

EFCC Couple Ministers in African Orphanages

:: From Michael and Danielle Friedrich ::

Dear friends and supporters,

It has now been a couple weeks since we returned from Africa, and we are still amazed by everything that God accomplished during our time there. We wanted to take this opportunity to share about our time in Africa, and how God used us, and abundantly provided for us. (We are pictured below, to the far right.)



Our first stop in Kenya was the capital city of Nairobi. We visited with Pastor Bonface who has started a church in the Githural slum, and he lives in the slum with his family. Bonface has a great heart for orphans, and besides his own family of six, he has 10 orphans living in his small, four-room house! His dream is to be able to start an orphanage to serve the children living in the streets of Nairobi, as well as see the church grow and expand in numbers and impact. On a Sunday, we experienced our first Kenyan church service of the trip. Kenyan church services are typically four to five hours long, with two, one hour-long sermons. The last sermon is reserved for the featured speaker, which on this particular Sunday was Michael. Despite having great anxiety about this, the Lord graciously helped him find the words to say, and his message was well received. After this sweet time of fellowship with Bonface and his family, it was time to move on to the Ushindi orphanages.

Our Time at the Kambiri Orphanages

After a nine-hour bus ride, we arrived safely in Kambiri village, where the two orphanages are located. The Ushindi staff warmly welcomed us at the bus station. Once we got to the orphanage, it was time to get to work. Danielle had to complete health check-ups and HIV tests on as many children as possible in the two weeks we had. By the grace of God, Danielle was able accomplish this for 195 of the children (sometimes 50 in the same night!). Overall, the children's health is quite good. The most common ailments were colds, ear infections and scrapes and cuts (normal kids stuff). Thankfully, malaria is on the decline since the new mosquito nets were installed in September. Sadly, we discovered two new cases of HIV during the testing. The good news is, now

that it has been discovered, these children can receive the medical care, counseling and medication they need to live long healthy lives.

The abstinence program that we designed specifically for the Ushindi children went very well. We emphasized how God intends us to use our bodies to glorify Him, and warned of the consequences of going against His plan. The children were very receptive and asked many good questions. For example, “Can I get AIDS from sharing a banana with someone who has AIDS?” and “How old do you have to be to get pregnant?” It is our prayer that the staff will be able to use this curriculum for years to come. We also passed it along to the youth pastor at the local church, who intends to present it to the church’s youth group.

A Fresh Coat of Paint and Other Stories

Michael was able to complete several projects while there. Firstly, he and some of the staff gave the girls dorm and the dining hall at Ushindi B a new coat of paint. They were previously just bare concrete. He also completed some important computer projects, such as installing a web cam and setting the staff up with a Skype account. This makes direct communication between the U.S. office and the orphanage easier and less costly. He also purchased and installed a three-in-one printer, scanner and copier so the staff can print and make copies without having to drive to Kakamega (a two-hour round trip).

During our time there, we were privileged to meet with two former Ushindi orphans who graduated from high school and are now emancipated adults. They served as a wonderful example of what is possible for these children. Gertrude is a seamstress, and runs a clothing shop in the village. Joel’s own experience as an orphan has given him a heart for these children, so he became one of the caregivers at Ushindi.

In Closing: Blessings Given and Received

The Lord blessed us in so many ways during our time at Ushindi. The children are so welcoming and loving. They all send greetings and love to their fellow brothers and sisters in Christ here in America, and want you to know that they pray for you daily. We were greatly encouraged working alongside the Ushindi staff, and seeing the love and care that they give to the children. God is doing a good work in this place, and our prayer is that He continues to bless this ministry and these children. We are excited to see what God will continue to do in and through this ministry. We cannot thank you enough for your prayers and support. Your contributions have deeply impacted the lives of these precious children. Thank you for partnering with us in this ministry, and having a heart for these orphans. We pray that God abundantly blesses you as you seek after Him.

Prayer requests:

- That God would sustain the Ushindi staff. It’s not easy to keep up with 200 kids!
- That the children would make good choices and not pursue unhealthy romantic relationships.
- That God would supply the funds to cover the increasing cost of food.
- That God would supply the funds to repair the well at Ushindi B.
- For continued health, as malaria is still a concern.