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APRIL 2010

ISSUE 9



Children From St. Tim's Sing

End of First School Term

Dear Ed,

Greetings and blessings during this Easter season! Schools are closed during the month of April (as well as August and December). This month's eNewsletter focuses on some of the closing ceremonies for the younger students as well as our Adult Education classes. We also take a look at three sustainability projects, designed to insure that our initiatives continue and are self-sufficient.

There has been some rain lately - although the rains are sometimes a mixed blessing. With the rains come floods, poor drainage and the diseases that follow standing water and the run-off from animal waste. It is definitely more difficult to get the motorbike to our sites! But we are grateful for the sake of the cattle, the crops and full water tanks!

As always, I want to thank you for thinking of us and our projects in Kenya. We ask you to continue to be generous. You'll see below that we are

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THREE SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

1. Beadwork

The Maasai women at Athi River are working on beadwork again! Masai Fred Nasieku and I traveled to Kiserian (Maasai town outside of Nairobi) to purchase the needed materials and the women began work immediately. The proceeds from the sale of their completed items will help to pay school fees for the next school term. Some of the beadwork will be on sale at the Global Youth Service Day in Cincinnati on Saturday April 17, 2010.

Bracelets, keychains etc. are all available for a great price.

2. Chicken Project

We continue to give relief food (maize flour)

attempting to start a couple of new ventures - thanks to your generosity.

Gratefully yours,

ED

Esarunto "Refuge" Closing Ceremonies

Our own preschool, Esarunoto, ended their first term on March 27th with awards for high achievement, discipline and cleanliness. You'll remember, the Florence Kentucky Rotary supplied 60 students with new uniforms and sweaters. We have increased our numbers by 32 so we will soon be measuring the new students for their uniforms as well. Two of our teachers are pregnant and one has left for maternity leave and will be replaced by our first Maasai male teacher. We held interviews and have secured the services of Joseph, who will continue even after Jacqueline returns from leave. Congratulations!

St. Timothy School Closing Ceremonies

I was fortunate to attend the closing of the first term at St. Timothy Academy. Music, dance and food were the major components of the day. Each class sang or recited poems about the importance of education. Some of the Maasai parents also sang and danced to thank the Foundation (all of you) for your help in funding gutters, a 1500 liter water tank and transparent panels to let some light into the classrooms. Sadly, a goat had to die for the celebration as well! Over 200 guests ate chapatti, rice, potatoes and goat. It was a great day. For more pictures - see our [FaceBook Page](#)

An update on last month's eNewsletter - Renovations are now complete at St. Tim's. Pictured is the new water tank and a worker adding plastic roofing panels. Thank you!!

to the Kamba widows' group; 34 women, 2 men, who lost their spouses to AIDS. Slowly, because of the rains, they are able to grow some vegetables. But they are not yet self-sufficient. As part of the group's desire to be self-sustaining, we are initiating a small chicken project. We will purchase 25 chickens that the women will raise and sell the eggs and chicks. The chicken structure (coop) is completed and we are in the process of purchasing chickens.

3. Goats

As you may remember, we purchased 36 goats in December and were to purchase an additional 36 this month. The second round of goats was not purchased because the prices have climbed higher. While we have postponed the purchase, the original goats are now kidding (giving birth) and will soon give milk. The women are now beginning to repay the Foundation for some of our investment. We are considering the use of that repayment; perhaps a new venture for the Masai, a farm or agro-project. This was suggested by the women and would be a novel idea since the Maasai are not known for farming but herding.

Donations may be sent to:
Immaculate Heart of



St. Tim Renovations

Mary Mission Fund
Ed Colina Projects
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Burlington, KY 41005

**Recorder Article
about Ed Colina**

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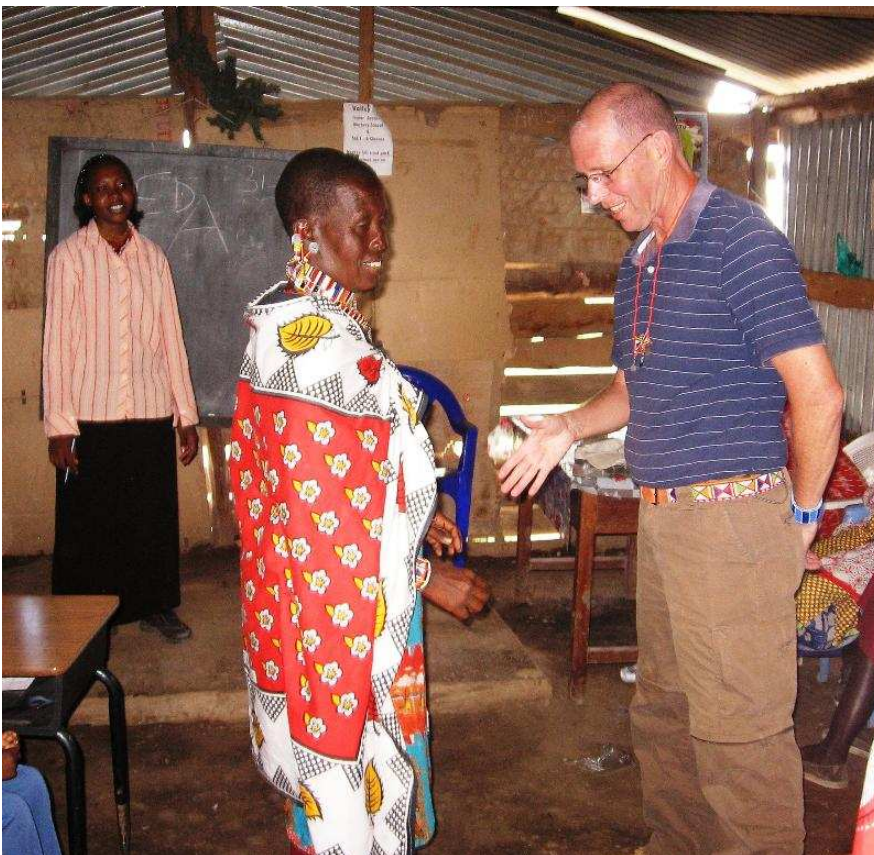
**Ed is currently in
Kenya until the end of
June 2010**

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Adult Education Classes Complete First Term



Adult Education Student and Ed

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The Adult Education classes completed the end of the first term with a

celebration of food and gifts but the classes will continue during the break, as voted on by the students. They were afraid they might lose what they have learned. I spoke at the closing event and told the fifty-five women gathered that we are **all** life-long learners. We are **all** learning - just different things. While they struggle with ABCs, addition and subtraction, I struggle with milking goats and gauging when the rains will come. We are all learning - and all of us associated with the Adult Education classes are "advancing in age!"

We are in the process of interviewing a certified P1 teacher to add to our Adult Education staff. There are approximately 25 additional adults who have dropped out of elementary school classes. They have progressed further along than those currently taking classes but, until now, we have not found the right teacher to continue with them. We have hopes for the next term. Pictured above is a Maasai student awarding Ed with a beadwork necklace.

Kajiado ECDE Preschool



Kajiado Preschool Site (Maasai Committee)

The preschool at Kajiado is becoming more a reality. The local church was given a site on Masai land and the Foundation has the opportunity to take over the use former small church. The renovations will take some iron sheets, gutters, a water tank etc. to get the building prepared. We will share the costs of two ECDE teachers with the local Masai and begin a food program. There are about 40 students (not currently attending school) who are ready to attend. We will be making several trips to the remote site, about three and a half hours from Athi River. The last half hour is a long walk to the site of the school. We have created a budget and are working to see if we can possibly answer this request. Kajiado is the ancestral home of many of the Maasai we work with in Athi River.

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