

Friends of Nehemiah

To all of our friends, financial and prayer partners, we would like to say thank you for your contribution and support towards Nehemiah Construction. In my next breath I would like to apologize, for the poor communication on my end. Myself I would prefer to speak with everyone in person, but I know that it is impossible because there are not enough hours in the day or for that matter, days in the week. I realize that a newsletter is the best way to reach everyone, even though it is not a very personal way to communicate.

In January of this year, David Nelson and myself were able to travel to Kenya once again. It was a short trip, but one of the most productive trips we have ever been on. We only had a limited time to get things done so everything needed to fall into place. I must say it was truly trip full of miracles as we were able to accomplish everything that we had set out to do in such a short period of time.

Two weeks before we were to fly out, Pastor Wilson contacted me to see if there was anyway we could raise some funds to buy food for the Turkana people. Drought is very common in the Turkana region but this was the worst that they had seen in many years. Once again the generous Nehemiah Donors came through and we were able to raise over \$8000 to buy food. One of the first things we needed to do was purchase the dry-goods and arrange transportation to the north, which is no small feat in itself. Pastor Wilson and his wife Alice did an exceptional job of arranging things so that the truck arrived at the same time Dave Nelson and myself did with some new friends from Rocky Mountain house (Hank and Dawn Smid).



Mamas waiting patiently for food

As we traveled through the Turkana region you could see affects of the drought. All of the trees and vegetation were dried right out to the extent that the bark on the trees was black. We traveled out further into the desert than I had ever been before. We saw many villagers, young and old that were suffering from malnutrition and were told that many had already died. The good news is that in five days we were able to distribute approximately 14 tons of food to thousands of Turkana villagers.

One of the most incredible miracles was being able to finally get the drilling rig and all of our assets under the Nehemiah Construction Ministries name. It only took three years, more meetings than anyone should have to sit through and some serious negotiations with another ministry in Kenya. Long story short there was a new leader in the Kenyan Ministry that had a totally different attitude and a heart that wanted to see Nehemiah Construction moving forward to continue bringing clean water to the Turkana people.

Through the generosity of one of our donors, we were able to buy 2002 Toyota Surf 4 X 4 with a diesel engine. The good news is we were able to test drive the vehicle before we bought it. It was probably the longest test drive ever, we traveled to Turkana and back, (approx. 2000 kms), not sure how many hours, but many more than it should have . We only had one breakdown and thank the Lord it was in Kakuma, the serpentine belt that drives everything on the engine broke. This is a real test for your contact list, we were coming to the end of our trip, our plane was leaving in two days and we still had to drive 20 hours to Nairobi. Nobody was sure of the part number so we had three belts from three different locations trying to make it to where we were. Again long story short we were putting the belt on with a flashlight at 1:00AM in the morning, we slept for four hours and were on the road by six in the morning. We even made our plane with hours to spare!



Dave Nelson checking out a pot hole

The Drilling Project

2013 was a pretty good year for the drilling project, I believe we completed five wells, the new team had to work out something personality conflicts and they seem to be doing fairly well. The new year (2014) started off fairly well, but that only lasted about three weeks, they proceeded to get the bit stuck down hole and we were forced to bring in a consultant to help with freeing the drill stem. After approximately one month they freed the bit and finished the hole to depth. There was much disappointment in the end knowing that it was dry hole. After that we had made arrangements to have the Tata taken to Nairobi for some much needed maintenance, We scheduled to have it down for one month. I thought that would be plenty of time even for Kenyan standards and I was off by a month and a half. The bad news is, it was traveling back to Desert and it only made it 20 km out of Nairobi before the transmission blew up and we forced to take it back to the shop to fix yet another problem (hopefully not another month). Welcome to Kenya!



A fresh coat of paint, (what a beauty)

The good news in all this, is what you were able to do maintenance on the drilling rig also, so when the support truck does get back there should be no stopping the drilling team.

Fundraising Events

This year once again, The Seven Persons community came together to put on their fourth annual fundraising dinner for NCM. It was a great evening with great food, great entertainment and a live auction, which raised over \$20,000 towards the work that in NCM is doing in Northern Kenya with the Turkana people. A special thanks to Rob and Marilyn Fisher who organized everything, but also the great team of volunteers that helped out to make it all happen.

At present we are busy working on the 5th Annual Water Run, the last four years have been very crucial in raising funds to keep NCM moving forward. In the last four years The Water Run has raised over \$200,000 in the first four years, but this year we are hoping to surpass all expectations. A friend of mine once said (If we set our goals to low, we don't leave any room for God to move!) That being said we are hoping to raise \$100,000 at this years run. Mark it on your calendar October 11th, 2014 at the downtown YMCA. Come on out and join us and help us reach our goal. It is a fun family event with incredible prizes for the people that raise the most funds for their run or walk.



Also this year, or I guess it was late last year Gerhard and Hilma Brost of Brost Developments, one of the executive home builders in Medicine Hat shared that they were going to build a home for NCM. Their plan was to involve as many businesses and contractors as they could to donate labor or materials in the building of the home and that all profits would go to NCM for the work we are doing in Kenya. If there's anybody in Medicine Hat that is looking for beautiful new home, there is one waiting here in Medicine Hat! Thank you Gerhard and Hilma for your continued support and generosity.

I know that there are many more things I could share, but I also realize that we have very busy lives and I do not want to take up too much of your time with a newsletter that is 25 pages long.

Blessings from Dave and the Nehemiah Team