



## A Note of Encouragement for the 4africa Family

Whew, 2020 has gotten off to an unexpected start! Life as we know it has been flipped upside down for many, but we still see God's mighty hand working through it all. God is not surprised or shaken by this unprecedented pandemic, and we have no doubt he can use it to demonstrate his love and provision on a global scale. Our human minds have a hard time processing everything, but we hold firm knowing God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. We can rest easy knowing he's at the helm.

We love you, 4africa family, and we're praying for you! Have a prayer request? Simply drop a line at [connect@4africa.com](mailto:connect@4africa.com) so we can pray for your specific needs.

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV)

My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises."  
Psalm 57:7 (NLT)

If you are like us, you're ready for something a bit more uplifting than virus updates. As a much-needed break, we're excited to share with you all that God has been doing in the heart of East Africa during the past month. So here it is!

### Will you pray with us?

First, we praise God for his unfailing provisions and guidance in each program. We were able to help many people in our new operational area, and we can't wait to see what comes next! We pray that God's discernment, wisdom, and strength will continue to guide our staff in addition to their continued zeal for God and people. In the upcoming month, we pray for:

- Job opportunities for recent graduates
- The ongoing peace process in South Sudan
- Continued program support
- COVID-19, that our health teams are able to assist communities to stop the spread of the virus





## 4water & 4health Drawing from an Everlasting Source

It's no coincidence that water is mentioned several hundred times in the Bible. Numerous encounters with God center around wells, such as Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4). Living Water is a common illustration for the Holy Spirit – water is a source of life. So, it should come as no surprise that our water and health programs directly tie into our ministry as a way to bring Christ to communities.

Jackson Lemeriga, Assistant Vicar of St. Paul's Church in Uganda, has been an avid participant in our ministry programs over the last year. He attends many ministry trainings, and he has done a phenomenal job of using the resources to reach his congregation and community members. Recently, our drilling team added a well in his area. He was astonished by the spiritual impact as he explained,

"Before the well, normal church attendance was about 400 people, but with a water source near the church, it has increased to 700 every Sunday! I am confident that the provision of water that met their physical needs also drew them to quench their spiritual needs from the God who provided the water."

Not only did they reach many adults in the area, they also found a way to reach the next generation:

"Before the water source, nursery school enrollment was as low as 40 children, but this year, we have enrolled 90 kids with great hope of steadily increasing each year."



As people come to retrieve water, they use it as an opportunity to get together in fellowship. Since the well's construction, numerous community Bible groups have begun to gather weekly, which has a great impact on those who have never heard the gospel.

According to Jackson, the well has also created opportunities for unreached neighbors to hear the gospel. "Instead of drawing water and leaving, unreached neighbors gather on the church veranda each Sunday during the church service. Many actually wait until the service is over before they start pumping for water. As they hear the Word, my hope is that the Holy Spirit touches their hearts and leads them to his saving grace." Amen, Jackson!

## Tailored Health Trainings for Tailored Impact

Bakole Geoffrey is a 25-year old father of three. Like many fathers, his children's health and safety are top priorities for him. But up until recently, he thought that his children's recurring typhoid fever and stomach illnesses were just inevitable chronic problems. After all, most members of his community faced similar discomforts.

He was skeptical when 4africa's team partnered with them to implement a health program. As a responsible father, he agreed to serve as a cluster leader for the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach, a technique that helps communities understand the importance of safe health, hygiene, and sanitation practices. He wanted his children to see what it looks like to be an active community citizen and leader. So, he quickly built a latrine and handwashing station from natural resources to lead by example.

"In the beginning, I thought this was a joke, but after being selected as a cluster leader, I had to quickly act in my own home, and the benefits have been overwhelming for me. You see, I didn't know that common diseases were a result of poor sanitation practices and lack of latrines. I have come to realize we were bringing these diseases upon ourselves! I used to spend a lot of money treating my family. Most of the time, my children couldn't go to school because of illness. Little did I know that a home latrine and regular hand washing would stop the spread of germs."

Our tailored trainings address each unique community's issues and concerns by identifying current practices. Last month, 350 people attended 2 separate trainings to help families like Geoffrey's get back to living full and productive lives! Geoffrey said,

"Today, maintaining home sanitation and personal hygiene has become part of our daily life. I am seriously encouraging all my neighbors to construct latrines and am glad many have started the process. We will keep encouraging one another until we completely stop harmful practices in our community."

Lately, we've personally witnessed how the spread of disease can negatively impact our communities. Will you support healthy communities like Geoffrey's through prayer and financial contributions? We can't thank you enough!



Handwashing station being built

## By the Numbers

68 Trained Hygiene Promoters | 27 Well Site Surveys for New Communities | 109 Attended Maternal & Child Health Session

## Building a Foundation through Education | 4leadership



Just like you, many of our students push for education no matter the circumstances. (Anyone having a go at homeschooling during social distancing?) In East Africa, some young people are going at it alone, some must travel far from family to get here, and some sacrifice financially in order to pursue academics and leadership. That's why we strive to give them the best while they're here through top-tier education, financial support, and mental health resources and mentorship. They deserve the chance to change the world! YOUR partnership helps make our holistic leadership program possible for these young adults. Will you prayerfully consider contributing financially to their education?

### By the Numbers

225 Applicants Interviewed | 50 Students Selected for 2020 | 104 Alumni Returned to University

## Last but never least: Ministry! | All 4God

Our teams are passionate about not only making God known but making him personal. Our hope is for East Africans to deeply experience the love of Christ. We also know that faith is best exemplified through friends and family, so we planned a 3-day disciple training for local church leaders in our newest outreach area. 24 church leaders from Calvary Church came to find resources and lift each other up in prayer and support, ending the conference ready to share the gospel with their congregations and neighbors. Shortly thereafter, an event was held for 60 unreached community members interested in learning more about Jesus! Our teams were able to answer their questions and provide them with materials to encourage them in their faith journeys.

Our Water Access, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH) program is as much a ministry as it is a health program. During our well dedication events and training sessions, 830 community members heard the gospel and personal testimonies about the love of Jesus.

With all of these new friends eager to learn more about Jesus, we worked hard to equip even more Bible study groups. Just in the month of February, faith-filled community members established 17 new Discovery Bible Groups. Each week, they meet to pray, worship, serve, and study God's Word together. Praise the Lord for the spread of Good News!

### By the Numbers

17 New Bible Groups | 60 Unreached Attended Gospel Conference | 830 Heard the Gospel