answered Fred’s prayer, and praise the Lord, but I never forgot the promise I had made to the LORD. I have been privileged to serve the Lord in many places and in many ways since then.

In 1997 my son-in-law Alan Cunningham spoke to me about a project he had designed for Kenya. It was a clinic out in the bush and they needed someone to go out with Alan Dunlop to

buy material and set out the foundations of that building. By 1997 I was a joint director in a building company, had a family and a nice home and was busy in the Lord’s work. Then the question came, “David, would you go and help?” I turned this over in my mind, and then I remembered the promise from many years before which I had made to the Lord when my back was against the wall on that hospital bed. Now the test has come and God gave me the grace to say “yes, I will go”. In February 1998 the two of us set off. It was an experience and a culture shock I will never forget, but God was gracious to me on that trip and I had the privilege of witnessing the foundations being dug for that first clinic. Those few days in Kenya changed my outlook on life and I thank the Lord for the little part He has allowed me to share in the work of FAME up to this present time. As I look back over those many years since 1959 when the Lord came into my heart and life and changed the direction of my life, I would say to those who will read my testimony—especially to young people setting out in life—what Christ taught in Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.”



**CHILDREN GETTING NEW CLOTHES FOR CHRISTMAS**



# PLEASE PRAY:

- FOR STEPHEN KAMETI, THE FAME BOARD REPRESENTATIVE, THAT HE WILL KNOW THE LORD'S HELP, GRACE AND WISDOM AS HE OVERSEES AND DIRECTS THE WORK EACH DAY.
- THAT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE RECENTLY BEEN SAVED WILL BEAR MUCH FRUIT FOR THE MASTER.
- FOR A PASTOR TO PIONEER THE WORK AT KAAYO.
- FOR THE CONTINUED UNITY OF THE STAFF.
- THAT GOD WILL PROVIDE A CLINICAL OFFICER (JUNIOR DOCTOR) IN KITHUMULA.
- FOR REV. TITUS AND THE TEAM AS THEY TRANSLATE THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.
- FOR THE CARERS AT THE CHILDRENS CENTRE.
- PRAY THAT THE RAINS WOULD SUSTAIN THE CROP THIS SEASON.
- PLEASE PRAY FOR US AS A BOARD, AS WE LOOK TO GOD FOR HELP TO DIRECT HIS WORK, FOR HIS GLORY.

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.

*A group of ladies hearing the Gospel before they receive relief food.*



*A care assistant with a child at Kithumula.*



*Left to right:  
Stephen Kameti,  
Solomon Ngoli,  
and Rev Titus.*





# WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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**FAME**

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