



# Kenya Connection

## Construction on the New Building Has Begun!!

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The students, parents, and teachers at Mountain Park Academy (MPA) have been hoping for and dreaming about a new classroom building for a long time. This past June, these hopes and dreams began to be realized as construction started on the new structure, which will include 20 classrooms.

The contractor has already completed the first-floor walls and has started work on the second-level flooring. The children have been watching with great anticipation as their future unfolds before their eyes.

This new building is important to the children at MPA for two reasons: First, once this new facility is complete, we can move over 250 of our youngest

children from the existing sawmill building classrooms into a safe, clean, and healthy learning environment. In June our medical team found a much higher incidence of malaria and poor health among the children in the sawmill buildings. The conditions in the sawmill buildings are primitive. The children are crowded together on rough wooden benches with no light to work by other than what comes through the un-paned windows and the huge cracks in the walls.

The second reason is just as important: The availability of the new classrooms will allow MPA, for the first time, to begin offering a secondary school to students beyond 8th grade.



**The old sawmill building classrooms are not favorable to learning**



**The new classroom building is going up fast**

### PROJECTS

#### Completed

- Upper school building with dining hall, 5000-book library, playground equipment
- Electricity for MPA and 200 homes
- Community well
- First children's home

#### Current and Ongoing

- New classroom building
- Two new children's homes

## You Can Help Make MPA's Dream Come True

We are on the threshold of a major transformation of Mountain Park Academy, and you can be a part of it. Thanks to many generous donations, we have raised approximately \$300,000 for the new classroom building. However, we still need an additional \$300,000 to complete the project.

Due to good weather and an excellent contractor, the construction has proceeded at a much faster pace than anticipated. But we are quickly running out of funds. Our goal is to raise all the remaining funds in October and November so that construction can be completed and ready for the beginning of the new school year in January.

If you would like to take part in this exciting building project, please visit our web site and use the new online donation feature or mail your check to the address on page 4. Your gifts are a blessing and your involvement is greatly appreciated. It will make a huge difference to the children.

## MPA Students Cheer the Return of Mt. Pisgah Youth



**Cameron Gray, a member of the Mt. Pisgah team, enjoys hanging out with one of his friends at MPA**

*Twenty-five youth from Mt. Pisgah School traveled to MPA on May 22. Their purpose was three-fold: digging an irrigation ditch to connect the water tower to the chicken houses, providing VBS activities to the younger grades, and participating in end-of-day activities with the older students.*

**O**n our second trip to MPA, I immediately noticed two differences from our previous year's trip—one negative and one positive. The previous year, due to the extensive drought, the roads were perfectly smooth and easy to navigate. This year the rainy season must have been bad because the roads were terrible. When we arrived at MPA, I noticed a second change—and

this one was wonderful! It was the fields! The fields were lush and green—full of wonderful vegetables! The corn was over six feet tall and ripe for harvest. The MPA co-operative gardens had obviously been cultivated and nurtured throughout the year and the “fruits of their labor” were spectacular to behold. I remember thanking God for his continued blessings upon this wonderful ministry.

The memory I will cherish the most was when our vans drove by the school. After traveling halfway around the world, what a fantastic greeting we received! All the children who were out playing came running over to the fence and cheered and waved. Those wonderful children, their cheers and

smiles and excitement, took away all the weariness of over 24 hours of travel. When we unloaded at the guest house, the first questions were, “When can we go see the children?”

A personal joy was finding my own sponsored child in the sea of faces next to the fence and to hear him calling out my name. I'd prayed for him every day for an entire year and here we were back together again! What a joy! God willing, I *can't wait* to take another group back next year.

To all those who might be considering a mission trip to MPA, it is life changing! I highly recommend it to your church, school, or organization.

*Reverend Peyton Mosher*

## Not a Minute to Spare for the Medical/Admin Team



**The team takes a break for a quick photo**

**I**n June a team of 26 members, representing eight different churches from Alpharetta to Athens, provided annual administrative and medical updates and worked on construction projects. The team kept up a demanding schedule in order to get their work completed, even working on the weekend. We give all the glory and praise to God who made it all possible.

Our administrative team took two photos of each child and updated the students' information. The older students completed interest inventories which, along with the photos, have already been sent to sponsors.

The construction team laid the foundation for two chicken houses that will be built to pro-

duce eggs for the children to eat. They repaired broken desks and made shelves for the dormitory rooms. One member met with our contractor to finalize plans for the new primary school and the two new children's homes. He also purchased knives for the cooks in the dining hall.

The medical team examined over 500 students and approximately 100 adults from the community. The children are growing and getting healthier thanks to the feeding program, but their dental and eye care are lacking. Two of the members taught the children how to brush and floss.

Over 100 high school students, five college students, and the entire 8th grade class were given a questionnaire concern-

ing their performance in school, their home needs, and travel time to and from school. The board plans to use this information to better serve the children and their families.

The kindergarten students and the 1st and 2nd graders were introduced to a hand-held educational device, called Teachers-Mate, which teaches math and learning concepts. Part of the cost of the device was donated by the manufacturer and it was financed through employees of the Unboundary Company .

A member at Berkmar UMC donated a year's supply of exam books. Oconee Street UMC in Athens donated instructional toys for the three preschool classes.

## Many More Orphans Need a Home

The orphans at Hutch's House are flourishing spiritually, physically, and academically. We regularly receive letters from the children telling us how grateful they are for their new home and family.

Despite the good things happening at Hutch's House, we still have much work left to do. Kenya has 2.5 million orphans, the largest orphan population in sub-Saharan Africa. These are children who have lost both

parents to AIDS, tribal clashes, and other calamities. Many of the orphans in the area around MPA are living with distant or abusive relatives, or they have been left in IDP (internally displaced persons) camps.

We are now constructing two more children's homes and we expect that they will be completed by the end of 2010. The cost of building and furnishing a home is \$50,000. The cost of providing food, clothing, edu-

cation, and medical care for the orphans is \$1,000 per month per home.

With land to build a total of eight homes serving 160 orphaned children, The Kenya Project is praying for partners to help us build and/or support the homes. If you are called to be a part of what God is doing for these children, please visit our web site and donate online or mail your check to the address on page 4.



One of the two new children's homes now under construction

## We Started Construction Trusting That God Will Provide

*Job 3:15*

*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.*

The story of the exodus begins when the Lord recruits Moses at the burning bush to lead the people out of slavery. He identifies himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

When God says that he will take them out of Egypt and lead them to the land he promised to their forefathers, he is speaking words that Moses can understand. Moses and the Israelites knew the history of their forefathers. Abraham was not a distant, unknown ancestor. The Israelites were fully acquainted with his journey of trust—a journey that inspired their own behavior.

The story of Abraham begins and ends with the question, "Will you trust me?" God asked Abraham to leave his country, family, and culture and move to an unknown land. He took God up on his offer, packed his belongings, and headed to Canaan with his infertile wife, Sarah, to start a new nation. They moved into

the unknown based on God's promise: *Trust me and I will bless you.* Because of Abraham's trust, God said "I will make you into a great nation and will be with you and will make your name great. You will be a blessing."

Like Abraham we each have been asked to leave our comfort zone. But the good thing is that we know the work that is already being done at Mountain Park Academy. All through our journey together, we have been sharing and encouraging one another to *trust by faith.* We have trusted by faith that God would provide for the work that he has called us to do.

We are on a journey, and we have seen God do miracles and provide many times when we thought we had hit the wall. We have come to that point again as a board and as an organization.

Count the miracles that you have already seen: the dining hall, the upper school, the children's home, the 19 orphans in the completed home (each child is a miracle), the house parents, the feeding program, the healing of Mama Robi, the Kelvin

story [see the previous newsletter], and the partial construction of the new classroom building and the two new children's homes.

As the song goes, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings, see what God has done." We should not forget what God has done. How will we allow God's movement in the past to encourage obedience in the present? Are we going to endure this journey of trust and faith and still know that God is good and faithful? Are we going to trust God or will our faith and commitment evaporate as our patience grows thin and our spirit gets tired? *The journey of trust!!* Do you still trust him?

I hope you will be encouraged as you reflect on what God has done, and trust him for what is ahead of us.

We encourage you to be part of what God is doing in Kenya through your giving.

Thanks and God bless.



Gideon Robi,  
Executive Director



Aerial view of the planned new classroom building (foreground) and the existing upper school building

Kenya Project, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing health, education, and spiritual development to the children of Kenya. Current projects are focused on helping in the village of Githioroinii, Kenya.

**Please send contributions to:**  
 Kenya Project, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 2023  
 Lilburn, Georgia 30048  
 Phone: 678-207-7515  
 E-mail: [kenyaproject@bellsouth.net](mailto:kenyaproject@bellsouth.net)

**We're on the Web! Check us out!**  
[www.thekenyaproject.org](http://www.thekenyaproject.org)

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## Kenya Project Shopping List for Contributions

### New Classroom Building (our top priority)

	Each	Quantity	Amount
Student Desk and Chair (need 600)	\$55.00	_____	_____
Teacher Desk and Chair (need 20)	\$90.00	_____	_____
Large Chalkboard (need 20)	\$100.00	_____	_____
Window (need 150)	\$110.00	_____	_____
Gallon of Paint (need hundreds)	\$30.00	_____	_____
Cement Block (need thousands)	\$10.00	_____	_____
Furnished Classroom (need 20)	\$24,000	_____	_____
Administrative Office Furniture	\$6,000.00	_____	_____
Library Shelving	\$10,000	_____	_____
Computer Laboratory	\$30,000	_____	_____
General Building Fund		_____	_____

**Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail contributions to: Kenya Project, Inc., P. O. Box 2023, Lilburn, GA 30048. Thank you very much!**

## Important Announcements

### Change in Tuition Fees

Just a reminder— a sponsorship for one student is currently \$25.00 per month. Please notify Susan Arthur of any hardship which might prohibit your regular payment at: [susan.arthur@yahoo.com](mailto:susan.arthur@yahoo.com).

### Date Set for Next Year's Medical/Administrative Trip

The date for the medical and administrative team to go to MPA has been tentatively set for May 28 through June 9. We are seeking a dentist and an optometrist to be part of our medical team. The children have dental and eye problems which desperately need care. Please notify Ann Kennedy at 770-972-7134 (H) or 678-557-

7502 (C) or email her at [annkennedynp@yahoo.com](mailto:annkennedynp@yahoo.com) if you are interested in participating or know of someone in the medical field who would be interested in going.

### The Best Christmas Gift: a Completed School

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas gifts for your sponsored child. This year, the best gift each of us can give our students is a completed, furnished new school. Please choose an item from the shopping list above or mark your check as a donation to our Christmas Fund and let us choose an item for you.

### You Can Now Donate Online!

Online donation is now available. Go to the Kenya Project web site above.

### Craft Supplies Still Needed

If you have beads, embroidery thread, and yarn that you don't need any more, the Geneva's Wonderful Women Project can use them. Send your supplies to the address above or deliver them to the church office at Mountain Park UMC, 1405 Rockbridge Road, Stone Mountain.



**Ashley Greetham, a member of this year's medical team, grabs a hug from two children waiting for their exams**

**HELP SPREAD THE WORD!!**  
 Please forward this newsletter to your family and friends.