



# Kenya Connection

## Mountain Park UMC Young Adults Plant Seeds of Love at Mountain Park Academy

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As leader of our mission team, I would like to extend a deep word of gratitude to the Kenya Project community for the support you have given.

Our team provided 17 VBS activities in the classrooms and involved the children in painting four murals in the dining hall. We planted a garden at Hutch's House, which will continue to provide food to the orphans who live there. We presented a skit to the children and taught *them* a skit, which they will present at an upcoming PTA meeting. On the last day, we held a game day with

soccer balls, bubbles, jump ropes, and candy.

Beyond all of these tangible projects, we were incredibly blessed with the opportunity to spend free time with the children after school each day. At the end of the week, our team talked about the impact the trip had on everyone's life. We knew that we had been forever changed. We are all motivated to continue making the world a better place, not only in Kenya but also at home in America.

*By Taylor Chastain*



Newly painted mural in the dining hall depicts Nehemiah 6:9

### PROJECTS

#### Completed

- Mountain Park Academy (MPA) upper school with dining hall, 5000-book library, playground equipment, electricity
- Community well
- Children's home

#### Current and Ongoing

- \$20/month sponsorships for tuition
- \$100/month sponsorships for lodging and tuition for orphans
- Feeding program
- New primary school
- 30 additional tables for the MPA dining hall

#### Future

- Trade school at MPA
- Water tower

## Mt. Pisgah Youth Make New Friends in Kenya

Twenty-two students and ten adults embarked upon a life-changing mission trip to Mountain Park Academy (MPA). Our experiences far outweighed our hopes and dreams.

We presented VBS activities almost everyday complete with lessons, skits, games, and crafts based on various Bible verses. We built cubby dividers in the closets of each of the bedrooms in Hutch's House, and we helped to distribute food to over

500 families and teachers. We also enjoyed "hanging out" with the children, just being together and sharing the joy of friendship and fellowship.

To any who might be considering taking students on a mission trip to MPA, know that your experience will be challenging and spiritually rewarding. I can't say enough about the professionalism of the Kenya Project staff. We have memories that we will cherish forever.

*By Peyton Mosher*



Peyton Mosher with two new friends

## Meet Nursery Teacher, Jane Kinyanjui



**Jane Kinyanjui**

Jane Kinyanjui is likely a familiar face to many in our Kenya Project family—she is one of the most welcoming and humble women at MPA. Jane is this year’s teacher of the largest of the nursery classes with 35 students, mostly five and six-year-olds. In addition to this role, she is a designated educator of HIV/AIDS awareness.

My first question to Jane was how she deals daily with so many little ones. Of course, her response was nothing but gracious: “I love little children. I take little children as a mother rather than a teacher.”

Outside of school, Jane is a mother to two daughters, a Sunday school teacher, and a member of the church choir. She joined MPA on September 6, 1999 and was the second teacher hired to help fulfill Mama Robi’s vision. Jane shared her enthusiasm and gratitude for the construction of

the “modern” playground, the implementation of the feeding program in response to children collapsing from hunger, the opening of the dining hall to shield the children from dust and dirt during mealtimes, and the launching of the library—“the source of our education, both biblical and academic, which always go together.”

Jane was also very eager to share her vision for Mountain Park. She remarked, “I would like to see the lower block [the primary school] built.” Jane also focused on education. “Within five years, MPA will meet children from here at *public* universities. Those children will be people of knowledge who can help the community and our school too. The younger children will come up and go to the *best* high schools we have in Kenya. Because our school is an academy, I would love one day to have a second-

dary school or even a university, God willing, so that we bring up a very good generation.”

Finally, as our discussion came to a close, something Jane said struck me as incredibly powerful. Jane commented, “I learned something from sponsors, that they love someone they do not know and help them with education, food, and clothing . . . the teachings they give us are wonderful: *He is not of my color. He is not of my tribe, but I can help him.*”

The Kenya Project is incredibly thankful to our teaching staff for the leadership they provide and the examples they set as citizens of humanity.

*By Tiffany Nichols*



**Jeremiah Muiruri**

## Jeremiah and Jane Need Support for Secondary School

Sponsorship for students in Class 8 (the highest class at MPA) is very important. Those who graduate without a sponsor are unlikely to receive help as they continue their education in secondary school. Jeremiah and Jane are two Class 8 students who are seeking your generous support!

**Jeremiah Muiruri** is 14 years old and has been attending MPA for two years. He is also interested in the sciences, particularly anatomy and reproduction, and hopes to study to become a doctor after secondary school. Outside of the classroom, Jeremiah loves to play and

watch soccer. He is a proud supporter of the Manchester United team! He lives with both parents and one younger sister. His father is a secondary school teacher nearby and his mother works as a shopkeeper. Jeremiah has shown noticeable improvement in his academic performance. “Jeremiah is a very polite boy. He is improving academically with each exam,” shared headmaster Kamau.

**Jane John** is 13 years old and has been attending Mountain Park Academy for four years. Her favorite subject to study in school is science. She is especially interested in food and nu-

trition studies, which she hopes will help her in her pursuit of becoming a surgeon. When Jane is not in class, she loves listening to gospel music. She lives near Mountain Park with both her parents and three brothers. She is a big sister to two of the boys. One parent is a driver and the other is a shopkeeper. Jane is very bright and is currently among the top 15 students in all of Class 8. Mr. Kamau commented, “Jane is a very careful and keen girl. She is always competing for the top marks.”

*By Tiffany Nichols*



**Jane John**

## MPA's Top Graduate: Douglas Nyawira

At the Andrew Carroll Awards Ceremony, the top ten Class 8 graduates and their teachers were recognized. Douglas Nyawira was honored for being ranked number one. Douglas's outstanding achievement was accomplished through much adversity and required unique persistence on his part.

Douglas was born in 1991 in a village in the Rift Valley Province. His parents passed away when he was young, in Class 2. At that point, Douglas was sent

to another village to be a shepherd boy. He worked for three years until the man who had hired him recognized his potential and decided to enroll him in school in Nakuru. Douglas joined a primary school there at the age of 12. After two years, relatives transferred him to Mountain Park Academy where he completed his primary education.

Douglas sat for his Class 8 national exams in December, 2008. He earned an "A" in five subjects: math, English, Kiswa-

hili, social studies and religion. With a total of 378 out of 500 marks, his scores earned him a number one ranking at MPA, and he was among the top 20 students in his overall division.

He is currently a student at a secondary boarding school established to serve orphans. Douglas reports that he is again ranked number one! Tyler Foster of Cumming, Georgia is Douglas's proud sponsor.

*By Tiffany Nichols*



**Douglas Nyawira,  
top graduate**

## Amazing Progress for Geneva's Wonderful Women

The Geneva's Wonderful Women Project has been progressing phenomenally. Beginning at the end of May, the women met daily and on some Saturdays to work on filling special orders from the United States. The women's flexibility and craftsmanship are continuing to improve. They received orders for belts and Yoga mat bags recently, which the ladies executed beautifully. Their innovation and tireless work ethic have paid

off. In addition to successfully opening their first bank account in June, the women earned the equivalent of \$2600 before expenses, over \$1300 of which was earned in a single day from the Mt. Pisgah visitors. Each member was able to take home the equivalent of nearly \$100 to her family. The ladies are currently researching investment options, including equipment or land on which to one day build their own workshop. They extend their sincerest thanks to

you, friends and members of The Kenya Project, for your generous supply donations and for supporting their work through your purchases! For information about ordering items made by the women, visit <http://nmd2.notlong.com> and prepare to be wowed! Be sure to also view the "Older Posts" (link at the bottom of the page). We will soon begin posting a special feature on each group member to this web site.

*By Tiffany Nichols*



**Bibian Ljwang, member of  
Geneva's Wonderful Women  
and "Mom" at Hutch's House**

## Message from Gideon: Life-Changing Experiences

*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. (James 11:1-2)*

When this year began, we hoped to make several mission trips to Kenya. God has rewarded the faith of the Kenya Project leadership: Four teams have been to Kenya, one will go in September, and there is a

possibility of one more before the end of the year. It was interesting to be part of these teams as they started planning, praying, and fundraising to make the trips a reality. It has been a great opportunity to see young people and adults work toward a common goal. Those who have gone to Kenya have said it was a life-changing experience.

I hope and pray that they will not stop there and bask in the great experience but will take the lesson they learned and do something with it. If it is clear that you have been called to help the Kenya Project, please let us know and we will work with you to bring glory to God. God bless, and thanks for your continued support.



**Gideon Robi,  
Executive Director**

