

Kenya Update

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Back To Class



My trip to Kenya started a week earlier than the rest of the teams. I invited five men I had been working with to join me at the ECHO conference in Machakos, Kenya. I am embarrassed to admit that when I first read it was a “Pastorist” conference, I assumed it meant pastors who were farmers. Well, upon reading some of the topics of discussion, I soon realized it was the men who looked after cattle, goats, and sheep; we might call them a herdsman.



There are 42 tribes in Kenya. Three are still very active pastorists– the Masai, Pakot, and Turkana. Two of the men I invited through James Sinkra were Jacob Kutingala and Samuel Mugar, both from the Masai near Narok.

The conference was very eye opening to me about the struggles of these tribes. They are very much in need of moving frequently to find rains and green grass. Something that is becoming more and more difficult to do as development comes to Kenya. Farmers from other tribes get upset as herds pass through their fields grazing on their crops.

Two other men with me were Tim Stewart and Fredrick Kimani from Missions of Hope International. They are currently overseeing the farms at Joska and are preparing to help with an ag project in Lodwar where the Turkana live. The final guest was Pius Mutie, the Kenyan Farming God’s Way instructor. These men and I stayed up until 11pm each night talking about farming. What a joy it was to share with them! I introduced them to the idea of mob grazing, a technique we hope to use to bring the newly fenced 24 acres of MOHI into production. We watched YouTube videos and had lots of great discussion.

We ended our trip to Machakos by visiting Katumani-KARI (Kenya Agriculture Research Institute) where we purchased 40 fruit trees including avocado, tangerine, navel, and valencia to try at Joska and Ndvoini. We also purchased lablab beans and 3,500 sweet potato cuttings.



The Farm Moves Forward



On my last trip to Joska back in September, the ag team, which consists of five workers, was busily planting every square inch of the farm at Joska in kale. It was their goal to provide enough kale to feed 12,000 children lunch at 12 different schools. We were pleased to learn of their success selling 500,000 KSH of kale.

We were also pleased to learn Pius Mutie had been at the farm at Joska the previous two weeks training John, John, David, Eunice, and Eunice before our arrival. Much of the kale had been removed, and we got to see the corn emerge just before we departed.

Our team had grand plans of planting nearly 30 acres. Our plans would have allowed only a couple of days work at the farm at Joska with the ag



team and the majority of our time at Ndvoini and the 24 acres. God had something else in mind. While our first night at Joska was dry, we received unexpected early rains totaling nearly five inches over the next three nights. We quickly had to draw up a new game plan. We firmly believe God's desire for us was to work side by side with the MOHI farmers. We cleared and planted two green houses, got the tractor repaired, planted fruit trees, spread out stalks as God's blanket (mulch), started a compost pile, and got started planting sweet potatoes. All this led to multiple teaching opportunities explaining the advantages of conservation agriculture versus the traditional Kenyan farming methods.



We realized John's potential as a leader at the farm at

Joska and are very excited about the future. We also got to meet Jeff, a new social worker at Joska, who worked along side us and showered us with questions at every opportunity. He wanted to learn as much as possible so he could share Christ and agriculture with the community.



We also had multiple opportunities to share in the agriculture and science classes at Joska about careers in DOW, Pioneer, and bee keeping. Our goal is to broaden the minds of the girls that farming is just not bent over a hoe in the hot sun. There are multiple opportunities to use math and science in the field of agriculture.

We look forward to our next opportunity to see the growth at the farm at Joska.





Branching Out



This trip brought new opportunities to build up the lives of the girls we encounter at Joska. We had a teacher, Jodie Lamb, and a nurse, Betty Brandenstein, join our team.

Jodie and her assistants did a wonderful job sharing with 250 high school girls how God loves and cares for them.

They combined Bible lessons with craft projects to build up and encourage the young ladies, some of which have come through very difficult and trying experiences growing up in the slums of Nairobi.

As always, we were the ones truly blessed to be in the presence of these young ladies. They had a spiritual

emphasis weekend while we were there. We are always blown away by their worship. We even split up and participated in being on a panel on Saturday. Two team members went to each of the different grades to be asked questions. We were all touched by stories we heard that day and saw how awesomely God is at work through MOHI transforming the Mathare Valley!

Are you interested in joining us for our next trip? Contact us for details on what we have in the works for our future trips to Kenya and Haiti! We would love to have you join us in our ministry of teaching Farming God's Way.

