

Christmas Newsletter

12/1/09

Volume 1, Issue 1

A Day with Bret Van Leeuwen in Africa

Not too far from the bridge, at the top of the first hill, there is a large sign, announcing to all that pass – “You Are Entering the Koins Service Area—GET BUSY.” From that point on the children standing on the side of the road, the women toting buckets of water on their head, or the boys herding goats, all recognized us as we passed, calling out to us, happy to see us and exchange a simple wave of the hand. We have arrived, we are home. As we pulled into the Koins Community Center, the path was lined with neatly dressed children singing songs to welcome us back.



Chairman of the Board: Bret Van Leeuwen

As we exited our van, this youthful welcoming committee sang in harmony, taking us all by the hand and making sure we felt properly received. For the next 45 minutes we were regaled by those beautiful kids, singing and dancing, occasionally dragging us into their midst to share in their customary dances. Indeed, we were welcome and the village was embracing us through their children. The sun was beginning to settle and we had still not unpacked our bags, so we excused ourselves and got to work. We did a quick orientation for everyone about the Koins Community Center (KCC) and then enjoyed our first Kenyan cuisine; beans and chipati (a tortilla-type shell). After sharing some stories, laughing out loud, and finishing our dinners, we headed outside for “Peaches and Pits.” This tradition of sharing experiences of our day with the rest of the group is conducted in the darkness of the night, under the innumerable stars of the African sky. Expressing how small moments touch each of us differently, often choking up with emotion, our group grows closer.

Koins is making a significant difference, and the efforts we put forth are bringing great hope to this humble land.

Special points of interest:

- Words From Chairman of the board: Bret Van Leeuwen
- First Annual Fetchin' Water Walk
- Summit High raises funds to build school in village
- Sean Michael's School
- Rotary Club chooses to Sponsor Koins For Kenya



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First Annual Fetchin' Water Walk



The Rooney Sisters getting ready to walk!

We are excited to report on our first annual "Fetchin' Water Walk."

A huge thanks to all our volunteers and participants who helped make this happen.

Our walk was held at Rock Canyon Park in Provo Utah on Sept. 21st 2009.

Signs were found along the path with facts reminding participants what difference they are making in the lives of our friends in Africa.

The longest walkers were four of this years women BYU Basketball players who

walked 1.5 miles non-stop. During the walk we had African music playing, raffles for handmade African prizes, and water bottles for our participants to take home. Our hope is that each year our "Fetchin' Water Walk" will give locals a chance to experience what African women do every day: carry 5 gallons of water for 5 kilometers a day. Please check our website for updates on when our next "Fetchin' Water Walk" will be. Hope to see you there!

- ***KFK is run exclusively by volunteers***
- ***No salaries to pay, no office overhead to meet***
- ***100% of donation goes directly to cause***

Anthony's Arrival

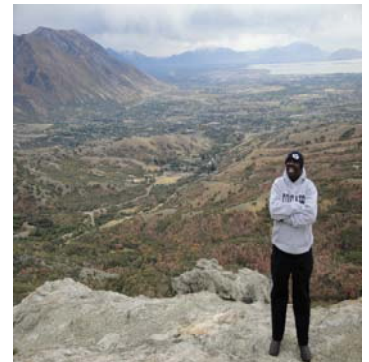
Anthony Yama, our Kenyan board president was here for over a month raising awareness about the conditions in Kenya and sharing what Koins for Kenya is doing to help.

Giving over 40 presentations, Anthony stayed very busy and wasn't left with much "down" time. An-

thony travelled to several states, including Oregon, Washington, and Nevada to speak to students, businesses, clubs, and other social groups.

Bret was able to attend 25 of these presentations.

Right: *Anthony in awe of our Utah Mountains.*



South Summit High Gives Back

This year South Summit High School raised \$10,500 dollars for Koins for Kenya. Located in Kamas, Utah, South Summit High was able to raise this money through a series of events, namely a Summit County Has Talent (Talent Show), car washes, etc.

In August, a team of about 15 people, headed by Bret VanLeeuwen, were able to go to Kenya and build a school with the money raised from South Summit High. Koins painted the school South Summit High School's colors. Koins For Kenya is thankful to these High School students for their

desire to help our African friends receive a better education.



Rotaract Club Chooses Koins For Charity Project

This year the BYU Chapter of Rotaract chose Koins for Kenya through a very selective process as their project to raise money for in 2009 and 2010. Rotaract is committed to raising \$100,000 dollars for Koins for Kenya through concerts, and other fundraisers..

Another fundraiser is lined up in March of 2010, but no details have been announced. Please check our website periodically to get the latest news on upcoming

events.

Koins for Kenya is also working with the local high school interact clubs, an extension of Rotaract club, to help raise money by arranging Fetchin' Water Walks at each of the high schools for the students to participate. We hope this will be a successful way to get students excited about service and learning what things they can do to give back.



Don't miss out on next year's expeditions. Join us in March or July 2010. Please see website for exact dates and details.
koinsforkenya.org

Sean Michel's School Update

The Sean Michels School for Special Needs is the first school of its kind in the south east coastal region of Kenya where Koins serves. Initially, there will be 30 special needs children boarded and taught there.

There are 2 dorm rooms, one

for boys and one for girls, a large classroom, bathrooms, kitchen and a small room to house the matron who will take care of the children who will live there. The idea of the SMS is simple; provide education for special needs children, who, for a variety

of reasons, cannot be properly educated in the current school system in Kenya.

If you would like to sponsor one of these special needs children, please visit our website at www.koinsforkenya.org.

Sean Michel's Family



Scholarship Program

Steve and I returned from Mnyenzi on October 25, 2009. It was a great week filled with meetings and visits with our 89 scholarship students. They are doing well, maturing and progressing nicely. They are determined to do all that they can to make a difference in their lives and the lives of the villagers.

We currently have six Form 4 students, 19 Form Three students, 29 Form Two stu-

dents, and 35 Form one students. Obviously, there is quite a drop in student numbers as the years of school progress. There are factors which affect attendance – family situations, lack of supplies, and cultural issues, usually affecting the girls. But we are seeing encouraging signs that our scholarship program is succeeding, and that we are making a difference.

We are always happy to have more sponsors who would like to help these qualified and needy students!

Right: *Scholarship Students with Emanuel Musya – Assistant head master at the secondary school, Samuel (Chief) Tuku – Koins NGO board member, and Nancy Littlefield-Scholarship Program Coordinator.*





What is Koins Working on for 2010?

In the US

- March 2010 “Fetchin’ Water Walk” Fundraiser at Rock Canyon Park, in Provo Utah. We are also hoping to do a walk in Salt Lake City, Utah at Sugar House Park.

In Kenya

- Build latrines for all our schools by the end of the year.
- Install water cisterns at all our schools. Currently four of the seven schools have them.
- Receive more grants from LDS charities for more bore holes. We currently have two.
- Koins is excited to partner with Yehu Finance next year. Yehu will be opening a branch at the Koins Center so our women can participate in Microfinance Ventures.
- Kitchen rebuild - This year the Koins Community Center kitchen was destroyed in the heavy rains. Although our center is constructed with block, our kitchen remained of mud. We have plans to raise funds to replace it with a permanent block structure.

A Gift That Will Change a Life



There are endless opportunities to give during this holiday season, here are a few ways a little donation will make a tremendous difference:

\$15– will build a much needed desk

\$100– will buy lunch for a child at

the Sean Michels school for one year

\$350– help a student get through school for one year

\$2,000- will build a 35,000 liter water cistern

\$10,000 - will build a 2 room school building (you choose name and school colors)

100% of all donations made to Koins for Kenya go directly to our village needs. from our scholarship program, to building water cisterns and

latrines, adding microfinance to our area, and keeping our facilities running, there are endless opportunities to help those in need this Christmas Season.

Donations are accepted online at www.koinsforkenya.org or you can send checks payable to Koins For Kenya:

Koins For Kenya
252 N. Preston Dr.
Alpine, Utah 84004

Happy Holidays!!

www.koinsforkenya.org