

The African Reporter

An Update from the
Dunkard Brethren Mission in Kenya

Post-Election Violence in Kenya

At the end of December 2007, Kenya experienced turmoil and violence after the Presidential elections. Accusations of fraud and corruption against multiple parties escalated into violence. Some areas had greater trouble than others. More than a thousand people were killed, and more than a hundred thousand fled from their homes and became refugees. Thieves took advantage of the confusion and added to it. These were some of the darkest days in Kenya. By God's grace, total chaos was avoided.

A power sharing agreement was reached between the political rivals in early 2008. Since that time, peace and order have been restored to Kenya; but some consequences of the clashes remain. There is still underlying tension and distrust among some of the tribes and people. Many refugees still need to be returned to their homes or placed in a permanent living situation. Prices for food and fertilizer have risen significantly. This, in addition to the increasing cost of fuel, has wounded the economy and has made it difficult for many in Kenya to meet their basic needs for food, clothing, and shelter.

These problems remind us of humanity's problem with sin and its many negative effects. The gospel of Jesus Christ offers hope to all who are willing to turn from their sins. When people choose to receive and follow Christ, their lives are changed. They learn how to live in a way that is good for them and society as a whole. We are endeavoring to help change Kenya one person at a time through the gospel of Christ and the word of God.

Brother Steve Clapper

Meet the Noecker Family

The Noecker family returned to Kenya in January 2008. We had previously served at the mission from August 2001 through September 2005. After spending two years in the States, we felt that God was calling us back to the work in Kenya. In preparation for returning to Kenya, Ray took some training in clinical medicine, well drilling, and water filtration. In October of 2007, Ray was called into the ministry by the Hart Dunkard Brethren Church.

Ray and Cheryl celebrated 15 years of marriage in July 2008. God has blessed us with eight children: Cherilyn (14), Kimberly (13), Michelle (11), Veronica (9), Juanitta (7), Courtney (5), Brandyn (2), Kasondra (9 mo.). The older children are busy with home school. They enjoy playing and working with the native children and have become quite good at conversing in Swahili. Cherilyn enjoys cooking, reading, and making cards. Kimberly is happiest outside riding her dad's bike or playing with the neighbors. She also enjoys baking cookies. Michelle likes cooking. She is very creative and good at art. Veronica is a little mom; and when she is not in school, she can be found with either her sister or another baby tied on her back. Juanitta is learning to read and enjoys her daily class with Monica and Mary Lou Clapper. Courtney wishes that she was in school but must be content with the few pages that she does when mom is free. Brandyn wants to be with his dad (who can blame him) but also enjoys blocks, tractors, and tools. Kasondra is a bundle of joy, and she freely shares it with everyone, neighbor and native alike.



*The Noecker
Family*



*The Clapper
Family*

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Ray is currently the Mission Leader and has oversight of the Ortum Church. We go to Ortum about three Sundays each month. The morning service is from 10:00 – 1:00 followed by a break. During the break, the whole church enjoys bread and chai. After the break, the afternoon service usually goes from 2:00 – 3:30. Ray normally preaches for both services. On the off week, we visit the other churches. Ray also teaches a Bible study every Tuesday in Ortum. He can converse in Swahili but would like to do further studies to allow him to teach and counsel without an interpreter.

Cheryl is a home maker and school teacher. This year, five children are in school and one is in preschool. Cheryl enjoys cooking Kenyan style meals, working in her flowerbeds, and visiting with her friends (neighbors, natives, and those who call on the phone). She teaches Bible studies for the Sister's meeting at the Makutano Church.

We have found raising a family in Kenya to be a blessing. We appreciate meeting new people who come to visit the mission, working together as a family, and serving people in different ways. We enjoy the comfortable weather and occasional trips to the local mountains and waterfalls. Vacations to the Indian Ocean have been a highlight in the past. The Kenyan people are friendly, and the country is beautiful. We thank you for your prayers and support that allow us to live in Kenya and minister to our fellow brothers and sisters.

Brother Ray and Sister Cheryl Noecker

Meet the Clapper Family

In the middle of May 2008, the Clapper family moved to Kenya to serve at the Dunkard Brethren Mission. Steve and Mary Lou have been married for eleven years. They have two children: Valerie (10) and Monica (5). Steve had previously worked for 15 years providing computer support and training for Home Health Agencies and Hospitals. This job allowed him to provide well for his family, but God made it clear in the past few years that it was time for a change. The African Mission Board called the Clappers to serve in Kenya. Their commitment is through August 2009. Steve and Mary Lou were previously members of the Lewiston (Maine) Church of the Brethren. They switched membership to the Clearville Dunkard Brethren Church prior to moving to Kenya. Steve has been a minister of the gospel for 13 years.

Steve is currently preaching at each of the four Dunkard Brethren churches in Kenya on a four week rotation. He is also working closely with the Chepkorniswo Church and regularly attends their Saturday morning Bible Study. He spent the first six weeks in Kenya studying Swahili (the most common language). That study has provided him with a small but increasing ability to converse with people in Kenya.

Mary Lou is a certified teacher. Prior to marriage, she taught in a Christian school. She is a homemaker and home schools the girls. She is currently teaching Monica and Juanita Noecker how to read using Christian Light's program. Mary Lou teaches a Bible class weekly to the Noecker and Clapper girls. She also takes a turn leading the women's Bible Study at the Makutano church.

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Valerie and Monica are now following the Kenya school schedule which is three months of school followed by a one month break. The month of August was time off for them and school students in Kenya. Valerie is a good artist. Horses are her favorite animal, and she collects lots of "horse things". Monica enjoys dressing in different outfits and has learned to jump rope since coming to Kenya.

Both like playing pretend, reading books, listening to stories, and coloring. The girls have adjusted well to their new surroundings. They especially enjoy having the Noecker children as playmates. They do miss their family and friends back in the States, but it helps when they receive letters, notes, and packages in the mail.

Brother Steve Clapper

Young Adults Visit Kenya

On July 15, 2008, seven of us (Jedediah Reed, Ian Reed, Lucy Kasza, Nadine Marks, Lucille Marks, Corina Marks, and Lorraine Marks) left for our Kenyan Church Mission. During our wonderful five week visit, we enjoyed many different activities. We were privileged to teach Bible School at each of the four churches. There were 50 to 65 children in attendance at each church. The Kenyan children are very eager to learn the Word of God which was a blessing.

We had at least one all day project at each of the churches. In Ortum, we helped mud a widow's home. In Chepkorniswo, the girls helped repair their church by "painting with mud". The guys repaired the fence surrounding the meetinghouse. On our day in Chesubet, the girls helped at a widow's house. The guys mudded the house, and the girls helped the ladies shell beans. A second project in Ortum was mudding the new church kitchen and completing the steel roof. We had lots of fun working together with the church members and getting to know them.

One of the highlights of our trip was attending Youth Conference. We helped prepare for this event which took place from August 10-13 at the mission. There is a lot of work done prior to this conference to make it happen. About 80 youth attended. This year's theme was "Know God, Love God, and Glorify God." We were very blessed to be part of this occasion. There were services all day with a break for lunch and a longer break for supper and volleyball. We had a wonderful time of fellowship with the youth and enjoyed getting to know them.

We were able to visit quite a few different homes. The Kenyan people loved it when we were able to spend time with them in their homes. We were invited to many homes for a meal. Other times when we were there for only a short visit, they always served us tea while we visited. We will not forget our Kenyan brothers and sisters and the love shown to us while we were there.

The mission staff did a wonderful job hosting all of us, for which we were very thankful. We enjoyed our time of fellowship with them and made memories with them as well.

Our five week visit went by all too quickly. While we were there we felt God's guidance and protection each day as we went about various activities. All of us are thankful for our many experiences during our visit to Kenya.

Sister Lucille Marks



Kenya Mission Financial Report

1/1/2008 to 6/30/2008

Income

Investment Income	\$ 16
Donations - General	\$ 35,877
Donations - Vehicle Fund	\$ 10,000
Total Income	\$ 45,893

Mission Expenses

Food	\$ 4,253
Legal Fees	\$ 3,396
Auto Fuel	\$ 2,796
Lower House Renovations	\$ 2,602
Guesthouse and Meals	\$ 1,359
Auto Maintenance	\$ 1,310
Electric	\$ 1,301
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 924
Telecommunication	\$ 774
Household Expenses	\$ 554
Missionary Allowances	\$ 760
Miscellaneous	\$ 115
Medical	\$ 28
Total Mission Expenses	\$ 20,172

Church / Outreach Expenses

Medical Assistance	\$ 3,888
Relief	\$ 3,575
Church	\$ 1,920
Transport	\$ 1,246
Outreach	\$ 581
Education	\$ 408
Total Church / Outreach Expenses	\$ 11,618

Total Expenses \$ 31,790

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

MARK 16:15

Annual General Meeting

The Dunkard Brethren Church in Kenya is currently planning an Annual General Meeting for December 2008. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Please contact us if you would like more information regarding this meeting.

Meet the Designer

As a junior in high school, I am homeschooled and enjoy life in Indiana with my father Doyle, mother Jane, sister Liz, and brother William. All of us are members of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church. I have always had a love for the Africans, which is partly why I accepted this position. I hope to pursue a career in dietetics, which will combine my love of cooking, education, and people and enable me to serve the Lord.



Sister Lorraine Lorenz

Contact Information:

Dunkard Brethren Mission
P.O. Box 658
Kapenguria, Kenya 30600
East Africa

Phone: 011-254-546-2043

Clapper's email:

clappernews@hotmail.com

Noecker's email:

eph2.10@swiftkenya.com

Contribution Information:

To contribute to the
Dunkard Brethren Mission
in Kenya, make checks
payable to "African
Mission Board" and send
them to:

African Mission Board
c/o Jeremiah Johnson
1773 N 136th Avenue
Hart, MI 49420

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~by email, contact Brother Steve
Clapper at
clappernews@hotmail.com

~a printed version (for
congregations only), contact
Sister Lorraine Lorenz at
raeofhopePsa71.5@comcast.net

"The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all."

PSALM 103:19