

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities



Pastor Bernard Kabarú Mwangi introduces Dr. Adrian Giorgiov from Romania to the Koinonia congregation.

Crossing Cultural Boundaries In The Name Of Jesus

By Adrian Giorgiov

As I look back to my first trip to Africa, I can only give thanks to God for His work in that part of the world and for making it possible for me to join in what He is doing in Kenya!

Knowing Floyd, Bonnie, and Bernard was a great help in getting to understand the various customs and the whole African (and Kenyan) context, and the bonding with Team 1 and Team 2 has been great, too.

Also, I am glad for all the work that was covered in all three series of events (Gatunguru, Koinonia, Nyeri), with all the teaching that was involved, I enjoyed it very much and I pray that the fruit will continue to be produced

I could categorize the impressions that I got during my 19 days there into three main groups: the material needs, the Spiritual atmosphere, and the exotic environment.

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God's Love Shines Through The Lives Of Three Brothers

By Michal Parker

"So let's go in and see their home" Lucy said. We were standing in front of a blue building with a green door on the road to Ruaka. The home we were visiting was that of Anthony, Samuel and Simon.

The most amazing thing about these three is that they are 17, 14 and 10, and they live alone in this room. As I stood there looking at their room and absorbing their story, I was amazed at their maturity, humbled by their graciousness and thankful to have met them.

Their story began with each of them living on the street and each of them finding Koinonia Baptist Church.

The boys each shared their journeys (or "safaris" in Swahili) with the members of Koinonia. While the church knew that the boys' spiritual needs were important, they also

knew that basic needs had to be met first in order to show God's love to these three young men.

By God's grace, Acts Fellowship in Greenville is a partner of Koinonia Baptist Church. When Koinonia Pastor Bernard Kabarú Mwangi shared the stories of Anthony, Samuel and Simon, members of Acts knew that providing for the basic necessities of these three boys was their task.

Funds were provided to rent a place next to Pastor Sammy Mwangi's house so that he and his wife, Lucy, could provide oversight and assistance to the boys every day. Lucy has taught the boys to cook meals and to clean clothes so that they are self-sufficient. Pastor Sammy is working with the boys on staying in school and learning about God's

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Brothers Simon, left, Samuel and Anthony have been able to leave life on the streets and find a home within the Koinonia fellowship.

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THREE BROTHERS

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word. Sammy and Lucy's children, Patience, Dennis and Joy, provide laughter, toys to play with, and a greater sense of family.

As the week wore on, I watched each of the boys closely. I was curious about their personalities and their way of life. I watched as Anthony played with the smaller children and helped "corral" them when they got unruly. I watched him smile broadly as he tried to teach my mother Kikuyu. I saw his joy at being able to help and teach others, and I was convicted regarding the choice I make daily of whether to be joyful in all things.

I watched Samuel, always one step ahead of everyone around him; serving all the while. He was always there to move chairs and benches, even before we could ask. Every day, he helped serve lunch and was one of the last in line to eat. I learned that he misses his mother tremendously and feels a great responsibility to provide for his younger half-siblings who are scattered throughout Ruaka.

Simon is one of those siblings, and Samuel looks out for him more than Simon will ever know. I saw Samuel's potential in a mind incredibly gifted and a servant's heart. I was reminded of my own gifts and how I squander them.

Simon is very shy and quiet. I believe he is impacted the most by the lack of true parents. He always sat quietly watching



Simon, back row center, is the youngest of the three brothers and usually sits quietly while watching everyone intently.



Anthony, center, is the oldest of the brothers, always has a smile on his face and helps anyone in any way he can.

interaction and seemed the most in need of smiles and hugs. Simon didn't attend Bible Camp one day because he hadn't had time to wash his clothes, and he was embarrassed that his shoes were falling apart on his feet. I looked at his smiling face with the sad eyes, I looked at the shoes that kept him from camp, and I was convicted about my closet full.

On the last day of camp, I asked my friend Robert to translate as I spoke to Samuel. I had been praying for the boys all week, and I was sure I needed to talk specifically to him.

As Robert, Samuel and I sat in the small room, I talked to Samuel about the future. I shared with him my thoughts regarding the potential I saw in him. I told him that one of the things that bothers me most in life is when people have potential and they choose not to fulfill it. I told him that quitting school now to get a job would be his choosing not to fulfill his potential. I promised him that if he would stay in school and continue living with Anthony and Simon, his needs would always be provided for.

He looked at me skeptically, then intently. He sized me up, his eyes welled up with tears and he nodded. I know he will stay in school. He is a man of his word. I told him I knew he missed his mother and when his heart was empty to remember that he is in my

heart, that he is special, and that I believe he can change his world.

Before leaving Kenya, I asked Lucy if there was anything I could do for "the guys." She smiled and told me that they really needed new shoes and some new clothes. I looked at the money I had brought from home for souvenirs and gifts. I thought about my house, my closet full of shoes and my job waiting for me at home. I hope the boys are enjoying their new shoes and clothes.

In telling you their story, I tell you a story of hope... a hope for today; that all things will be provided in His time; a hope for tomorrow that these three young men will grow up to be incredible men of faith; a hope for eternity that we will praise God together in Heaven.

Please pray for Anthony, Samuel and Simon. Please pray that they will be cognizant of the love and family they provide for each other and that Lucy, Sammy and Koinonia are providing for them. Please pray that they live the lives that God has ordained for them.

Please pray that Anthony continues to find joy teaching and leading and that his smile never fades. Please pray for Samuel, that his heart will be full, his mind willing to learn and his potential fulfilled. Please pray for Simon, that he will feel loved, feel included and know that our Father loves him immensely.



Samuel, center, is the middle brother and can always be one step ahead of everyone when it comes to helping others.

Generous Spirit Of Giving Helps Meet Needs

Thank you for all of the shopping that so many of you did this year from the 2007 Teleios Christmas Catalog. As a result of the very generous spirit of giving, many of the areas of need were completely funded!

The partners themselves sent us the list of items that were needed in order to make their work more effective and beneficial to those they serve. They are extremely grateful to you for providing these things.

We are aware some of you gave the needed items as Christmas gifts for friends or family and did not designate or give us the names of those who received these. Thank you for allowing Teleios to help you with your Christmas gifts.

Others of you designated the contributions in honor or memory of friends, family and loved ones. Listed below are the names that were provided to us on the order forms as a memorial or honorarium.

IN MEMORY OF...

KATHRYN HUNT

- Craft Supplies, Eye Exams, Shoes—*by Don Hunt*
- Bicycle—*by Sue Schneider*

DOLORES JONES

- Shoes, Sports Equipment & Mosquito Nets—*by Belle Jones*

TED PARKER

- Children's Clothes—*by Fidelis/Euzelian SS Class*
- Children's Clothes—*by Sarah H. Baker*

GENE HORNE

- Blankets—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

NANCY SCOTT MCNAIR & SARA SCOTT

- Concrete Floor Repair—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

WILLIAM L. THOMPSON, JR.

- Blankets—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

JOE WARE

- Blankets, Shoes, Textbooks, Songbooks—*by Nancy Stacey*

IN HONOR OF...

SARA FRANCES BAKER

- Pig for a Pastor—*by Martha Franks Prayer Group*

JAKE & LAINEE BARTLEY, VANESSA & DAVID STUMBO

- Guitar—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

MATT, GINA, MATTHEW & AUDRY DAMPIER

- School Uniforms—*by Doug & Monica Franklin*

ANNE & JOHNNY DAVIS, BOB & SARA PRICHARD

- Pigs & Chickens—*by Tom & Lori Prichard*

ELDORA FRANKLIN

- Songbooks—*by Doug & Monica Franklin*

MIKE, SHELIA, & BETH FRANKLIN

- Swahili Textbooks—*by Doug & Monica Franklin*

ROD, ANGELA, DILLON, TREVOR & ZOIE FRANKLIN

- Children's Clothes—*by Doug & Monica Franklin*

TOM, CINDY, TANNER, SARA & TYLER FRANKLIN

- Sports Equipment—*by Doug & Monica Franklin*

ANNA HORNE

- Blankets—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

DAVID HORNE

- Bicycle—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

JIM & BARBARA HORNE

- Pig for a Pastor—*by Frances Owens*

LES HORNE, MATTHEW HORNE, ASHTON & LEIGH HORNE

- Shoes—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

FLOYD & BONNIE PARKER

- Children's Clothes—*by Kay & Johnny Honeycutt*

FLOYD & BONNIE PARKER

- Children's Clothes & Pig for a Pastor
by Michele & Chris St. Onge

BOBBY SCOTT

- Concrete Floor—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

JONATHAN & ANGIE STUMBO, ISAAC, PHILIP STUMBO,

TIMOTHY STUMBO, PAGE RITCHER

- Tables & Chairs—*by Jim & Barbara Horne*

FLOYD & BONNIE PARKER

- Arts & Crafts, Blankets, Chairs, Chickens & Mosquito Nets

*by Tim, Isaac, Beka, Susannah,
Patrick & Summer Stumbo*

JIM & BARBARA HORNE

- Dental Exams—*by The Dovers*

THE STUMBOS

- Children's Clothes—*by The Dovers*

THE PARKERS

- Classroom Chairs—*by The Dovers*

MICHAL PARKER

- Shoes—*by The Dovers*

THE JAMES HORNES

- Eye Exam & Glasses—*by The Dovers*

THE DAVID HORNES

- Chickens—*by The Dovers*

THE WILLIAMS

- Swahili Textbooks—*by The Dovers*

THE ADKINS

- Songbooks—*by The Dovers*

THE WOODS

- Mosquito Nets—*by The Dovers*

THE JOHNSONS

- Arts & Crafts Supplies—*by The Dovers*

REBECCA WEST

- Blankets—*by The Dovers*
- Teaching Materials—*by Sue Schneider*

MEG HUNT

- Sports Equipment—*by The Dovers*

Bible Camp Full Of Learning, Laughter, Love

The ACTS/Teleios Team of Floyd and Bonnie Parker, Michal Parker, Ed Arnold, Lucia Johnson, Shelia January, Rebecca West, Meg Hunt and Adrian Giorgiov worked with Koinonia Baptist Church in Kenya during the first week of December to conduct Vacation Bible Camp. This year's theme was "Sharing God's Love With Your Neighbor—The World."



Arts and crafts are always popular and the day the children made kites was especially exciting.



The telling of Bible stories through drama—with a little help from Michal and Robert who translated—proved to be a favorite among the children.

One of the activities enjoyed by the children and adults alike was learning dances and songs from various countries, like "Dancing Mathilda" from Australia.



The children had as much fun learning about different continents and countries as Rebecca and Shelia had teaching them.



Recreation time was exciting as the children played games from different countries, like Egyptian Tug Of War.



The last Sunday the Team was in Kenya with Koinonia Baptist Church was made even more special as 16 new believers were baptized.

Visits In Tanzania Hold Special Memories

After the week of Bible Camp in Kenya, the ACTS/Teleios Team traveled to Tanzania to visit with our brothers and sisters in Christ at the Daily Bread Life Children's Home and Kidetete Church and Preschool.



Thanks to generous donations, we were able to present the children with official soccer uniforms and equipment so they can compete in the official recreation league.

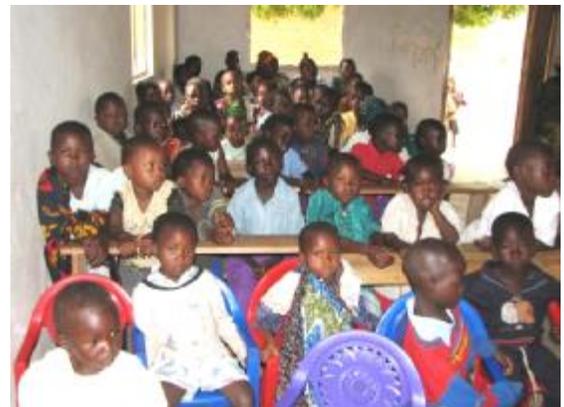


The Team is greeted by the children and leaders at the Children's Home.



Some of the children at the Children's Home perform a special "welcome" dance for us upon our arrival.

Our visit to the Kidetete Church and Preschool gave us time to enjoy playing with the children and teaching them new games.



Even though school was out for the holiday, these children at Kidete came back so they could greet us.



All Smiles!

The bright smiles of the children at Daily Bread Life Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania, express the excitement of having new toothbrushes and toothpaste. Ed Arnold and Bonnie handed out the gifts which were donated by Dr. Lewis Moss of Greenwood, S.C.

Special Greetings From Romania

This note came from Attila Toth, church planter in northern Romania.

Dear Floyd and Bonnie,
This is the last day of the year. I am standing alone in my room and I am thinking about this year.

When I am looking back, I can see my mistakes what I done this year, but I can see, too, the good things and the blessings of what happened with me and with my little churches, too.

A lot of good things happened; evangelistic meetings, baptism, Gypsy mission, Gypsy children's camp, youth camp, Chapel at Gornesti, poor Gypsy family aid, Christmas gifts and a lot of more good things for which I am very happy today.

But I can see that without you and without your ministry these good things could not have happened with us.

So today I want to thank you very much for your love, your kindness, your friendship and your help. I love you. You are very special for me. I wish you a very blessed and happy New Year.

Your friends from here also send their greetings: Vass Gyorgy (the leader of Reghin church who loves you very much; Miklos, Joska, and the old man from Peris; Janos, Zozo's family, Denes, and others from Apalina and many more.

God bless you.

With Love,
Attila

CROSSING BOUNDARIES

Continued from page 1

In terms of material needs, I was struck by the multitude of children who eat only once a week through the benevolence work done by the Baptist church in Nyeri. The helplessness of so many innocent little children asks for compassion, and I hope and pray that more and more people will be involved in providing help in this respect.

From the point of view of the Spiritual atmosphere, it is evident that there is a great openness in the church when it comes to teaching children, youth, adults, as well as leaders, and it was encouraging to see their readiness to accept the challenges.

One of the pastors that we met in Gatunguru came to Nyeri to the Youth Conference with his youth, and he shared with me that after they went home from Gatunguru they already started implementing small group Bible study and that it works! Needless to say, it was quite an encouragement to hear about it!

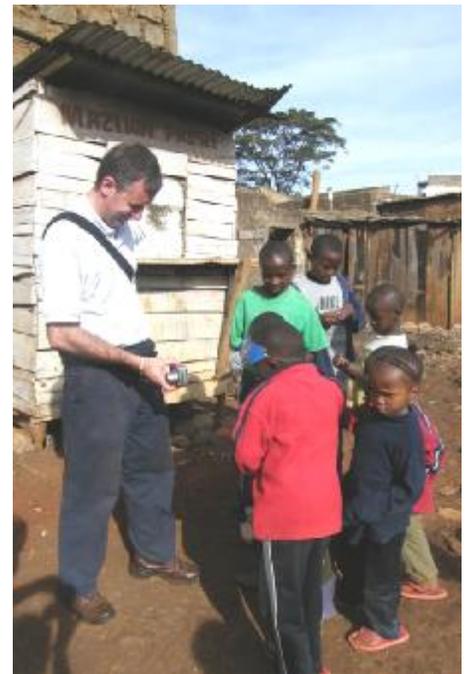
The visitations of families in the slums showed us that non-believers are also open. One afternoon we visited a family whose children were attending the morning vacation Bible Camp. Their neighbors wanted us to come into their home as well, and at the end of my visit I could also pray for them!

Also, the baptismal service in the river in Ruaka was a great event and reason for great joy for all of us and for the unseen witnesses in heaven.

The exotic environment - plants and animals - was great, too, and made it easier for me to imagine how the Garden of Eden must have looked!

Praise God for His wonderful creation, and for the new creation that He performs in the lives of many Africans who accept Christ and start growing towards maturity!

Dr. Adrian Giorgiov is Dean of the Hungarian Baptist Seminary of Romania.



Adrian enjoyed sharing not only God's love but photos with the children he came into contact with during his visit to Kenya.

This Just In...

From Walhalla, S.C. ...

Executive Director Tyler Wilkie reports that the Car Show held on Dec. 1 as a fundraiser for the development of the community center to be known as Safe House was a success. Approximately \$1,300 was netted. The funds raised were important, but more so was that the show raised awareness for the project and the ministry of the Walhalla group. **Pray** for the continuation of the work there.

From Romania...

Istvan and Marta Borzasi will be moving from Tirgu Mures to Pericei. Istvan has been called as pastor for the church there and in the village of Varsolt.

He writes, "After much prayerful consideration the decision has been made to move to Pericei and this is likely to take place in February. We need your prayers for a smooth move, for good weather, for the change of schools for Tabitha and Miriam, for the diminution of the "cultural shock," for quick integration in the new environment, but most of all for an improvement of the spiritual life and mission of that area."

Turda—Adina (and Daniel) Pusok report that all is going well with their pregnancy and that the sonograms appear to be of a "big" little girl!

Reghin—During the Christmas services in the Mures mission area, six people repented and made professions of faith in Jesus. Celebrate life for these new believers!

From Kenya...

Teleios partner, Bernard Mwangi, reports that violence brought about by election results in Kenya has calmed somewhat in the last few days. He and the partners at Koinonia Baptist Church are currently safe. They have begun to minister to those who have been displaced by riots and danger from their home territories and have come to the Ruaka area. **Pray** for safety, physical needs and the ability for believers to deliver a strong message of hope in Jesus during these times of difficult circumstances. **Pray** for reconciliation and peace among the tribes and political factions there. Thank you to those of you who made special offerings designated to help Koinonia members minister in the refugee camps!

New Year Starts In Africa For Two Teleios Teams

Garry Freeman from Walhalla, Mike Collins and Charles Arnold from Grace Church, and Floyd Parker will be traveling to Kenya on January 21. Mike and Charles will be making preparations for a medical mission team going to Kenya in March. Garry will be meeting with Teleios partners, assisting in business development, and reviewing potential Teleios partnerships in Kenya and Tanzania.

In Kenya, our partners are Bernard Kabarú Mwangi and Peter Kamau of Nyeri. In Tanzania, our partners are Frank and Mpeli Mwaisumbe. Pray for safety in travel and during the visit and that the Lord will be glorified all that is done while there.

January 21-22: Travel from Greenville to Nairobi via Detroit and Amsterdam

January 23: Ruaka and Tigoni with Koinonia Fellowship.

Visit Mary Kabarú's Happy Day Academy, and Refugee Centers

January 24-25: Medical Mission Team Preparation and Business assessments.

Travel to Nyeri and Laikipia in the Central Highlands of Kenya

January 26: Floyd and Garry fly to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, in the morning and review Teleios Partnerships; Mike and Charles continue MMT preparation

January 27: Mike and Charles worship with Koinonia Baptist Church; depart Nairobi late evening for Greenville

January 28: Mike and Charles arrive Greenville;

Floyd and Garry travel to Iringa, Tanzania, visit Children's Home

January 28-29: Mbeya and Tukuyu to assess potential Teleios partnerships and meet with Teleios partners, and discuss business development

January 30: Visit Ruaha National Park, then travel to Iringa

January 31: Travel from Iringa to Dar Es Salaam

February 1: Depart Dar Es Salaam for Nairobi

February 2: Floyd and Garry arrive Greenville

Children's Home Receives Tanzania Government's Official Blue Ribbon

The Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania, had a great day of worship and celebration on Dec. 22. The district commissioner of the national government visited and presented the Home with an official blue ribbon signifying recognition by the government of Tanzania as being open and excelling at being in compliance with all regulations.



The commissioner toured the facilities and interviewed the children, noting the health and happiness of each one. Ladies from the community provided a meal for the day.

Thank God for the Mpeli Mwaisumbe, his wife Neema, and the caretakers at the home. Praise God

for the partners who provide resources in order that the facility can exist. Ask His continued blessings on Daily Bread Life Children's Home and its witness of His love and grace.





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HELPING GOD-GIVEN VISIONS BECOME PRESENT-DAY REALITIES

We're on the Web! Check us out — www.teleiosministry.org



Reflections From the Green Chair.....

I thank you, our Teleios Partners, for your prayers, calls, cards, and visits over the past three weeks since the death of my brother, Ted. He was 56 years old and was celebrating with his wife, Wanda, 37 years of marriage. They have three children, Keats and his wife, Corrina, Dylan, and Michelle. They have two grandchildren, Kayden and Kya. Please continue to remember all of them in your prayers.

The past few weeks have reminded me how quickly our lives can change, of how much our lives are affected by what we cannot control. Yet, we continue to live with the pretense that we do have enormous control over our lives. We live in a "bubble" of a reality that we created.

When Bonnie and I were getting off the airplane in Greenville on the Wednesday evening before Christmas, our daughter, Michal, was waiting on us. She hugged me and said, "Michelle called and something serious has happened to Uncle Ted."

Gone were our plans of parties, getting a Christmas tree, and preparing for Christmas. Never did we dream or think that

we would be spending the next four days at a Brunswick, Georgia, hospital or on St. Simon's Island. We had made plans to be with Ted and Wanda on St. Simon's right after Christmas. However, we arrived a week early to a totally unexpected situation. Life is fragile and so uncertain.

During that time, too, we prayed for the elections in Kenya. We read, watched, and listened to the violence that exploded in the aftermath of the elections. This "island of stability" in East Africa suddenly spewed the molten lava of violence, riots, and murder from the tribal hatred and tensions that lay buried beneath.

Now, no one is sure what will happen next. The lives of thousands were suddenly changed—even those not living in Kenya are deeply affected. More than 1,000 killed, hundreds of thousands displaced, entire families lost, children separated from family, churches burned—life is fragile and so uncertain.

If you are still reading, you may be wondering what am I doing writing this—depressing and sad. Why couldn't I

write about something inspiring, encouraging, uplifting, etc. Well, I am.

Even though life is uncertain, God in Jesus never is. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Even though life is fragile, God in Jesus is an unbreakable rock. He alone defines reality. He alone controls. In Him and in Him alone is Life.

A song (Psalm 42) written by the sons of Korah begins: "God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea..."

The song ends with "Stop moving, Calm down, be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will exalted in the earth."

I am glad that I stopped in the green chair to reflect and regain a true perspective on the events of my life and those I love. I saw the Lord exalted.

With Love In Christ,

Floyd

