

Empower the Poor to Find the Answer

Regardless of how good our intentions are, without the essential foundation of biblical character all efforts to overcome poverty will fail - no matter how much money is sent. When it comes to poverty, a lack of money is not the cause of the problem, and tons of cash is not the solution. There is nothing wrong with helping people through a desperate situation, and we should do all we can when lives are in imminent danger, but we must focus our efforts on what helps people get out of poverty and not keep them continually dependent on outsiders for their survival. The strategies employed to help the poor must encourage and support the individual and community efforts of the poor to change their own situation. No amount of outside aid and outside solutions can replace local initiative. No amount of hard work by outsiders can replace the ongoing hard work of the local people in creating jobs and starting their own businesses. **The local people have to be empowered to take responsibility of their own lives and be given the spiritual tools, business skills and freedom that can enable them to lift themselves out of poverty. Is there a role for outside help? Yes, but it has to be centered around changing lives from the inside out, not simply putting expensive band-aids on the situation that will eventually wear off. The healing and transformation must come from inside. We can help in this process, but we cannot and should not do it for them.**

The Church Has What the Poor Need Most

Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert, the authors of the marvelous book, 'When Helping Hurts', explains that poverty ultimately derives from the Fall of man and the four broken relationships: These are with God, with others, with ourselves and with creation as a whole. These broken relationships have affected all of us, but for the poor they have become a crushing burden that Satan has used to convince the poor to believe a lie and keep them in poverty.

As we establish Church Planting Movements within every people, we will encounter the poor and the lies that have kept them in bondage. As they come to Christ and begin to believe the Truth, they will have the power to defeat these lies and to lay the spiritual foundation from which they can raise themselves out of poverty. In order to overcome poverty and stay out of poverty, all of us, including the poor, must be committed to doing what is right in the eyes of God - living by biblical principles. When we do, we build up what Ken Eldred calls *Spiritual Capital*, which is essential for any economy to flourish. Biblical principles such as honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, etc are essential for an economy to work. The foundation of successful economies is the trust that is built through honest interaction between people. If you destroy trust between people in a society through dishonest transactions and corruption, the economy will decline. The poorest countries on Earth are often riddled with corruption and violence at every level of a society, from the government on down. The biblical character traits that make a prosperous society possible come from lives transformed by Jesus through an effective discipleship process.

Ken Eldred gives the following example: "If one sells something with true weights and measures, then he has completed an honest transaction and has added spiritual capital to his and the nation's account. However, if one fails to fulfill his commitment to replace any defective products he sells, then he has proven untrustworthy and dishonest and has withdrawn spiritual capital from his and the nation's account"

"This has profound implications on the development, success and culture of an economy..... (including our own). There's a relationship between economic prosperity and the pervasiveness of biblical values in the culture. Douglas North won a Nobel Prize in economics for demonstrating which 'institutions' in a society characterize successful economies. He proved that the trust factor, when pervasive in a society, is one of the 'institutions' that lead to a better economy."

Without a moral structure based on biblical principles, short-term self-interest becomes the prime motivation and people will lie, cheat and steal to get what they want instead of doing the hard honest work that builds the trust and spiritual capital that makes successful economy and overcome poverty. But economic growth does not come automatically when people commit their lives to Jesus. People need training in ordinary basics like personal money management, how to run a business and good work habits. This should be part of our discipleship too as we plant churches. Church planting should lead to economic growth among the poor. If it doesn't, then something is wrong.

With a combination of effective discipleship and practical, locally- based economic solutions, the poor can come to believe that they can do all things through Christ, including raising themselves and others out of poverty. They can then create their own wealth and not be dependent on outsiders for their survival.

Seven Forms of Poverty

Not all poverty is created! The Bible recognizes three forms of poverty:

1. ***Physical Poverty***: With food and covering we are to be content (1Tim.6:8), while lack of these creates suffering typical of physical poverty. When the saints in Jerusalem suffered famine, Paul urged the Corinthians to share with them (2Cor.8:13-14)
2. ***Poverty of Spirit*** - The ONE form of poverty God requires and rewards: Humanity, faith (Jam.2:5), and reliance on God (Ex.22:27). This grows so much readily in physical poverty than amidst abundance (1Tim.6:17) that the Bible often identifies those with such spiritual qualities as "the poor" (Lk.4:18, 6:20; Matt.5:3). As we "remember" the poor (Gal.2:9-10), we must embrace God's priority on cultivating their "poverty of spirit," and our own.
3. ***Voluntary Poverty***: Christ became poor for our sakes, so we might show the same grace to others (2Cor.8:9). Our attitude should be like that of Jesus, who emptied Himself to serve (Phil.2:3-7).

Various forms of ***Artificial Poverty*** can distract us from ***Physical Poverty***

4. ***Projected Poverty*** develops when we imagine ourselves unable to do without something (electricity?), then conclude that those without them are poor (Jam.2:15; Prov.30:8-9).
5. ***Provoked Poverty*** occurs when those with limited material resources encounter other with something they don't have (electricity?) and conclude that they are poor for not having it (Deut.8:10-14).
6. ***Perceived Poverty*** is the more localized cousin of Provoked Poverty - covetous discontent despite having enough, because others in my community have more (Ex.20:17; Deut.5:21).
7. ***Pretend Poverty*** is the show put on by those who have concluded their most lucrative occupation is stirring the compassion of others (1Tim.3:14-27; 2Thes.3:10).

CONCLUSION

In my last report to you of November 1st, 2010 I shared with you about the role of grandmothers in the present Kenyan society. In that report I shared with you that in Kenya 40 - 60% of our HIV/AIDS orphans are taken care of by their aging grandmothers who are economically living below the poverty level. In that abject poverty, these grandmothers have become parents for the second time, playing the double role of grandmothers and a mother simultaneously which is not an easy affair.

My appeal to each one of you who have stood with us over the years with both your prayers and donations is: Empower us, because we have the answer to our poverty, do not keep us always dependent on you for our survival.

Most of these dead parents left big and large tracts of land. Give us money to buy them farm equipments, money for small industries, money for self sustainability and we will never be the same again.

KERUDO CURRENT PROGRAMMES

a) EVERY KID A GOAT



In the year 2002, we gave 50 goats to 50 orphans. Last year 2010 the programme has now given 400 goats to 400 orphans. The orphans who got a goat each, now boasts of 10 goats per orphan and by the time the first group joins high school in 2014, they will have enough schools fees for 2 years from the sales of these goats.



b) GREEN HOUSE



Two years ago we started with one green house, now we have two and we grow onions, tomatoes, cabbages and kales. These are partly used for feeding the 400 orphans and part of the money got from the sales manages the



houses. We need 10 green these children. Each green 1,800.



houses to adequately serve all house costs US\$2,000 or Euro

c) FISH PONDS

For self reliance we have started fishponds for fish farming. Presently we have one and we need four more to serve the children, their siblings and guardians. Each fishpond carrying 1000 fillets costs US\$500 or Euro 450.



d) BIOGAS



In order to keep our environment green and because charcoal and firewood are becoming scarce, we are now encouraging families to build biogas plants. We have one but need at least every homestead to have one. One plant costs US\$500 or Euro 450.

e) CHURCH PLANTING

By the grace of God we have planted five new churches. In august 2011, we held a very successful leaders' conference in Ngong - Nairobi. We also launched HOPE FOR AFRICA MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL and our chief guest was Bishop Dr. Hendrick Mahlangu and his wife Evelyn from HOPE MISSION in South Africa.



f) LAMBWE SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

We are grateful to our donors in Stuttgart, Reutlingen, Landau and Talheim for having stood with us for more than ten years with our deaf school at the Lambwe Christian School for the Deaf. They have been able to give us finances that have enabled us to pay tuition and boarding fees, buy food, beddings, exercise books, pens, crayons, sanitary towels for the girls, carpentry tools and tailoring machines just to mentions a few.



This picture shows Yusuf, Margaret (headteacher of the school) and some of the guardians of the sponsored children.



This house is in deplorable situation since these parents barely make ends meet. These are the parents of Brian Dave and Lydia Lenon.



Sometimes the German friends have given finances to buy medicines to treat the children, teachers, the non-teaching staff and the community around the school. The needs are enormous; please pray with us that God will continue to supply the finances. The school now has a total of 80 pupils, 10 teachers, 18 support staff. The sponsored children to date are 30 and we trust God to give us more people to sponsor the remaining children.

g) **MEDICAL MOBILE CLINIC**

In the year 2011, we had planned to hold 25 mobile medical camps all over Kenya rural areas. As of the date of this report we have been able to hold 18 medical camps and we plan to hold another one before the end of this year.



Last December 2011, to be precise on the 22nd to 24th, our medical team held a free medical clinic at Nyalunya and they treated 620 patients. The most prevalent diseases that we treated are:

- a) Malaria
- b) Typhoid
- c) Skin diseases
- d) Sexually Transmitted Diseases
- e) HIV/AIDS testing
- f) Abdominal diseases
- g) Eye and ear problems

We hired five medical nurses, one clinical officer and four volunteers to help us with this enormous task in treating God's people.

The price of medicine has tripled in the last two years, the world economic situation is getting from worse to worst, therefore some of the overseas friends who have been supplying us with finances are going through financial strains and as such we pray for a better 2012.

h) **MISSION AND VISION OF KERUDO**

We therefore promote holistic development of the poor and the needy peoples of Kenya both in rural/remote/mountainous places and the urban slums, thereby producing as our ultimate goal communities that are transformed into the likeness of Jesus both in character and actions as seen in Luke 2:52, AMEN!

For those of you, who do not have our bank account details, please send your donations by Telegraphic Wire Transfer to: -

Name of Account : KERUDO
Account Number : 1156128
Bank's Routing Number : 03 Barclays Bank of Kenya
Swift Code Number : BARCKENX
Bank's Branch Number : 045 Hurlingham Branch
Bank's Postal Address : P.O. Box 34974 NAIROBI - KENYA
Bank's Telephone Number : +254 - 20 - 2710667 or 2710114 or 2722148
KERUDO's Postal Address : P.O. Box 322, 00208 NGONG HILLS - KENYA
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KERUDO staff, the board and the families of KERUDO cherish the opportunity God has given us to be in equal partnership with you just for the glory and honour of our God! Truly I see this as God's own doing since He has both the privilege of working together with Him in His Vineyard!!

As we come to the close of the year 2011 which to me is the year that God saved Kenya from sinking into deep political turmoil and bloodshed, it is indeed my prayer and hope that the good Lord will give us strength, vigour and thankful hearts to work for Him and double our efforts more than we did in the previous years. Thank you for having stood with me, my family, my staff, my ministry over the years with your prayers, together with your heart, your pockets, your purse as you have faithfully given your finances sacrificially during these hard economic times. It is our faithful God alone who rewards his children who can reward you for this. God bless you richly as per 1 Cor.15:58.

Our goat for every orphaned kid programme is picking up a grate deal; please pray for its success and finances. Once again, I say to you personally, THANK YOU! THANK YOU!! HASANTE SANA!!!

We therefore as a family covet your valuable prayers so that our partnership in building the Kingdom of God together with you would be a mutual blessing and a joy for all of us, both here on earth and in heaven above. Pray with me that the Almighty God will give us a break-through in finances so that His Kingdom will be preached unhindered to the Glory of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost - Amen!!

Yours for Calvary,



Bishop Yusuf Gowi Okumu
Executive Director - KERUDO