

2008: A Year of Transformation



**Kingdom Children**

ANNUAL REPORT — 2008



*Equipping African children for a lifetime of Kingdom service.*



## A Message

### FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends,

I've been there, and I've seen it! Last fall, I traveled to Kenya to take part in an evaluation of the Kingdom Children program, and witnessed God's mighty hand working among the children of Mwatate. It was my first time visiting the site, and it's an experience I won't soon forget!



As I quietly observed one of the classes in session, I was struck by the children's eagerness to learn. This classroom was nothing like our classrooms here in Canada. There were no bulletin boards or colourful decorations. In fact, the room was rather dull, and filled with rows of uncomfortable benches. The teacher's style was simple – more like a casual conversation with the group. And yet, as I watched, the students were leaning forward, ready and willing to hear and put into action the teaching they were receiving.

The impact of our program extended far beyond the classroom. As I visited many of our participants at their homes, I saw evidence of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. The children proudly showed me the chickens, goats, and mango trees they had received through the Kingdom Children program. As the children learned to care for their gifts, they were in turn providing for the needs of their families and communities. In a world that has shown only pain and loss, new hope is taking root!

Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to equip African children for a lifetime of Kingdom service. Please enjoy reading this report and join us to celebrate what God is doing in Mwatate!

In Christ,

Henry Hengeveld

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*"From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise." Psalm 8:2a*

## About

# KINGDOM CHILDREN

Kingdom Children is a registered Canadian Christian charity that ministers to children in some of the poorest rural villages in Kenya. Working closely with local churches and schools, we provide a Christ-centred program that equips the children with the knowledge and skills they need for a lifetime of service to God and community.



*"The Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."* Matthew 19:14

## Good News Clubs

Much of our ministry takes place on Saturdays, when children in four villages gather at their local churches for the the 'Good News Clubs'. The day is packed with learning, fun and fellowship. Community volunteers cook lunch for all the children; for many, it's the most nutritious meal they'll receive all week. Here are the main activities in the program:

### Bible Study, Praise, and Worship

Our committed Christian teachers share the love of Christ through Bible stories, praise, worship and prayer. Many of the children feel so empowered by the Spirit that they are sharing their faith with their parents and guardians!



### Practical Skills Training

The children are taught the skills they need to live productive lives: agriculture, stewardship, healthy living, and more. As part of the program, Kingdom Children gives each child chickens, goats and mango trees, and teaches them how to care properly for each.



### Relationship Building

Kingdom Children partners with each child for 11 years – from age 5 until graduation at age 16. Our teachers guide the children during the Good News Club, and then visit them in their homes to share Christ's love and offer practical support.



Transforming

THE NEXT GENERATION

## TRANSFORMING *Minds*

When children are in a relationship with Him, the fruit of the spirit is evident! Makau has always loved a good challenge, but for most of his young life, he has been a challenge himself – a source of tension at home and at school. His teachers and guardians have told us that since being enfolded by Kingdom Children, Makau has changed dramatically – for the better. He loves hearing Bible stories and has learned how to pray to God his Father.

## TRANSFORMING *Hearts*

This past year has been extremely difficult for Solomon, as he lost his mother. Attending the Good News Club each week has given Solomon a new focus. For Solomon, the realization of Christ's love for him has come at exactly the right time. Even amidst his suffering, Solomon takes notice of others in need, especially one of his young friends who lost both parents. Moved by compassion, Solomon and his father have taken this little one under their wing by helping him complete daily chores.





## TRANSFORMING *Communities*

Last year, Harry and Joseph lost their mother. This year they learned that their father, Festus, is HIV positive, and unlikely to live much longer. Through this turmoil, the boys have been going to the Good News Club, where they've learned how to take care of goats, chickens, and mango trees. More importantly, they've been taking Festus to church each Sunday and learning about God. These foundational skills and love for the Lord will be critical when Festus finally loses his battle with HIV, leaving the boys to fend for themselves.



## TRANSFORMING *Lives*

Daniel has lost both his parents and is now in the care of his grandmother, Mkau. Life has shown Daniel nothing but grief and hardship, and his behaviour and attitude had begun to reflect his years of hardship. The Good News Club opened Daniel's eyes to a new truth: he is a child of God, and there is hope in life! Like so many of the children in the club, Daniel is eager to learn. Daniel is also becoming a young entrepreneur; his chickens have multiplied, and he's sold some of them to pay for his school costs.

*"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."* Ephesians 4:22-24



Transforming

SERVICE INTO FUNDS



## Kits 4 Kids — Kenya

### Farewell to the Shoeboxes

Kits 4 Kids looked a lot different this year. In years past, we've encouraged families to send shoeboxes filled with small gifts to orphans in Romania. However, when we shifted our focus to Kenya, we quickly learned that the children were in need of much more than Christmas gifts. Few of the children have parents, and most are severely malnourished. To make a real difference, we realized that we needed to make a deeper investment in the community.

### Acts of Service

Instead of asking them to fill the boxes, we challenged our children here in Canada to perform ten acts of service. For each task, they received a toonie, which they collected in a coin holder. In a very tangible way, our children were able to reach out across the ocean to show love and compassion to His children in Kenya.

Thank you to everyone who participated!

- Ninety-two congregations
- Two elementary schools
- Hundreds of families

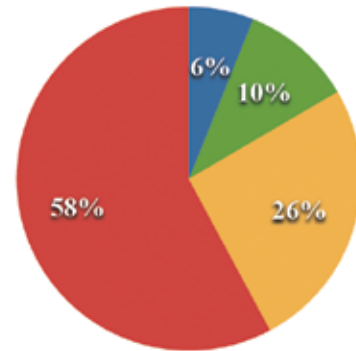
Collectively, our children, families and congregations raised more than \$50,000 for Kits 4 Kids in 2008! With their willingness to serve, we are able to offer lasting gifts to children who so desperately need help.

*"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it."* Proverbs 22:6



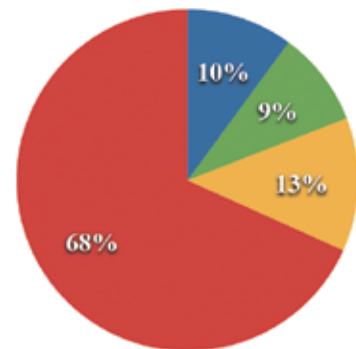
*"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11

2008 Revenue: \$81,009



- Interest income (\$4,923)
- Corporate donations (\$8,500)
- Congregational donations (\$20,731)
- Individual donations (\$46,855)

2008 Expenses: \$112,111



- Administrative costs (\$11,285)
- Romania wrap-up (\$10,110)
- Salaries & wages (\$14,170)
- Mwatate program (\$76,546)

**From the Auditor**

It is my opinion that the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2008, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended.

G. John TeBrake  
(Certified General Accountant, Ontario)



## Looking Ahead

2009

### Expansion plans

In Mwatate, children are starting to embrace life in the knowledge of God's love for them, with new skills they need to make change! The Holy Spirit has been at work in this community, and news is spreading. We've received a number of requests to bring Kingdom Children programs to neighbouring communities. We are encouraged by this response, and hope to expand in two ways: first by increasing the number of children in the established Mwatate program; and second, by starting new clubs in other villages.

### Next Steps

While we are eager to bring the good news to more communities, we recognize that any expansion must unfold in an orderly way. We have learned much from the success of our pilot program in Mwatate, but in order for it to be successful elsewhere, there is some important work to be done. We have begun a review of the curriculum and realize that this is an area that needs much development. Equally important is the need for structured training and support for the teachers who interact with the children. These tasks are the starting point for our work in 2009. To lead the way, we've hired Jocelyn Muraya, who will serve as our National Coordinator in Kenya. Joceyln comes to us with vast experience and a deep love for the Lord and His children. We're confident that she'll be able to bring together all the people and resources required to make the program thrive in 2009 and beyond.

**We are excited to watch God continue His work in 2009!  
This is His program and these are His children.**

*"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Ephesians 3:20-21*



Kingdom Children

### Supporters

Christian Reformed Church  
Canadian Reformed Church  
Corporate and individual donors

### Ministry Partners

Christian Reformed World Relief Committee  
Anglican Church of Kenya  
Pwani Christian Community Services

### Employees

Jocelyn Muraya, National Coordinator in Kenya  
Sara Byma, Administrator

### Board Members

Paul Broekema, Mary DeVries, Elly Dalmaijer,  
Henry Hengeveld, Toni Kampen, Jacob Kramer,  
Corrie Mulder, Geoff Weinstein, Lise Westerhoek

### How To Reach Us

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