

NEHEMIAH CONSTRUCTION MINISTRIES

SPRING NEWSLETTER

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DRILL FOR LIFE
FUNDRAISER
NCM would like to thank the Seven Persons Community and all those involved in making the fundraiser a great success. There were approximately 110 guests with \$6871.51 being raised to help drill water wells for the Turkana People



Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.
Matthew

Samuel and his younger brothers out for a rip in his new wheelchair

SAMUEL'S NEW WHEELS

WITHOUT A HITCH

As Garry and I started out on this trip we were filled with wonder, as to what problems might a-raise. One of the main reasons for this trip was to hand deliver Samuels New Renegade Wheelchair. The process of raising funds started about a year

ago and it was a wonderful feeling to know that very soon Samuel would have a new found freedom. The fact that the chair was custom built and did not fold down at all was one concern, but also the fact that it was over weight was definitely another. It was amazing to see the grace we were given by everyone. Not an

eyebrow was raised or a question asked, the chair made it without a hitch. To see the smile on Samuels face and the joy in his heart was truly priceless and a moment that I wished we could have shared with all those people who have touched Samuels life.



SAMUEL TALKING ON THE PHONE WITH KATHY LEMIRE



SAMUEL WORKING ON HIS FIGURE EIGHTS



SAMUEL WITH HIS EAR TO EAR SMILE

A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS



A pile of discarded rags



"For I was naked and you clothed me..." this verse from the bible speaks volumes to us here at Nehemiah Construction. This recent trip was no different from any previous trips, again we found that the further we go outside of the Kakuma town site, the more naked children we find. It is amazing to see what happens when we pull up to a Manyatta (home). Within minutes there are kids and their mamas running towards us from all directions hoping to get a single item of clothing. Within an hour or two our bags are empty and we have given clothes to 20 to 30 kids. The sad truth however is that in a years time if we were to return to their village we would likely find them still wearing that same item of clothing. Still it is a joy to see how something we take for granted becomes a treasure to these families.

A YOUNG BOY WITH A DREAM AT A VERY EARLY AGE LOUR PHILEMON DREAMED OF HELPING THE TURKANA PEOPLE IN THE FIELD OF MEDICINE. HIS DREAM MAY SOON BECOME A REALITY. THE CONDENSED VERSION OF THE STORY IS THAT LOUR FINISHED GRADE 12 TWO YEARS AGO BUT HAD NO FINANCES TO CONTINUE WITH HIS DREAM OF GOING TO COLLEGE, SO HE RETURNED HOME TO HIS SMALL VILLAGE IN THE DESERT WHERE HE SERVED AS A VOLUNTEER. HIS TIME WAS SPENT HELPING THE CHILDREN IN HIS COMMUNITY WITH THEIR EDUCATION. THEN IN STEPPED AMOS, A WELL RESPECTED CHIEF IN THE TURKANA REGION TO OFFER HIS SUPPORT. AMOS RODE HIS MOTORBIKE OUT IN THE DESERT DAY AFTER DAY TALKING WITH VILLAGERS TO SEE IF THEY COULD HELP WITH ANY SMALL AMOUNT TO SEND LOUR TO COLLEGE.

NEARING THE END OF OUR TIME IN KAKUMA, NCM MADE THE DECISION TO HELP OUT WITH THE REST OF FUNDS TO SEND LOUR THOUGH HIS FIRST YEAR OF COLLEGE. OUR DECISION WAS FAIRLY EASY AS IT IS NCM'S MANDATE TO HELP ORPHANS. IF YOU WERE TO BREAK DOWN THE COST BETWEEN ALL OF OUR DONORS IT WOULD COME TO APPROXIMATELY \$2.00 PER PERSON FOR THE YEAR. AFTER 7 YEARS OF TRAVELING TO THE TURKANA I BELIEVE THAT EDUCATION IS ONE OF THE BEST INVESTMENTS WE CAN MAKE. BY HELPING ONE YOUNG MAN HE WILL IN TURN HELP TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HIS OWN PEOPLE.



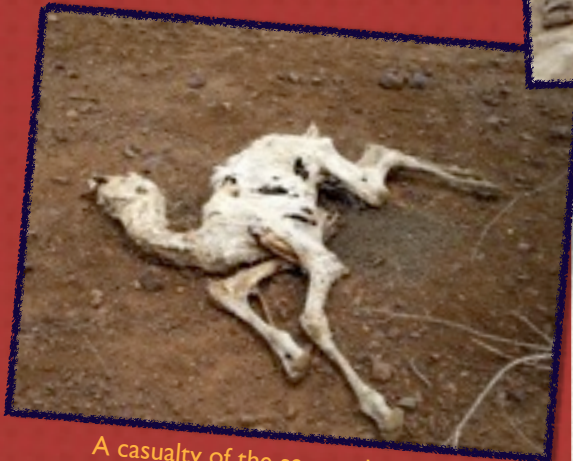
THE DRILL FOR LIFE PROJECT



Old woman waiting for water



The borehole is a common meeting place



A casualty of the severe drought



Garry and I spent a few days in Nairobi searching out the best Diesel powered welder/generator for the drilling team. Its a real workhorse.

THE DRILL FOR LIFE PROJECT HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY IMPORTANT, BUT BECAUSE OF THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF SEVERE DROUGHT IN THE TURKANA REGION WATER HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPORTANT. AS GARRY AND I TRAVELED THROUGHOUT THE REGION IT WAS WITH SOME DISAPPOINTMENT TO FIND SEVERAL OF THE WELLS NOT WORKING FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER. SOME WELLS WERE DRYING UP BECAUSE THE WATER TABLE HAS DROPPED, BUT OTHERS WERE HAVING PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF PUMP DEFECTS. WE ARE WORKING TO RECTIFY AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. AT PRESENT THE DRILLING TEAM IS WORKING HARD TO REPAIR AS MANY OF THE PUMPS AS THEY CAN. HOPEFULLY BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER EVERYTHING WILL BE UP AND RUNNING!

POLLY POLLY IS A KENYAN SAYING MEANING (SLOWLY BY SLOWLY) THINGS WILL GET DONE WHEN THEY GET DONE. THIS I MUST SAY IS THE THORN IN MY SIDE. THE ONE GOOD THING IS THAT OFTEN YOU ARE MOVING SLOW ENOUGH TOO MAKE CHANGES IN YOUR DIRECTION WITHOUT THE CRASH AND BURN WHICH WE SEE MUCH TO OFTEN IN NORTH AMERICA. THAT BEING SAID WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CHANGING THE FORMAT OF THE SEWING SCHOOL, NOT BECAUSE IT DIDN'T WORK, BUT BECAUSE WE BELIEVE WITH A FEW MINOR CHANGES IT COULD BECOME A SELF SUSTAINING PROGRAM.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING NCM IN YOUR PRAYERS AND ON BEHALF OF THE TURKANA PEOPLE, THANK YOU!

GRATEFULLY, NEHEMIAH CONSTRUCTION