

## An Update from the Dunkard Brethren Mission in Kenya

### The Makutano Church

The word 'Makutano' means meeting place. The Mission compound is located in Makutano which is an area within Kapenguria, the headquarters of the West Pokot District. The large town center includes various restaurants, lodging accommodations, hardware stores, carpentry and tailoring businesses, supermarkets, variety shops, and a fruits and vegetables market. The area has a significant population of Pokots, but many from other tribes have settled here seeking employment opportunities. This diversity is also reflected in the Makutano Church which includes people from the Pokot, Luhya, and Turkana tribes. Unlike our other three churches, most people in this congregation do not reside on their own land. Renting is a large monthly financial obligation and hampers a family's opportunity to grow its own food.

This church has two pastors: Gil-

bert Amaswache and Hosea Ambundo. Gilbert owns and operates a woodworking business which makes a variety of items including stools, chairs, tables, and doors. His wife, Alice, cares for their six children, and she farms on the side. Hosea and his wife, Florence, run a tailoring business to support their family. They are also renting and farming land.

The brick church building is on the Mission compound. Because of the large building, this congregation hosts multi-church events such as Youth Conference and General Meeting. In addition to the pastors, some others in the congregation are sound teachers with the ability to share and explain God's Word. Abel Sande is a member of this church. He has worked for the mission for years in building and

grounds maintenance.

The congregation has experienced on-going decline for a long period of time. Some faithful souls are trying to hold fast. The most positive news is that the men of the church have begun to address various problems. They have spent considerable time and effort discussing issues with the pastors and the missionaries. Hopefully, progress can be made. There is much repentance needed throughout the church. Pray that God will work in this church to bring a great change.

Brother Steve Clapper



*Hosea and Florence Ambundo*



*Gilbert and Alice  
Amaswache family*

## Escape from the Pit

Jonah Kaimasach grew up in Kapenguria, Kenya. After completing high school, he found no job and did not have enough money to continue schooling. His father died, and others in the family did not assist him. After some time, he began drinking and using drugs with his peers. He married Rose in 1992, but their relationship was stressed by Jonah's lifestyle and the resulting arguments. He got a job as a watchman for a school. The pay was little; and Pombe (alcohol) consumed most of his money, leaving his family hungry. He tried various times to escape the bondage of alcohol. He even went for months without drinking; but the siren call of alcohol would lure him back. Sooner or later, he would always return.

When walking home from drinking, he would pass by the Makutano Church. Sometimes, he would stop in during services. He would sit in the back. Sometimes, he would walk to the front and leave his offering money on the pulpit. Though very distracting, the people tolerated his behavior. One of the brothers would usually go to sit by him for a time and eventually escort him out of the building. After praying with him, Jonah would head for home. These

sporadic church visits continued for several years.

On the evening of December 31, 2005, Jonah came drunk from town. He prayed, "God help me." He heard a voice saying, "Jonah, why are you still in darkness? If God comes today, where will you be?" As he walked on, he heard singing in the church. He went in and sat down. The time of opportunity came for those who wanted prayer. Jonah raised his hand. He indicated that he wanted salvation. A brother shared with him not to joke with God, but he needed to be sincere with his whole heart. Jonah trembled and broke out in a cold sweat. After prayer, Jonah said he would return the next day. When he got home, he entered peacefully and recognized that he was completely sober. Rose served him food, and Jonah explained what happened. He asked his wife to accompany him to church the next day. She refused and told him to go himself because she did not believe he was sincere. The next day, he went to church alone. They prayed for him and encouraged him. After a couple of weeks, Rose began to go with him because she saw that he truly had changed.



Jonah  
and Rose  
Kaimasach



### Psalm 18:16-17

*He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.*

A month later, he dreamed that he was in a very deep pit. He tried to climb out and got so far, but each time he fell back to the bottom. Then, long grass grew down. He twisted the grass and used it as a rope to climb. When he got about half way up, the grass ripped; and he fell again. But finally, a hand reached down from the top and grabbed him by the arm and pulled him out. Several months later, he understood the dream. The pit was alcohol, and he could never get free from it by his own efforts. Though he tried many times, he could not escape. But when he confessed his sins and asked God for help, God delivered him.

Since his salvation, his life has changed in many ways. There is peace in the home, and his family's needs are met. God has blessed him with his wife, a son, and two daughters. Jonah and Rose are faithful friends of the missionaries. They are giving people who want to help others know the truth. Jonah is determined to follow Jesus all of his life. His story echoes the truth of Psalm 40:1-2 which says, "I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." God is able to deliver. He hears the voice of everyone who cries out to him.

Brother Steve Clapper

## *The Confessions of a Fearful Missionary Wife*

"It is my experience that God takes people to the foreign mission field to teach them lessons they couldn't learn at home." That was what one of my friends, a missionary in Siberia at the time, wrote to me when she found out that our family was moving to Kenya. I have certainly felt that God has had me in His classroom this year; and, to my shame, I have not always been a good student. But I am learning to trust the Lord and to see how He allows all things for His good purpose...even hard life lessons.

One of the biggest lessons I have learned is trusting God when I am afraid. In 1 John 4:18 it says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." I have known the torment of fear. When we first thought of moving to Kenya, I had many fears. I feared saying goodbye to loved ones, how our girls would make the many adjustments, the plane ride, health issues, and the language barrier to name a few. When we arrived in Kenya, I added more fears to my growing list. What if something happens to Steve? What if we have an accident on muddy mountain roads? What if one of us gets really sick? What if the people try to hurt us in some way? I sound like a basket case, huh? But all these were fears that gripped me from time to time.

Soon after we arrived, our daughter, Monica, had a hard time with fear at night. We would put her to

bed, usually crying about how scared she was. Prayer and singing would calm her. As I sat on the edge of her bed singing songs like "I Cast All My Cares", or "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", or "When I am Afraid", I knew the Lord was speaking to me through those lyrics.

So I started "studying" in God's classroom. He showed me how verses from His Word could answer, soothe, and dispel my doubts and fears. There have been many times when I have run to the Word and claimed a promise to curb my anxiety. The Lord continues to bring Scriptures to my mind when I struggle with different fears and reminds me of His great love and concern for me.

One of those times still is very clear in my mind. The way to Chesubet winds up into the mountain via bumpy dirt roads that get very slick after rain. I was afraid to travel there and always felt uneasy about the trip, fearing we would have problems or an accident. One Sunday during the rainy season, we traveled to Chesubet. Steve preached on Psalm 66 that day. One verse really caught my attention. Verse 9 states, "Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved." I pictured in my mind our family in the mighty hands of God. As the rain began to fall, I remember holding onto that verse and committing our return trip to the Lord. During the drive down the mountain that day, Psalm 66:9 kept running through my head. Even

when the Cruiser slid into the ditch, I could almost see the gentle, caring hands of the Lord around the vehicle, holding our souls in life. The torment was gone. In its place was the peaceful assurance that God was in control. I think of a quote I've read, "Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there."

I have a long way to go until I learn all about trusting and not being afraid. There have been many other times that the Lord has given me the comfort of His Word in times of distress, doubt, and fear. I am certain that there will be more times in the future when I again will question, quiver, and quake. But I am also certain that the Teacher will remind me of His Word, patiently tutoring me until I get it right! In the meantime the words of Psalm 27:1 bring special comfort: "The LORD is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Sister Mary Lou Clapper

*God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore will not we fear,  
though the earth be removed,  
and though the mountains be  
carried into the midst of the sea;  
Though the waters thereof roar  
and be troubled, though the  
mountains shake with the  
swelling thereof. Selah.*

Psalms 46:1-3

### Clappers Return to the States

On June 4th, after a long but uneventful trip, our family returned to the States. It was difficult to say goodbye to those we had come to know and love in Kenya. We want to thank the Noecker family for their love and friendship during our time there. We really appreciated working and fellowshiping with them. Thanks also to all who kept in touch and supported us with your prayers. We often felt the prayers of God's people and are grateful for each one.

Now, we are adjusting to life here and enjoying reconnecting with family and friends. We are currently house hunting in the Altoona, Pennsylvania area where Steve has begun a business in real estate. Valerie and Monica will soon be starting school. We are excited about a special gift God has given to us ... we are joyfully anticipating a new baby to arrive some time in February. So there are challenges and changes ahead for our family. Pray for us that the Lord's will would be done in our lives and that He would direct our steps.

The Clapper Family

### Out with the Old and In with the New

When the first missionaries came to Kenya, they purchased a used safari van. That van has served faithfully for many years, even carrying over 40 people at one time to the Annual General Meeting. For as long as I can remember, the van has affectionately been called "Gogo", a respectful Swahili word for "grandma". Now nearly twenty years old, "Gogo" is no longer reliable and requires lots of expensive maintenance.



and larger tires to navigate the potholes. The only thing missing is a good name: "New Van" is not nearly as romantic as "Gogo".

With mountains to climb and rough roads to cross, the mission felt it was time to buy another van. After much searching and prayer, a 2001 4-wheel drive van was purchased earlier this year. It is a blessing to have another reliable vehicle here at the mission, especially on the long trip to Nairobi and when we have visitors. We have added seats, a brush guard, a roof rack for luggage,

The mission extends a sincere thank you to each person who has contributed to the vehicle fund. Your support is a blessing and encouragement to the work here in Kenya. We trust God to bless the use of this vehicle. Please continue to pray with us for traveling mercy and safety.

Brother Ray Noecker

### Visitors to the Mission:



Rachel, Elizabeth, and Diane

Jeremy Walker, Andrew Miller, Rachel Heisey, Angie Heisey, Marla Frick, singing at the Chepkorniswo Bible School



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If you would like to contribute to the Dunkard Brethren Mission in Kenya, please make your check payable to "African Mission Board" and send it to:

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