

Transafrika Visit March 2009

People ask all of the time why Transafrika spends so much time raising money, organizing donations, shipping boxes and traveling off to slums to distribute the donations? We can sum it up in the three photos below.



These children live in the mud huts to the right. This is their playground. The trench in the top left photo is an open sewer that carries the waste from this slum of a million people. The kids are playing in one of the garbage pits in the slum.



These 5 boys live in the slums of Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya. They just received a book; part of the 1200 lb shipment we sent to Kenya and personally delivered to schools and orphanages.



This little girl also lives in Kibera. She is watching us deliver our shipment. The look on her face says it all.

Transafrika

In December of 2006, I met the Amisi Family in Aurora, Colorado. They had moved to the US over the past 10-15 years and decided that they wanted to give back to their home country. I joined with them a couple of years ago and we have provided books, computers, clothes, vitamins and medical supplies to people throughout Africa. In March 2009, I traveled to Kenya with Patrick Amisi to distribute over 1200 pounds (500kg) of these supplies. Here are some of the places and organizations we have worked with and some of the children that we were working to help.

Senior Women's Center for Change



The Senior Women's Center for Change is a Non-Profit organization headed by Pauline Makakwa, shown above with students from Immaculate Conception School. This organization promotes numerous projects including awareness of domestic violence, rights for Seniors, support for schools, AIDS victims and AIDS orphanages including several locations that we visited. Transafrika provided a computer for the use of the head office of Senior Women's Center for Change.

Center at Kayaba



This is a home for AIDS victims and their children and for AIDS orphans. It is supported by Senior Women's Center for Change. Transafrika provided books and clothes for the children. This picture shows several of the children at Kayaba. The people here are desperately poor. Many of the adults in this slum called Kayaba are dying from AIDS. Many of the children are orphaned. Many of the children also have AIDS.

Kibera



This child received new clothes and medical supplies from Transafrika.

Kibera is a slum in the heart of Nairobi. It has approximately 1 million inhabitants and is considered the largest slum in Africa. We visited a school in Kibera that is supported by the Senior Women's Center for Change. There are approximately 200 children in the school. Many are orphans. Many are malnourished or have medical problems. Space is very limited. The school is broken up into two parts. A daycare/kindergarten and then the upper classes 1-6. The upper classes are so tightly crammed into a one-room space that all of the classes have to talk over each other.



This is how tight the space is in the school. This is one class packed into their part of the schoolhouse. There are 5 other classes of the same size in different parts of this schoolhouse that has no interior walls.

Before we arrived, there were very few books or supplies. Transafrika provided books, school supplies, clothes and medical supplies to these children.



Children at the school in Kibera

In 2008, there was a tremendous amount of violence after a National election. Many thousands were hurt when different sectors of the population fought against each other over the outcome. Kibera, the slum where these children live, was at the heart of the violence. One of the schools that we support here was burned to the ground and the children, who had been attending, have now been taken into this school. In many places, one can still see the burned out remains of buildings that were destroyed in the violence.

Nairobi Youth Football



Steve with Albert and children from the Nairobi Youth Football League

I never travel anywhere without soccer balls. And they came in handy here. Albert, on the right in the light blue shirt, is a former International Football Player and is Patrick's Uncle. Albert introduced us to these young players and we distributed soccer balls to them. Notice that these kids are all wearing sandals or street shoes. And they just came off the field from playing. Proper cleats or athletic shoes are unheard of at this level.

Immaculate Conception School



Immaculate Conception Catholic School on the East side of Nairobi is supported by the Catholic parish in this area. It is also an orphanage taking in dozens of children from the surrounding community. Approximately 1100 children go to this school. Transafrika supplied books for the school. As we arrived at the school we were greeted in a line by the 1100 children who were singing and cheering and waving as we entered. They put on several performances for us.



Above is the principal of the school dancing with some of the students during one of their presentations to us.



Here is Patrick handing out books to the children at Immaculate Conception School. You can see how thrilled even the teachers are! Transafrika provided enough books to nearly double the library of this school.

Harvest Mission



Children at Harvest Mission School

Harvest Mission is a school supported by Pastor Tom's Church. The school is literally built on top of a garbage dump. They scraped away the garbage, put it up behind the walls you see in the background and laid down some dirt for a floor. There are approximately 75 children at this school. Many are ill. Most had at least some respiratory problems. Some have tuberculosis. Some have developmental disabilities. Transafrika provided books and clothes to these children.

School at Machakos



Students at Machakos School



Rural school on 2 campuses for children from the farming community. Many of these children would not have gone to school ever except for this program founded by Zipporah Maina. Approximately 300 children attend these 2 schools. Transafrika provided books, a computer and clothes. For most of these children it is the first time they have ever seen a computer.

Jobina Cyber-Café

As part of our project in March, we opened a Cyber-Café to help improve computer skills on a local basis and to train some of the children in the schools and orphanages that we support. We also hope to build revenues up to the point where the Cyber-Café provides a stream of profit to help support of our projects.



Steve and Patrick setting up the Jobina Cyber-Café in Ngong Town, Kenya.



Patrick Amisi sending off the first ever letter from the Jobina Cyber-Café.



The Jobina Cyber-Café with its first customers!

Our purpose in going to Kenya was to, of course, distribute the books, computers, medical supplies and school supplies that we had brought. But, our purpose was also to visit each of these projects and develop a relationship with these groups and to document what it is truly like on the ground in these places. As you can see, there is much work to be done. What ever you can do to help, we are always happy to hear from you.

Our thanks go to all of the people who assisted us in our trip in Kenya. Those that drove us to and from the locations. Those that directed us into the neighborhoods and projects. And especially those teachers and administrators who work in these schools and agencies on a daily basis. They are true heroes from helping build and nourish the minds of tomorrow!