

March 2015

Friends of Nehemiah

Greetings to all of our friends, financial and prayer partners. First I would like to say thank you for your continued support towards Nehemiah Construction, without our generous partners there would be no opportunity for Ministry at all. For myself, I still find it a little difficult to just sit down and put all my thoughts on paper (so to speak). Sometimes it would be nice to do things the Kenyan way and I could just stop by your home or business for some chai, I know for the most part that would not be practical in most cases, only wishful thinking.

As I look back and recap 2014 there are always struggles to weigh the good and the bad or what we perceive to be good and bad. For myself one of the most difficult things to deal with is always the production or number of wells that were completed last year. We actually had a pretty good start to the year completing one well before the end of January. The holdups started with mechanical difficulties, as everyone knows this can be very trying but then throw in getting the right parts, poor communication, and the list goes on and on. By the time the team was able to get back to work 3 months had past but the good news was in their down time they were able to completely go though the drilling rig, fixing , cleaning and giving it a much needed coat of paint and repair.



Checking out the new paint!

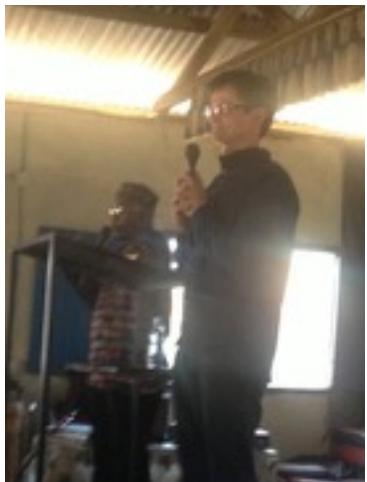
After all the repairs were done to the Tata we thought, nothing but clear sailing, (wrong again) We had found some villages desperate for water but the formations that lay underground were truly a nightmare for the drilling team. They encountered boulders which collapse and wedge the drilling tool, sand which caves in and makes the ground very unstable, at one time the whole rig almost fell into the hole. There is also the clay which makes for very very slow drilling and where there is clay there is usually not much water. Along with all that there were problems with torrential rain, very poor roads and the added danger of bandits shooting at passing vehicles. It definitely made for an interesting year.

Enough of the negative, lets move on to some good news and the great things that we see happening. First of all NCM would like to say Thank You again to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to help with our fund raising efforts. It is something that goes without saying that NCM could not do what we do without everyones help. From the Seven Persons community of volunteers who come together to make the Seven Person Dinner and Auction a success yearly to The Water Run team for working 5 months to make sure The Water Run goes off without a hitch ever year. Also in 2014 Brost Developments made a very generous contribution by building a home and selling it with all the profit going to NCM for the ongoing work. Thank you everyone!

Dave Nelson and myself made 2 trips to Turkana in 2014, The trip in February we were able to deliver 14 tons of food relief into the Turkana region, we were able to travel further off the beaten path than we have ever been before. The good news was we were able to help many people but the bad news was we couldn't help everybody. Many people young and old alike we're not able to withstand the harshness of drought and by the time we were able to get food to them they were already too weak to eat and many died.

We were also able to transfer all the equipment and assets into Nehemiah Construction Ministries name, that in itself was a small miracle as I have been working on it for three years. We also had the opportunity to meet up with a gentleman from CBN (Christian broadcasting network) I believe this meeting to be a Devine meeting. Of all places to meet, the Kakuma guesthouse does not seem like a chance meeting. So I am believing that God may have something in mind for the future and the opportunity of working together.

At the end of November we also made a trip to Turkana that again was quite exciting. We were able to bring Pastor Andreas from the Westlock Gospel Chapel to travel with us and do some teaching. We set up both morning and evening meetings for Andreas to teach at in order to help with Pastor Wilson's vision of supplying workers into the field. There were approximately 75 leaders that participated and everyone was excited about the teaching and receiving a new bible.



Pastor Andreas teaching.

When we take someone to Kenya with us we are never sure how they will react, I would have to say Pastor Andreas thrived at the challenge of teaching out in the desert heat and the dust. When I first asked him if he thought he would come back he wasn't sure, but when I asked him on our trip home he was already planning his next trip and how he could make a difference, that to me is the most exciting thing to know the Turkana people have yet another voice.

We were also able to purchase two motorbikes, one for the Jesus Video project and the other for Pastor Samuel. They were shipped North to Kakuma when we were still there so we decided it would be a good idea to go through them and check everything over. They did make it with no damage but when we started to look them over we realized they were needing some TLC. After a few hours of tightening bolts and adjusting this and that we had them up and running so we were able to give a few tips on riding them. Pastor Wilson has already reported that the Jesus video Team is able to spend more time in the bush because their transportation costs have decreased substantially. Also pastor Samuel has been able to oversee more of the Turkana churches because of the added mobility the motorbike has provided.



Motorbike repair class 101

It was brought to our attention last summer that the church in Kakuma was being forced out of their rented facility by a Muslim businessman that did not want the church to be in town. NCM decided to give the church a small piece of property to construct a permanent new building on the training center land. Again we were blown away by the



Structure and roof for the new church

generosity of Albertans who came to the aid of Pastor Wilson and the Turkana people. We put out a call for partners who wanted to help with the construction of the new building, as of early January there was a fence and a building structure complete with roof. We are now planning the next phase of construction and hoping to find donors who would like to be involved in helping to complete the block structure. I will keep everyone posted with updates on the progress of the New Church. Please contact me if you would like to help with building costs of new Church.

As for drama there always seems to be something that goes on, our last trip in February the fan belt broke on our Toyota which caused us a little tension as we were trying to get to Nairobi to catch our flight home. This time was no exception, as we started our journey home from Lodwar we were caught in the middle of a standoff between the Pokot tribe and the military. The Pokot's proceeded to cut down many huge trees blocking off both sides of the bridge basically stopping all traffic until the president acknowledged their demands. As we sat on the side of the road we could hear gunfire not too far away, the result was approximately 20 people losing their lives. After six hours of waiting on the side of the road the reports were not looking very favourable so we made the decision to turn around and travel five hours back to Lodwar on the dark and treacherous road. The next morning I was up making phone calls trying to find a flight, We were able to get the last three seats and make it back to Nairobi in time to get our flight home. Fun Fun Fun!!



Trees cut down across the road!