

Friends of Nehemiah

Greetings everyone. Well as in most of my newsletters in the past I need to begin with an apology for how long it has been since my last update. 2017 was an exceptional year for NCM, from drilling to evangelism, God is on the move. We were able to raise funds to rebuild the drill, the Tata and get back to what we do best and that is bringing clean water and the Gospel to the Turkana people. I introduced Larry & Joyce Falldorf back in 2016 and I would like to say that it has been an honour to work with them and have them as part of the team in Kenya. They are excited to be in Kenya and passionate about working with the Turkana people. The Kenyan Team has come to view them as Mom and Dad and truly enjoy having them out in the field with them.

The Drilling Program

The Drilling program is moving forward in leaps and bounds. When Larry came on board he was able to purchase the equipment to do our own seismic testing and surveys. Since that time we **have not** drilled a dry hole. PTL!! That however has created a small problem because now the word has gotten out and we have been bombarded with requests for boreholes all over Turkana. The good news is in 2017 we drilled I believe **12 boreholes in just over 8 months**. In 2018, to date we are working on the **6th borehole at present**. I was going to say the bad news is, but when you look at it there really is no bad news. We now have an ever increasing backlog of requests for borehole but everyone is being very patient.

Back in August of 2017 we started to kick around the idea of raising funds for a smaller, lighter percussion rig to enable us to get further out into the bush where we have found it impossible to go with our present rig. On some rig moves, we found it would take 2-3 days to move and setup the rig. With this smaller rig we could shorten this time to a half a day! I am excited to say that through Larry's contacts down in Virginia, the rig is paid in full and is sitting waiting to be shipped at the moment. We are waiting for paperwork to import it to Kenya. I guess if there was one disappointment it would be the fact that the paperwork is going so slowly.

At this time we have also purchased an older Bedford 4X4 to mount the rig on. The guys are busy going through it mechanically to prepare it for mounting the rig on it.



Completely refurbished 22-W with new Perkins engine and levelling jacks for easier setup.

The Jesus Video

The Evangelism team has really come to life as a result of working alongside of the Drilling Team. Eliphaz and John have really stepped up and rose to the challenge before them, in the past few months there has been great opposition by the witchdoctors but as the Jesus team and the drilling team work together the walls come tumbling down. Everywhere the rig goes the villagers are asking for a church to be started. Please pray for more workers to come alongside to help with teaching and discipleship.



The Drilling Team dedicating another completed borehole, many times the whole village turns out to sing and dance to celebrate the occasion.



Here is the Jesus video team having church in the bush on a Sunday morning.

Building Projects

Over the past few years we have been trying to help Pastor Wilson and his team to build a couple of churches, one in Kakuma and the other in Lodwar. It has been a slow process as funds are limited, but there is definitely movement forward. One of the biggest setbacks was the fact that there was a huge wind storm that tore the roof off and knocked down the partially built walls of the Lodwar church. It is a testament to the resilience to the Turkana people as they just take it all in stride and start fresh.



The church in Lodwar after the huge wind storm tore the roof off and knocked down the partially built walls.



The Lodwar church has been repaired but still has some work that needs to be done for completion.

The Farming Project

If there is one thing I have learned from my 14 years of working in Kenya is that change happens very slowly, trying to establish a viable gardening project has most definitely had its challenges but we are hopeful that there are positive changes coming (slowly by slowly) as they say in Kenya. For the past year and a half Pastor Ben and his wife Margaret have really stepped up to help oversee the farm, I know one day in the not too distant future there will be all kinds of fruit and vegetables growing on the farm.



Another crop of cow peas are maturing nicely almost ready to harvest



Achum has been sent for training in organic farming and is starting to put his training to work.

The Rains of Turkana



People think they are invincible, this is a common site when the rains come



Even the biggest trucks with the heaviest loads are no match for the power of the raging waters

Personal Challenge

Many of you friends are aware that Dave has had some health concerns these last 10 months and has not been able to work locally or go abroad to Kenya because of physical limitations. Dave has been in considerable pain and after many consultations and tests a need for a 3 level fusion and spinal reconstruction of the lumbar region has been revealed and is imperative for his back. The wait for this surgery in Alberta is quite long 2-3 years and the expertise for this kind of surgery is very limited here in Canada as well.

An opportunity for Dave to get surgery by a highly experienced spinal surgeon based in Germany has presented itself. After much prayer, research and consultation with doctors we have booked surgery for **July 12, 2018**. Dave is eager to get the surgery done, heal and continue his mission work however the operation is costly, in the neighbourhood of \$100,000 for procedure and rehabilitation.

Dave and I have seen God provide financially for many needs both for Nehemiah construction Ministries and personally since stepping into missions in 1996. HE is Faithful and has us on yet another adventure in growing us in our walk with Him! We want to be obedient and put this need out to our Kingdom family who have been such a support for us all these years. Would you help Dave overcome this physical and financial challenge by considering a pledge towards Dave's operation and rehabilitation?

By supporting Dave in this operation you will help Nehemiah Constructions Ministries to continue its vital work and provide a better quality of life for Dave. If you would like to be part of this special opportunity please let us know as soon as possible by **emailing Stuart Rempel at the Great Commission Foundation. Donations will be processed under medical and receipted through GCF.** God Bless you all and thank you for your support and prayers!

In Faith with you.. Laura McElhinney

Please email:
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If you would like to contribute to Nehemiah Constructions operations costs, the Jesus video program, children's home, education program and the Drilling Project, please contact me as soon as possible and I can direct you in the best way to make a tax receipt-able donation.

Blessings Dave

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