

# A taste of the Kingdom

Chelashaw news, summer A.D. 2023

Dear Friends,

As Jesus proclaimed, “The kingdom of heaven is near”, He gave a taste of what His kingdom will be like. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry and ministered to the needy. Here in Nairobi, we have many in our church and community who have been going through times of sickness, hunger, and trouble. Some are facing the consequences of their own choices. Others are victims of ill treatment at the hands of employers, or family members.



Often, it is a combination of things and we have had tearful conversations with some who are repentant and yet feel lost in this world of sin and

*Sunday school in our garden*

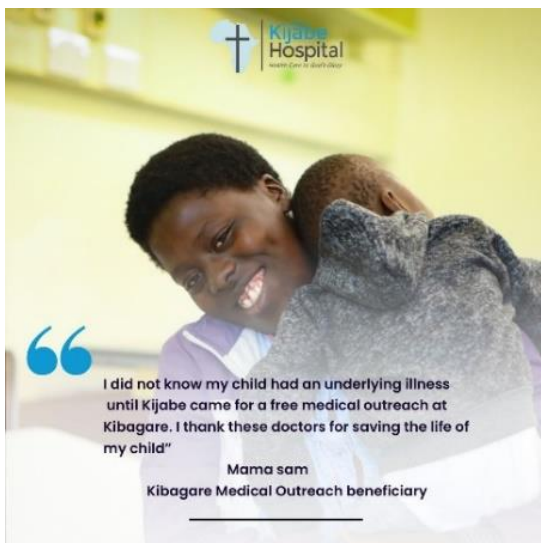
pain. As we share the good news of

Christ and His kingdom, we value your prayers that God’s Spirit would be at work in and through us, and in the hearts of those who come to church and the Sunday school.

There are a few people we would particularly like you to pray for:

- J, a teenager who recently lost his father, has been struggling at school and his mother is also struggling in parenting him. He was baptised at Easter and Kip’ has been meeting with him regularly to talk with him.
- K, a young adult who has been coming to church but is not yet sure of his faith and struggles with addictions. He has joined a Christian rehabilitation centre where he will stay for a year. His mother, who was recently baptised, is supporting him through this, and is naturally upset about his struggles. May they both look to Christ.
- T, who had a very painful childhood, is soon to give birth to her 4<sup>th</sup> child. She is a single mother and already struggling to survive. Her eldest child is living with relatives. A lady from our church encouraged her not to have an abortion and is now helping to care for her. Pray that T and her family

would know Christ and his love, both through the teaching of the Bible and through our church fellowship as we seek to help in practical ways.



At the start of the summer, Rachel, Susanna, and Bethany spent 3 weeks in England, visiting Rachel’s parents. Whilst there, they were able to share with one or two others about the needs in our church, and we’ve been put in touch with “Christian Lawyers Fellowship”, who have a branch here in Nairobi. They have already begun helping two of our members who have been ill-treated by their employer. They have also offered to come and talk with our church fellowship to give legal education and advice.

Partnership with others has been a great encouragement to us and at the end of May, we were thrilled that our church could host a medical outreach in our local slum (Kibagare)

with Kijabe Hospital, which is Christian mission hospital. This was a long time in the planning but was delayed because of government bureaucracy. The hospital brought 70 members of staff, mostly junior doctors, and were able to screen 436 people, including 171 children. Some were sent straight to hospital, including some critically ill children. Others were referred to various clinics. A hospital chaplain came to meet with people and he gave Bibles to those who were interested. He reported that 16 people made decisions for Christ. Afterwards, the doctors all came to our garden for lunch, which was prepared by a team of ladies from church. We are planning another medical outreach to happen in December. May such endeavours point people to the great Saviour as we model His love in word and deed.



*Beginning the day with prayer with the Kijabe hospital team*

Isabella, our ladies' worker, and Elisha, our apprentice, have been a great help in discipling the many young believers in our church. They have been working through Titus in the weekly youth Bible studies, challenging



*The youth meeting in a church member's place in the slum*

our young adults to live godly lives for the glory of God. Elisha has been insightful in spotting some temptations that are common amongst this group, and he recently suggested a Bible-based discussion on gambling, which was very helpful. He also organised a sports outreach afternoon in the slum together with the youth from another church. Many of our young adults help with Sunday school and we pray that they are growing in love and knowledge of Christ. Elisha comes to the end of his *iServe* apprenticeship this summer and is still working out what his next steps are. Isabella will be continuing with us, and we are delighted that Ephraim will be returning to us. Ephraim has been

training with St Andrews the Great, Cambridge, and Cornhill, London for 2 years and will be coming back to lead our youth ministry.

In late September to mid October, Kip' will be travelling to the US and UK. Pray that this would be a fruitful trip as he seeks to share about the ministry needs and opportunities here in Nairobi. Pray that our family would be kept well in his absence. Pray also for our ongoing health particularly as, this year, the children have had more than usual flare-ups of asthma including Susanna being admitted for a few days at a nearby hospital. We plan to continue home-schooling Susanna and Bethany for one more year, and are praying that the Lord would provide the finances for them to join Elijah and Ezra's Christian school in 2024. This will give Rachel more time to invest in the ladies' and children's ministries. She recently began a new weekly Bible study amongst middle class ladies, and has been meeting one-to-one with a few young ladies who have been needing personal discipleship and encouragement from the word.

We thank you for your on-going support and prayers. May God bless you richly in Christ.

Kip', Rachel, Elijah, Ezra, Susanna and Bethany

Serving with UFM Worldwide (<https://www.ufm.org.uk/member/kip-and-rachel-chelashaw/>), in establishing Christ Church Loresho, Nairobi, Kenya (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082063909351>)