

September 9, 2008

TO Faith Lutheran Church Council
Faith/Kifula Relationship Committee
Membership, Faith Lutheran Church

From Pastor Dave Nerdig
Mike Gaul
Linda Nerdig
Jonathan Nerdig

RE Report of July, 2008 Tanzania Mission Trip

Background

In July, 2008, Pastor Dave Nerdig, Linda Nerdig, Jonathan Nerdig and Mike Gaul had the opportunity to visit Kifula Lutheran Parish in Ugweno Tanzania. This document provides the Faith Church Council, Kifula Relationship Committee and Faith members with a formal report of mission activities and results.

Mission Objectives

In consultation with Pastor Dave, Brian Turner and Jerry Waage (Kifula Relationship Committee members), the following mission objectives were agreed upon:

1. Deepen the relationship between Kifula and Faith.
2. Tour projects and meet with staff funded by Faith
3. Deliver over 100 pounds of school supplies
4. Deliver over 100 prayer bears for young children
5. Deliver \$300 raised by Faith's Sunday School children to Kifula's Sunday School children for educational materials
6. Deliver a small water well
7. Meet with Kifula Church elders to understand their needs and ask them to set priorities
8. Explore better communication tools, specifically internet service
9. Discuss ways to coordinate and project requests and document results
10. Review and document existing Kifula office equipment, explore needs
11. Obtain Kifula Parish bank account information. If no bank accounts, set up bank account
12. Deliver quilts

Mission Results

Over the next several pages, we will document results of the mission trip. Overall, we met most of the mission objectives. The one area of disappointment was in the area of internet communication. There are solutions to bring internet to Kifula, but all current options are relatively expensive.

Kifula Lutheran Parish Staff (insert pictures)

Pastor Zaburi Kisimbo	Evangelist Eliewaha Reraro	Evangelist Labane Mnzava
Evangelist Janeth Mockray	Treasurer Elice Mlaki	Computer Anna Mgonja
Kifula Relationship Silas Msuya	Kifula Relationship-Charles	

Deepen the relationship between Kifula and Faith

We met with many of the people at Kifula. We visited most of the Kifula sub-parishes. While these visits take a great deal of time, this is an important outreach opportunity for our Kifula partners. At each of the sub-parishes, the Faith travelers spoke to attendees thanking them for the invitation to visit and discuss the importance of our shared mission of spreading the Gospel.

Pastor Dave was able to spend time with Pastor Kisimbo and develop a relationship and understanding. Mike and Pastor Dave met with the Kifula church elders to discuss relationship priorities and objectives.

Tour projects and meet with staff funded by Faith

Faith is providing funds for many Kifula priorities. Objectives that the team observed/toured:

Item	Report
Office Building	The office building is about 2/3 finished. Structure shell is complete. 1/3 of the building is finished. The other 2/3 is waiting funding to finish floors, windows, doors and plastering of walls. Kifula is conducting a fund raiser in late August with the objective of raising enough money to finish the office. Charles is overseeing the building of the office. Charles prepared for Mike a detailed list of the cost and materials needed to finish the office building. Kifula is holding a local fund raiser in August to raise more funds for the office building.
School Desks	We saw the school desks which were obtained with Faith provided funds.
Parish Motorcycle	Kifula used some of the funds provided by Faith to purchase a motorcycle that pastor and the Evangelists can use to travel to sub parishes. It is a used Chinese model and is in good condition.
Evangelist	Faith has committed \$700 annually to fund an Evangelist for Christian education. The first year's salary was provided to Pastor Miraro when he visited Faith in July, 2006. The Evangelist has been hired (Laban Mnzava) Funds for the second year will need to be wired to Kifula.
Sub-Parish Remodel	Faith provided funds for remodel of one of the sub parish buildings. A cement floor was added and walls were repaired. Funds are still needed to repair doors and add glass to windows.
Waste Water Trenching	Laura Brauer and Melissa Dale helped Kifula residents begin digging a waste water trench for the new office building. That work is complete.

Deliver over 100 pounds of school supplies

Faith Sunday school children collected school supplies to deliver to Kifula children. There were three suit cases of materials provided. The team was able to deliver two of those suit cases. Materials were presented to the congregation during the worship service and then shared with the children after Sunday school later that day.

Deliver over 100 prayer bears for young children

Faith Sunday school children donated small teddy bears to the very young children of Kifula. Each bear had a pocket where a Bible verse was placed. The intention of the bears is to continue developing the relationship between the children of Faith and Kifula.

Deliver small water well

A last minute add to the trip was a small water well that Bob Larson was able to purchase from Menards. The well was comprised of five steel pipes with a hardened steel tip and a hand pump to attach to the piping. Bob reported that this type of well is used in other areas of Tanzania that has shallow water tables. The well was presented to the Church Elders. We asked that the well be available for use by the entire community, and not just be used for the church. It should be used as an Outreach opportunity.

In discussions with Silas and Charles, they believed that the well would work. They plan to consult with a local water engineer to find the best location for placement of the well.

Meet with Kifula Church elders to understand their needs and ask them to set priorities

We met with Kifula Church Elders for 2 ½ hours for the purpose of asking them what their congregational priorities are. Faith can then take those priorities and identify mutual opportunities.

Top objectives, in priority order:

Priority of Elders	Priority Description
1. Complete Office Building	The office building provides Kifula staff and members the necessary facilities from which to launch their ministries to the community. Much of the work is completed, and they are within sight of finishing the project. With an August fund raiser at Kifula and assistance from Faith, the project can be completed in the very near future.
2. Better Communication with Faith & Internet	Communication is difficult. Improving communication is a key to continue to broaden and deepen the relationship between Faith and Kifula. Finding a solution to place internet in the Kifula office would enable easier communication as well as better coordination of mutually agreed upon projects.
3. Christian Education & Evangelists	Evangelists include the Kifula staff who go out to preach the Gospel in the sub-parishes and the community. They are a key component in spreading the Good News among Kifula members as well as non-members.

4. Visitors to Faith	Personal visits are the best way to deepen relationships and touch a large number of people. Personal visits promote understanding, develop trust, and inspire commitment among the visitors and those being visited.
5. Orphans & Widows	There are many orphans and widows in Tanzania as a result of work related accidents or AIDS. Orphan support is primarily through educational support. Orphans are usually unable to further their education which typically results in a life of poverty. Widows need ways to support themselves and their families. Widow support may come through the Heifer International Project.
6. HIP (Heifer International)	Kifula wants to develop more projects with Heifer International. Heifer International works with communities around the world to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. Heifer has helped 9.2 million families in 125 countries move toward greater self-reliance through livestock, training and "passing on the gift." By providing animals and training, Heifer enables families to overcome poverty and make lasting improvements in their quality of life. Heifer focuses on sustainable approaches to development; small-scale farming; animal husbandry; and planning, monitoring and evaluation techniques. www.heifer.org
7. Kindergarten building	Kindergarten is not available. A kindergarten building would enable Kifula members to give their young children a jump start in their schooling.
8. Water	Water, while abundant in the Kifula area, is transported by bucket and often comes from contaminated sources. The Tanzanians understand how to ensure water safety, which requires much time and energy. Developing water wells and storage solutions would promote greater health and enable the time spent purifying water to be re-allocated to other opportunities. Young girls spend hours every day carrying water from the stream to the home. What if that time could be spent on education?
9. Satellite Churches (RAA)	The Christian population is growing. Satellite churches have helped spark that growth and are necessary because transportation to a central church location is difficult for many and impossible for most.
10. Computer	Computer technologies exist in Tanzania, but only a very few have access to computers and even fewer understand how to use them. Maintaining and upgrading computer equipment is important, but finding ways to educate Kifula staff and others on how to operate computers and use software is even more important.

Explore better communication tools, specifically internet service

Jerry Waage and Brian Turner looked into internet solutions when they traveled to Kifula in January, 2007. Mike wanted to explore new technology options and check current prices on satellite internet solutions. **Findings:**

- **Dial Up Internet** Kifula has a land line phone that comes into the old office space. However, the land line terminates at a wireless loop device several hundred yards from the office building. The wireless loop transmits the land line phone data to a Tanzania Telephone Company (TTCL) tower somewhere in the mountain area—that data is then eventually connected to a true land line service.
- **Satellite Internet** Satellite internet is readily available in Tanzania. Cost is a discouraging factor. Satellite internet provides broadband access of 100MB or higher with the intention of splitting the broadband among a number of users who each pay a monthly fee which covers equipment and access fees. Equipment cost is a minimum of \$2000 and monthly access is about \$150. There is little competition and the Tanzanian government appears to be controlling the cost and access charges.
- **VSAT (Ku Band) Internet** VSAT provides a different satellite solution which provides about 256k connectivity. It is an emerging technology solution in Tanzania and is starting to be used in Dar es Salam. There is no equipment cost and the monthly access fee is about \$50. The equipment is not yet available in Moshi, the nearest city to Kifula, but as it becomes available, this may be a viable cost effective solution. Additional resource, albeit four years old:
<http://link.wits.ac.za/papers/vsatngaltz.pdf>

Review and document existing Kifula office equipment, explore needs

The existing computer equipment is several years old. The copier machine is brand new. All office equipment is plugged into inexpensive surge protectors.

Computer 1
Compaq Deskpro EN
Serial # 6519FHGZP12W
MS Windows XP & MS Office

Computer 2
IBM 300 GL
Serial # 55469M2
MS Windows 98

Printer
HP D1360
Printer Cartridge #21

Copy Machine
Nashuatec(NRG) MP 1500
Serial # L6776710001

Each computer has a CD-ROM. Monitors are 13" CRT.

Office Needs

- Hard drive data back up system.
- Printer toner, copy machine toner
- Stationary, pens & pencils.
- Anna, the parish computer specialist has limited knowledge of how to use MS Office. She would benefit greatly from computer training.

Discuss ways to coordinate and project requests and document results

The Faith team spoke to Pastor Kisimbo, the Kifula Relationship Committee as well as Church Elders about the importance of documenting project requests and sharing the results of the projects with Faith. It's important to obtain receipts for materials. The Faith

team gave Kifula a digital camera intended to take pictures that can be emailed and shared with the Faith congregation.

Obtain Kifula Parish bank account information. If no bank accounts, set up bank account

Kifula has five bank accounts, one each for:

1. General operating budget
2. Building fund
3. Choir fund
4. Emergency fund
5. Other projects fund

Each time Faith visitors travel to Kifula they take funds to help pay for their stay. Future visitors could wire the money in advance, which would help Kifula prepare for the visit and purchase food and supplies in advance. Should Faith decide to assist Kifula financially in future projects, those funds should be wired, rather than waiting for the next Faith team to visit.

Deliver quilts

The Faith team delivered about 15 quilts for new mothers and babies. The quilts were made by members of St John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines for their companion congregation.

Submitted by Mike Gaul