



LEAMIS Teams Return from Kenya



2005 LEAMIS Team to Kenya

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Kenya — a land of contrasts. The LEAMIS teams working in Kenya this year experienced the stark contrasts of this African nation in a more pronounced way than during the previous mission trip to the country. Team members wrestled with what they saw and experienced: Nairobi's Kibera Slums, the largest ghetto in all of East and South Africa and home to more than one million people; and the province of Kisii, the most agriculturally rich province of the country, that boasts of literally thousands of acres of tea plantations, but where land is scarce and expensive and therefore unobtainable to the majority of the dense population living in the area.

In both parts of the country the poverty is staggering. The havoc wreaked upon the people by the AIDS epidemic is devastating—especially for the children. The situation is

(cont'd. on page 2)

CATCHING THE VISION!

Preventing typhoid-related deaths in the Kibera Slums

A child dies every six seconds throughout the world due to diseases associated with unsafe drinking water. Upon hearing that staggering fact, Bob Willems was challenged to do something that would make a significant difference in people's lives.

Bob, a LEAMIS Associate Missionary, became involved in our outreach project that uses the McGuire Water Chlorination System, an ingenious unit that requires only table salt and a car battery.

Last year, in Kibera Bob taught a cottage industry workshop on using the water chlorination system and

(cont'd. on page 3)

Cont'd from page 1, LEAMIS Teams Return from Kenya

beyond a person's ability to put adequately into words.

One of the things realized by the team members is that poverty does not necessarily mean a lack of food or clothing. The province of Kisii is the breadbasket of the country, but rather than partaking of their crops, people are forced to sell the limited produce their small garden plots provide in order to obtain sufficient funds for other basics of life. Educational opportunities are limited, especially for the growing multitude of orphans who have no way of obtaining the funds needed for books, tuition, and school uniforms.

To help respond to the needs of children, LEAMIS established *The Virginia Thomas Children's Fund*. Donations earmarked for this fund will be used to help sponsor school scholarships for needy children and provide at least one meal per day. First consideration will be given to those who are orphaned.

\$1 per day will provide a needy child with a meal and schooling. If you would like to sponsor an orphaned child, please make your check out to LEAMIS and note "*Virginia Thomas Children's Fund*" on your check.

Credit card donations can be made online through our website PayPal option.



Photo by Kylene McDonald



WE HAVE NEVER HAD THIS KIND OF TRAINING BEFORE!

These words were spoken over and over following each of the Leadership Institutes taught in three different Kenyan communities.

One of the focus areas of LEAMIS is leadership training for pastors and lay leaders. Pastors in developing nations have

limited financial resources as well as limited opportunities for continuing education. The Leadership Institutes help pastors learn how to recognize and develop the gifts and callings of those in their congregations. The training also provides practical daily application for developing interpersonal relationship skills, developing leadership and management skills, and developing leaders within the church.

The curriculum for the Leadership Institutes was expanded this year and now includes basic accounting. This addition to the training is the result of repeated requests from church leaders who desire to be properly financially accountable to their churches and communities.

We want to extend a special thank-you to Wesley Tomlinson and Mi Rim of Germantown Methodist Church (Germantown, TN) for sponsoring one of the three Leadership Institutes.

SPECIAL NEED: STUDY BIBLES FOR INDIGENOUS PASTORS

Many of the pastors in Kenya have never had the opportunity to attend a Bible school or seminary. They simply felt God calling them into the ministry and responded. Unfortunately, they have few study resources available. **Will you help?**

Your donation of **\$40** will provide a pastor with the invaluable resource of a comprehensive study Bible.

DAILY BIBLE STUDIES

An important part of every LEAMIS trip is Bible teaching. Bible studies take place each morning and special church services take place in the evenings.

Focusing on how to apply the Scriptures to one's daily life, the teachings are well received. Bible studies and services make frequent use of object lessons and skits to help present the teachings in a way that maximizes the impact and helps the listener remember the lessons.

Area pastors asked us again this year to consider opening a Bible School. Please pray with us concerning this request.



Gail teaching a lesson on the Word of God and the sword of the spirit.

Cont'd from page 1, Catching the Vision



Water filtration unit built during this year's mission trip.

how it could be developed into a small business enterprise. As successful as that was, he was still burdened by the tremendous need for safe water by the majority of those living in the slums. The knowledge that children die needlessly from typhoid sickened his heart. As Bob prayed, a vision to use the chlorination unit as a ministry outreach began to form in his mind, but he didn't know how such an ambitious outreach could be organized.

This year, Bob again led a water purification workshop. In addition to the McGuire chlorination unit, Bob taught how to build a filtration system, and explained that using the chlorination unit (for killing bacteria) in conjunction with the filtration system (for filtering out parasites) will yield water that is 100 percent safe to drink.

Three of the workshop participants approached him after one of his classes. They said that God had been dealing with them about using the McGuire chlorination system as a ministry to those living in the Kibera Slums. **What an answer to prayer!** These men shared with Bob the logistics required to chlorinate the slums' water supply. What looked like a virtually impossible task has become a realistic goal thanks to Bob's vision and three men who allowed God to touch their hearts and motivate them to action.



Bob Willems with residents of the Kibera Slums who caught the vision.

A donation of **\$250** will install a water filtration system.

A donation of **\$500** will provide a McGuire Water Chlorination System.

Both systems used together can easily provide safe drinking water for a community of 2,000 people.

COTTAGE INDUSTRY WORKSHOPS OFFER HOPE

One of the goals of LEAMIS short-term mission teams is to teach skills through cottage industry workshops that can improve the people's standard of living and be used as a ministry outreach.

In countries where there are limited resources available to the general population, it is important not only to teach the skills but also to help people get started in their home businesses by providing start-up supplies and/or equipment. The people are capable and desire opportunities to work, but resources are severely lacking. LEAMIS is helping churches to form co-ops in order to meet this need. The opportunity to start a productive small business not only helps meet a family's needs, but also offers hope for a better future.



Nadina's class learning a new weaving technique.

Weaving and Crochet

A new workshop this year was crochet and weaving. This was well attended and very popular. Plastic bags are just as common in Kenya as they are here, so this is a readily available resource. Participants learned how to crochet serviceable items such as handbags and sleeping mattresses with plastic.

Various forms of weaving were also taught, including three-stick weaving, pop sickle stick weaving, and card weaving. Serviceable woven items are readily made, but this workshop also encourages creative design for clothing and other items.

Candles

Most homes in the Kibera Slums and in the smaller towns like Kisii Town and Ndonyo not have electricity; therefore candles are an important part of everyday life. In addition to meeting one's personal needs, the knowledge of making wicks and candles can also be used to start a small business. The process is relatively simple and the start-up cost for such a business is within reason. Candles can be ready for sale on the same day they are made.



Guy demonstrating that common items can be used as candle molds.



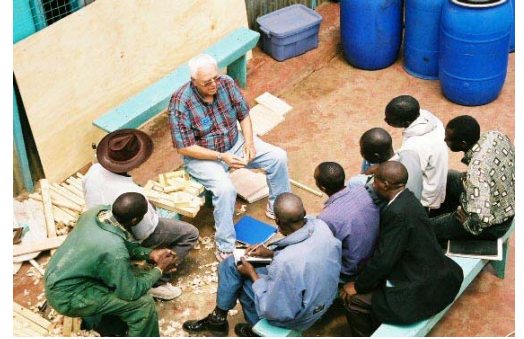
John overseeing the measuring of the soap ingredients.

Soap

The art of making soap requires patience, precision, and care in working with caustic lye. Materials for making soap are readily available. Many of those taking the class were mainly interested in making soap for their own use. Others quickly saw that a unique business could be developed, especially if additives native to Kenya were used. Soap requires at least six weeks to cure before it can be used or sold.

Carpentry

Participants in the carpentry workshops learned basic skills as they made desks and chairs for the school operated by one of the churches, solar dehydrators, and a stand for one of the water filtration systems. Since all the work is done without the benefit of power tools, the work accomplished during these workshops is impressive!



Bill's group learning about different types of wood joints.



Kylene's students using a computer for the first time.

Computer Training

Computer-related services such as word processing and spreadsheets are greatly needed. Using the two donated computers, the church in the Kibera Slums plans to open a computer lab, provide basic computer services, and hopes eventually also to provide fax and email services.

Thanks to ministry partners and team supporters, LEAMIS was able to provide the following this year in Kenya!

- Three Leadership Institutes - Nairobi, Kisii, Ndonyo
- Lunch for Workshops and Leadership Institutes in Nairobi and Kisii
- A McGuire Chlorination System and the beginning of the filtration system for an orphanage in Ndonyo
- Filtration system — Nairobi
- Medical supplies for Ndonyo, Kisii, and Nairobi
- A gas generator for the orphanage and church in Kisii
- A sound system for outdoor evangelistic outreaches in Kisii
- A battery to supply power for the Kisii church's keyboard
- A keyboard for the church in Nairobi
- Sunday school and school supplies — for three churches
- Two computers — Nairobi
- Two printers – Nairobi
- Supplies for cottage industry training — soapmaking, weaving, candlemaking, carpentry, and water purification
- Supplies for other workshops and ministry outreaches — health and nutrition, children's ministry, and Godly Play

Godly Play

Godly Play is a Christian education program in which children hear and see stories of God and are given the opportunity to reflect deeply and respond personally through art as a form of prayer. In Nairobi, Janet met each day with nineteen children for a two-hour session of Godly Play, and she was told that the children in the class were retelling the stories at home.



Janet telling the Parable of the Good Shepherd.



Audrey (left) and April (right) at the celebration program that presented what was learned during the week.

Children's Ministry

Each day, team members provided special ministry for the children. In one of the areas, the type of ministry they presented had never been done before. As team members went door-to-door during the week, it was a special blessing to see Bible projects completed during the classes hanging in honored places in the homes.

Health and Nutrition

Perhaps the most challenging workshop was the health and nutrition classes. This was due to the fact that what we were asked to teach was different from what the people wanted who actually attended the classes. In addition, things that are common here are often not available in Kenya—particularly in the more remote areas.

There is a real need for education in health and nutrition and we will be writing additional material for the next trip.



Shirley responding to nutrition questions.

Be part of the LEAMIS team to Kenya, Africa

Contact the LEAMIS office today!

The required pre-field orientation and training will be held in early March in the mid-Tennessee area.