

Christ at work: Chelashaw News March 2024

Dear Friends,

We serve a wonderful God who is at work here in Nairobi bringing life and transformation as people hear the Scriptures proclaimed and turn to Christ in repentance and faith. However, there is still much work to be done. Thank you for those of you who labour with us in prayer and who give sacrificially to support our ministry here. Below are some snapshots from the past 3 months and concluding with a very important update at the end.

Christmas Outreach



A snapshot of our Christmas evangelistic outreach event which was attended by around 400 people

At Christmas, our Sunday school children prepared songs and a nativity and invited their parents to come for a service. We were expecting 300. Around 400 people came! The guards on our estate were somewhat surprised as group after group came flocking through the gate between our estate and the slum. Even we became a little concerned about how the distribution of food at the end would go, particularly as the poor have been hard hit in recent months

by a downturn in the national economy. Our Sunday school leaders wisely suggested that we feed the children first, then the adults, then that we ask the adults to go home while we give out the food bags that we had prepared for our regular Sunday school children. All went well and we thank God for the opportunity to share the good news of Christ's birth and share in practical love to those in need.

A New Year and New Life

On New Years' Eve, we rejoiced in the baptism of 3 young girls. One of them came for the first time last Christmas. She asked for baptism mid last year but didn't seem to understand the gospel. We gave her a children's Bible and after doing a second baptism class with Kip', she was able to clearly explain why she wanted to be baptised and even what she had been reading in the Bible. Another girl who was baptised is the daughter of lady who has struggled with drugs. Do pray for these young believers to cling to Christ as they grow up.

I (Kip') am running another baptism class now for 3 people – 2 young folk (a toddler and a girl who has developmental disabilities) and a father of 2. Do pray for them all to grow in knowledge of the Scriptures and pray that the family man would have the joy of seeing his wife and children at rest in Jesus.

Last August, we baptised a boy named Meshack. He is 14 and has been battling a brain tumour. He had the all-clear last year, but symptoms have returned and accessing good health care is not easy. Please pray that Meshack and his family continue to trust in God's everlasting love and care and for God in his grace to heal Meshack.



Meshack at the start of one of our services

With over 130 children coming each week to Sunday school, we continue to need more leaders and are grateful for a few new leaders including two who are just 18 years old. Please pray for Ephraim, our youth minister, and Rachel as we seek to train them and pray that the Lord would continue raising up leaders who love Jesus and have a heart for the children.



Reaching our Middle-Class Neighbours

The needs of the poor are sometimes obvious, but our middle-class neighbours also need Christ. We have a monthly youth group for middle-class kids who are 11 and older and have had lively discussions on topics such as “Can you trust the Bible?” and “Why does it matter that God made us?”. Some of the kids come from nominally Christian homes, and some have got into trouble at school for serious sins. Pray that their eyes would be opened, and their lives transformed by the truth of God’s love in Christ. Amidst many competing demands, pray that they and their families would prioritise church and stay close to Jesus.



*One of the kiplings recently turned 11.
Where does the time go?*



The possible venue with the slum in the background

Venue

With our home and garden packed full on a Sunday, and a host of mid-week activities also centred around our home, we are acutely aware of our need for a dedicated and larger church venue. We have an exciting possibility. A 5-bedroom house with a large back garden similar to ours on a road parallel to ours is for sale. The house is on a public road, 5 minutes from the slum. It is a fantastic location for the community outreach which we are already doing and which we plan to develop more, reaching both slum and middle-class communities. It is not without challenges – being on a mainly residential estate, neighbours could oppose it being used as a church. And the owner may not sell it to us when he finds that we still need to raise the money to buy it. It costs around £400 000. We’ve opened a “Christ Church Loresho building fund” with UFM Worldwide. If you feel this is something you can give towards, please go to [Christ Church Loresho venue fund](#). Please pray for our church venue committee as they consider this exciting possibility and as we work on fundraising.

from the slum. It is a fantastic location for the

May God bless you in this Lent season as we look forward to soon celebrating Good Friday and Christ’s glorious resurrection.

With love from

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

If you would like to know about the work here in Nairobi, please get in touch or go to the following link: [Kip & Rachel's UFM page](#). You can also visit our church’s

Facebook page: [Christ Church Loresho FB](#)

For more regular updates by WhatsApp, contact Kip’ on Tel +254 722 772 700

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