

Dear Friends of Kenya Missions,

Trip number eleven is over.....one of the best! Thirty-one volunteers left the comforts of home to travel to a city recently struck by terrorists. Answering the call to "go", the reward was a week of great blessings for all. Trinity/Klein was joined by members of Memorial/Katy, Trinity/Sealy, St. John/Cypress, Crosspoint/Katy, and Grace/Crockett.

We arrived at our lodging about midnight on Friday, the 4th. Saturday was a day of adjusting to the time change, and culminated in a meaningful worship service in the evening led by "retired" Pastor Dale Leland in which he entitled his homily "What are you doing here?" Maybe the new missionaries were thinking exactly the same question :-). Sunday morning we parted into four teams and with our trustworthy drivers departed for our respective dwellings of the next five days.

Bruce and Mickey Martin led a team of six more persons all from one family! Bruce writes, "Rongai, Kenya - A sensory overload of sights, smells, people and relative poverty - and an area with a powerful outreach of Christ's message of love and forgiveness. This outlying area of Nairobi had no church presence one year ago, but after two previous clinics the congregation is now worshiping in a temporary structure with Sundays being 'standing room only'. During this most recent clinic we met 1450 Rongai clients who were also encouraged and loved with the shared Gospel and medical aid. 22 cataract surgeries and a retinal reattachment are scheduled as well as the correction of a rare congenital cataract on an 18 month old boy. These procedures are possible due to the generous support of our home congregations. Over 150 clinic visitors have indicated a desire to attend services at the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The little church in Rongai will no doubt resound even more loudly and joyously with Swahili hymns and praise as it makes room for new believers. Hallelujah!"

Pastor Dale Leland and his wife Sieg now from Memorial/Katy led a team of six more volunteers to Rombo, a town on the border of Tanzania. A new location picked by the ELCK, the people were grateful for the opportunity of help given to them. Dale shares, "The October 2013 Kenya mission adventure was wonderful. Second only to the expressions of joy at sharing faith in Jesus and seeing sight restored and corrected, is the first time mission volunteer saying, "next time we..." The next time is an expression of new or renewed excitement over seeing the Holy Spirit's handiwork. Next time, is your chance to be part of one of God's greatest adventures. The next time is the first week of June, 2014. Try it. You will see something special."

Team number three was led by **Karen Frerking and Alan Carmichael**. The team was composed of five additional missionaries from three congregations. Karen tells, "The Kilgoris clinic featured open air windows (there was no glass), natural lighting (there was no electricity), and free access (there were no doors). You see, we held the clinic in an unfinished building that will eventually be used as a girls' dormitory for the boarding students at Kilgoris Government Primary School, and it was ideal for our needs. A team of four doctors saw nearly everyone who came through the clinic, and they performed 42 surgeries to remedy cataracts and other eye ailments. We delivered Braille books to the teacher at the school, we shared the Good News with the more than 1,200 visitors to the clinic, and we all grew in respect of the Kenyans and faith in the goodness of God. God blessed us abundantly!"

The fourth team was led by **Ray and Flora Tacquard**. It was a combination of six more members from three different congregations. Ray writes, "Our team was privileged to go to Emali, a major crossroads on the highway to Mombasa, the primary port serving not only Kenya but Tanzania and Uganda as well. With a constant flow of truck traffic 24/7, prostitution and aids flourish. The area badly needs Christ as a part of their daily life. In response to that great need the ELCK and Vision for Kenya plan to plant a new church in that town. We were very encouraged by the Holy Spirit bringing 63 new believers to faith during this clinic. Once again NURU (Lutheran Hour Ministries) provided great assistance with the evangelism at the clinics and by showing the "Jesus" film in the evenings."

The vision clinics were blessed with large attendance, and in each place profuse thanks were given for our presence, offering both physical and spiritual sight. **5592 people heard the gospel message by an evangelist or pastor and were seen by a doctor who specializes in eye care. Reading glasses and distance glasses were given to 3428 excited people. 170 persons either received cataract surgery or were scheduled for it, paid**

by Vision for Kenya. 110 souls came to know Jesus as their Savior, some never hearing about Him before and others learning a new understanding of forgiveness and salvation.

Heartfelt joy occurred as the combination of two very different cultures and so many different persons came together to make the clinics a successful effort. American missionaries, Kenyan ophthalmologists, evangelists, pastors, translators, bus and van drivers, hosting personnel, and NURU, the Kenyan Lutheran Hour personnel, -- everyone with differing talents and personalities combined to work together with peace and harmony showing the love of God and to accomplish His purposes. Perhaps the most affecting episode was the conversion of a witchdoctor - but that is a story deserving of more space than this report can give it - so maybe another email will come your way:-)

Thank you for your consistent participation in prayer and donations. Both are essential to the ministry of Vision for Kenya. For those of you who are able to join us in the future, the next mission trip to Kenya will be May 29 - June 8, 2014. As Pastor Dale wrote, "Try it. You will see something special."

God's blessings to all,

Flora Tacquard