

Teleios Ministry

Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities

“Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” - Matthew 9:37-38

You Are Needed In Kenya



WHERE: TIGONI/LIMURU COMMUNITY, KENYA
WHEN: NOV. 27-DEC. 7
WHAT: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HAPPY DAY ACADEMY
COST: \$2,000

Teleios Ministry has been asked to bring a team to lead Vacation Bible School at Happy Day Academy in the Tigoni/Limuru Community.

God has truly been at work here through His servant Mary Mwangi. Her vision for this preschool continues to become a present-day reality in so many ways. Now, that “field” is ripe with potential for reaching the entire community by planting more seeds of God’s love in their hearts and minds in the teaching of VBS.

The cost is only \$2,000 if paid by August 30 and includes airfare, hotel, food, in-country transportation, travel visa, and a one-day safari. After August, the cost is \$2,250 if paid before September 30. After Sept. 30, the cost is \$2,500.

If you have ever felt God leading you to participate in a mission effort like this, then please prayerfully consider joining the Team. If you have any questions or need additional information, then contact Teleios at 864-322-9775 or by e-mailing floyd.parker@teleiosministry.org.

Roma Women’s Conferences Set For October

\$10 Will Provide Sponsorship For One Woman

Two Roma women’s conferences.

Two areas of Romania.

Two dreams at different stages of present-day realities.

“One body and one spirit – one Lord; one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”

(Ephesians 4:4-5)

The Dreams

Over the years, Teleios Ministry has partnered with the Satu Mare Church and the Hungarian Baptist Women of Romania to help with the Roma Women’s Conference in Acas. We have been invited to do so again for this October 24 conference.

In the last newsletter, we shared with you the dream of some in the Gornesti Church to host a one-day event for the Roma (Gypsy) women of Gornesti, Apalina and the surrounding area. This dream has become a reality and will be held October 17!

The Conferences

The focus of this year’s conference in Acas will center on understanding how believers can use their various senses to praise and honor the Lord. Bonnie and Floyd will both be participating during the conference.

The one-day conference in the Gornesti/Apalina area will provide an opportunity for the women who are believers to invite non-believing friends to a day of worship, Bible study of topics related to the lives of women, testimonies and fellowship.

The Need

As with any type of conference, there are expenses...for materials, food and transportation.

Meals will be provided to all participants at both conferences. In fact, lunch will be cooked and served by the men of the Gornesti Church for the October 17 conference.

The cost for food and materials is only \$10 per participant.

Just think, what you pay for one meal on your lunch hour would pay for one Roma woman’s total expenses to attend one of these conferences. Would you consider “brown-bagging” one day, one week, one month, in order to be a sponsor?

As you are led to participate by giving or even going to Romania with the Teleios Team, please call Bonnie Parker at 864-322-9775, or go to our website, www.teleiosministry.org, and click on “Make A Donation.”

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Hand In Hand, Threads Of God's Love Can Truly Change The World

By Suzannah Raffield

I've just returned from Tanzania and four weeks with a maternal health women's sewing cooperative. My time there was remarkable. Joy and sadness seemed exaggerated by the lives and needs of those around me.

As a researcher in Body Theology and maternal health I struggle with the fact that, in Tanzania, one out of 10 women dies as a result of pregnancy. This statistic is preventable, but how do we change it?

On Sundays after church and during my weekday visits, the women with whom I networked asked basic questions about biology and theology. Together we walked through a maternal health Bible study. I wanted them to know that God cares about the health of women and that one out of 10 deaths due to pregnancy is too many. I wanted them to know we could change that number.

Midway through my journey I started to feel overwhelmed. The needs were and are so great and I am one person. I believe that as Baptists we are a part of a worldwide network capable of contributing to the increase of maternal health. While in Tanzania I struggled with the vastness of maternal mortality. Yes, we are part of a network, but how do we engage the network?

I thought about the beautiful African cloth the women in the village wear. I thought about the different ways the cloth can be worn and used. I thought about Baptist women in Alabama, South Carolina, New York and California. And the women in Kidete began to sew. They made bracelets and kitenges (sarongs). The women sat in circles and laughed and sang and sewed. As I watched their hands and heard their stories, I felt less overwhelmed.

Within days of returning home I received a request for 60 bracelets to be used as gifts at a women's meeting. My friends from the village are selling the bracelets as a way to purchase a treadle sewing machine. Now they are 60 percent of the way to their goal.

Because we know economic development means increased opportunities for education, it isn't just a sewing machine and it isn't just a bracelet. Increased education means increased health care. That is how the \$1 bracelets purchased will increase the maternal health of an entire village.

The bracelets and kitenges were made with hands full of hope and love. Some are better crafted than others. The majority of the participants had never used a pair of scissors. The skilled hands of my friends in the cooperative typically draw water,



PHOTOS BY SUZANNAH RAFFIELD



Women of the Kidete Village in Tanzania joined together to form The Kidete Women's Cooperative through which they are committed to work to change not only their lives but the lives of those in their village, district and country.

harvest crops, gather firewood and comfort multiple babies. I imagine that as they craft more items, the flaws will be less frequent. At this time, I consider any blemishes a part of their worth. Their first fruits are worth more than perfection.

The women are busy crafting. They've determined that a portion of the money from upcoming sales will help a sister village begin their own co-op. They believe in the power of networking and know that as the economy develops, so will their secondary school and health clinic.

I believe in the power of networking, too. The local church is poised to make significant contributions to the increase of maternal health. We can assemble birthing kits and we can buy bracelets. We can train birthing attendants and we can buy kitenges. Our collective resources are staggering. What the women of Kidete have to teach us is priceless. We need each other.

Suzannah D. Raffield is a Baptist minister and part-time Ph.D. student at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Prague, Czech Republic.



Opportunities Abound For Daily Bread Life

God continues to open doors of potential for His servants, Mpeli and Neema Mwaisumbe, and Daily Bread Life Children's Home in Iringa, Tanzania.

What follows are recent developments that involve the Daily Bread Life Children's Home, and the Kidete area. The opportunities are exciting and prospects of what they represent are certainly challenging, but we know all things are possible with God.

So please be in prayer for Mpeli, Neema, DBL staff, and Teleios partners. Pray for God's guidance and leadership as these opportunities begin to be revealed in more detail. Pray also for God to open the eyes of His people – here and in Tanzania – to the vision of how we are called to care for the “widows and orphans.”

SECONDARY DORM AT CHILDREN'S HOME

The number of girls and boys at DBLCH reaching secondary school age (13-15) is increasing. These children would be better served by staying at DBLCH and attending government or private secondary schools in the Iringa area rather than sending them to boarding school for their secondary education.

This option would be less expensive. Most importantly, they would remain with their mentors and staff of DBL which would continue to provide the loving, stable, and empowering environment during a very important development period in their lives. Upon turning 18, they will go to high school or will have gone through vocational training and will be better prepared for going out on their own.

Proposed building: A two-story, multi-room dorm complex consisting of six rooms, two shower and toilet rooms, dining hall/sitting room, and matron's room.

Target Completion Date: January 2010

Proposed Investment: \$32,800

BABY ROOM AND COMPUTER ROOM AT CHILDREN'S HOME

A baby room needs to be built at the Children's Home because under the current conditions, they are housed in same dorm as the older children. This is not acceptable for many reasons. We are being asked to take in more infants and must have adequate facilities to house them.

A computer room is needed to help the children with their studies and as they prepare for secondary school.

Target Completion Date: March 31, 2010

Project Investment: \$9,000 for both rooms – includes all labor and materials.

DAILY BREAD LIFE SECONDARY SCHOOL

The vision of continuing the education of the children of the DBL Children's Home has led to the opportunity to build a secondary school in Kidete. This would not only provide for the DBL children but other area children, as well, thereby creating an income-generating project.

The prospective site has an available water supply from a deep-water well that just needs further development of water distribution methods.

Electrical service will be self-generated or provided by government utility. An auxiliary system will also be required for backup. Viable options include solar, wind or petroleum generation.

Proposed Complex: One dormitory similar to current DBLCH dorm with indoor facilities, administration building, dining hall, kitchen, three classrooms and laboratory

Target Start Date: January 2011

Proposed Investment: \$100,000

It Was A Very Different Summer in Romania

By Attila Toth

This summer was very different than any other summer. The difference was made special by two of my good friends, Katie and Anna, who spent their holiday with us, working hard to help people and build God's church.

A lot of people from this area came to me and expressed how they are amazed about the fact that two young girls from a very far country (most of the Gypsies cannot even imagine how far is USA) decided to leave their country and families, they spent their money, energy, summer holiday right here to help our churches, our people, and our children. What else can be the right explanation about this, if is not God, who worked in them and put a wonderful desire in them to come and help.

Every day while they were here, they taught English, worshiped with us in church, visited families, played with children, and youth, cried and laughed with us, even their simple presence was

a testimony for everybody, a testimony about the unity. People could see how we can be united even if we are from a different culture and different country, about love and about how the life Christian life should be.

Both of our main things, English classes and camps, what we did together this summer were very effective. I can see some very important things that we achieved by teaching English. Things such as:

Training our church members. To know English is very important to some of our church members. Some young people and some older ones, too, are at the university where it is necessary to know English. They were very thankful about these weeks where they could learn. I have to mention here, my good brother, Miklos, who said that without these weeks he cannot imagine how he could have passed his English exam.

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Gypsy Summer Camp '09

By Bonnie Parker

In the beautiful Carpathian Mountains, about 25 kilometers from Sibiu near the little village of Sebisus de Sus, Anna Horne, Katie McClung (a.k.a. “the girls”) and I, along with ZoZo Kalanyos, worked with Attila Toth to conduct a week-long camp for a total of 43 children from the Apalina community and the church at Gornesti. It was the third year for the Apalina children to have a summer camp experience. The Gornesti children had never been to summer camp before. The Istvan Borzai family also joined us for this week.

We returned for a second week of camp with 44 children from the Glodeni/Marossrapatak and Dubravioaro/Saomberke areas. In addition to the girls, Attila, ZoZo and myself, Zoli and Abigail Dohi helped conduct this week of camp. Zoli and Abigail have been working to establish ministry among the Gypsies in Glodeni/Marossrapatak since October of 2008. ZoZo has a children’s ministry in the village of Dubravioaro/Saromberke.

While these words and pictures cannot adequately convey the feelings or spirit of the two camps, we hope you will be able to see the fun we had learning through worship, Bible stories, singing, crafts and recreation.

What a richness and joy the weeks brought to all our lives! Like summer camps everywhere, weather and behavior had their moments!

Our theme for the week was “Every Child Has a Plan in God’s Purpose.” Through Bible stories about the lives of children we looked at how God loves children, calls them and uses them to accomplish His work. Samuel, David, Naaman’s servant girl, the boy with the loaves and fishes, and Miriam provided examples of children doing and being what God called them to.

Crafts and games would also relate to the daily Bible story. Beading necklaces and bracelets with wooden fish reminded them to offer what they have to be used by God. Painting wind chimes that would tingle as the breeze moved through them offered to the children a simple, yet tangible, example of evidence of the power of God. Proudly, each child carried home treasures they made with their own hands as reminders of days spent enjoying their summer camp experience.

Though none of them had ever played the game, “Bingo” was also a great success as the children listened carefully to hear the call! Football (soccer) and swimming in the river added to the week’s adventures.

Thank you for your prayers and contributions that made this experience a reality for all of us. Truly, it was a blessing from God!



Gypsy Summer Camp '09



By Katie McClung

This summer, Anna Horne and I returned to Romania to teach English and to assist in ministry activities with the Hungarian and Gypsy churches in Attila Toth's area.

God first gave us the vision for such a trip last year when we traveled to Romania, met Attila, and conducted camp for the Gypsy children from Apalina. Anna and I both felt an instant connection to Attila's work and especially to the children! When we left Romania last year, we both felt strongly that our work in Romania was not done. In the months that followed we prayed, discussed, and prayed some more, and finally began making plans to return for a summer-long stay of nine weeks.

Serving for this extended period of time allowed us to experience daily life in Attila's ministry. We saw firsthand how hard he works with all of the churches in his area and learned about many of the joys and struggles of ministry, especially among the Gypsy people.

Of course, when we weren't teaching or attending meetings, we found fun ways to relax! Whether hosting game night in our apartment, going swimming at the neighborhood pool, or fishing with Gypsies, we enjoyed our rest times and built lasting friendships with other young people in Attila's ministry. We were also blessed again to experience the generosity and hospitality of our Christian brothers and sisters as they hosted us countless times for delicious Hungarian and Gypsy meals!

Above all, what made this summer so special and so valuable were the ways God showed Himself to me through my experiences and interactions. Through each congregation of believers God taught me the importance of an all-encompassing Christian identity. Through the hospitality of those believers God taught me about His constant provision and the beauty of His international church. Through the challenges of working with Gypsy children at camp God taught me about His unconditional love for me, and through the lives and ministries of Attila, Zoli and Zozo, God taught me about His call to full self-sacrifice in the Kingdom. I can say with confidence and joy, and humbled by God's grace, that I will never be the same!

Anna and I share with our new friends and family in Romania an overwhelming gratefulness to our families and supporting partners. That gratitude has overflowed into worshipping God because of the work He – through them – has allowed us to do in this ministry!

May God, out of His glorious riches, bless those who financially and prayerfully supported us, encouraged us, and cared for us during the preparation and completion of our summer mission in Romania.



SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 6



Gypsy Summer Camp '09

Anna Horne Blogs...

I think in my last post I wrote about God's unfathomable love for us, and it seems almost prophetic now as I read it, because I struggled so much with that during the week at camp. I love these children so much, even when they are at their most unlovable. It took me time to realize that, because I had moments where I couldn't speak because I was so upset with them. But the more I began to think about it, when the children would deliberately do the opposite of what they were told I no longer took it personally. I came to the realization that we live our lives in direct opposition to God's will every day. So this entire week was like a mini analogy of God's love for us. Even at their worst, I adore my children. Even at my worst, God adores me. There is nothing redeemable about me, and yet I have been redeemed! I was so humbled after this realization during the week that I couldn't possibly be in a bad mood.

I am humbled every time I think about the hospitality and generosity of so many people who didn't even know us before we came. People gave so much of their love and time during our stay here in more ways than just feeding us. We have best friends here and we have a family here with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Gornesti, Apalina, Reghin, Filpisu Mic, and all over. So many people have gone out of their way to make sure that we were taken care of physically, emotionally, and even spiritually.

I believe that God was preparing me for something huge by what I lived and experienced in Romania; whether He chooses to take me back there or not. I have been changed - I still don't know why He chose me, but I cannot ignore Him, I can only respond, "Here I am, for you *did* call me." My Father has placed an indelible mark on my soul. I wait in anticipation for whatever He has in store.

Thank you to everyone reading this for your prayers and support while Katie and I were overseas this summer. Please continue to pray for the children and all of the churches we were able to be a part of. Katie and I would love to be able to return next summer, but it all depends on what God has in store for us. Please know that I am humbled and immensely grateful for all of your support and prayers. We really could feel them while we were there, so thank you more than you know.



Children's Ministry Grows From 'Hello'



Magdi (Papp) and Arpi Suto (second couple from left) have helped establish a children's ministry in the area of a nearby apartment complex. Through the simple acts of speaking to the children and having backyard Bible school, the group has grown to more than 30 children.

At the insistence of the children, this group has sponsored a child through the Pro-Africa Project between Romania and Kenya. Please pray for God's continued blessing on this endeavor.

This Just In...

From Kenya...

Ruaka – Koinonia Church celebrated their four-year anniversary last week. The worship service had over 400 in attendance. Praise God for this fellowship of believers and their witness in the community! Construction on the new building is progressing. Ask God's continued blessings on this body of believers as they serve Him in this location of the world.

South Rift, Central, and Eastern Kenya – Partner Bernard Kabaru Mwangi wrote asking us to “raise a prayer alert” as they are now in the worst drought in Kenyan history in these areas. The season of long rains did not come. There is a serious shortage of food as crops have failed due to lack of rain. Our brothers and sisters in Christ in Mucatha are dealing with extreme rationing of electricity due to the shortage of water. Sipili (location of the medical clinic in April) lost their entire maize crop. Pray for rain to relieve the drought. Ask God to provide food for these regions during this time of famine.

From Romania...

Apalina – Church planter Attila Toth has received funds from a foundation in England to purchase a piece of land on which to build a church building. The land is just a short distance from where the church currently meets. Please be in prayer for Attila and the church members as they begin the next step in completing the legal paperwork for purchase. Pray for resources (people and financial) to construct the building and God's timing for this to take place.

IMMEDIATE NEED: \$1,000 to build a fence around the property to prevent vandalism before and during construction.

Satu Mare – Zoltan Vekas is undergoing an experimental chemotherapy treatment at the Medical University of Cluj in conjunction with the Medical University of Vienna, Austria. Pray for Zoltan and family as they make decisions regarding their future. Also pray that this study will yield results beneficial to cancer patients everywhere.

Acas, Sandormorhook and Tiriam – The Gypsy churches in these three villages will baptize 16 new members this month. Praise God for the movement of His Spirit among the people here. Thank Him for those who provided labor in His fields bringing about the harvest for the Kingdom.

From USA...

Greenville, SC – Pray for Teleios board member Anne Hitt. Anne and Tom's daughter, Stephanie Hitt Coker, passed away suddenly in July due to a complication of childbirth. Pray for strength and encouragement during these days of grief. As they seek to help their son-in-law Heath with their two precious grandchildren, Alex (7 yrs.) and Ziva (8 wks.), pray they will be led by God to discern their role and use His wisdom to carry it forward.

Falls Church, VA – Teleios board member Alan Stanford has accepted the call to be Senior Pastor of Leesburg Community Church, Leesburg, VA. Pray for Alan and his wife, Elaine, as they relocate and begin their ministry in Leesburg.

SUMMER

Continued from page 3

Building relationship with those who are not believers. This is one of the biggest issues in mission. Thanks be to God that during those weeks Katie and Anna taught English a lot non-believers spent time with us, and we had opportunities to share with them our love and the gospel. Especially at Gornesti, it was very good to see that day by day people were coming to classes. Even from Peris, new children came which we never met before. Pray with us for our new relationships.

Building relationship between churches. Sometimes our churches are very far from each other, even if we believe almost the same thing. It was a great joy for me that especially in Reghin young people from the Brethren Church came and participated in English class. During that week we came closer to each other so after that week they came even for a youth meeting. I am praising the Lord for that, and am praying forward to see even more unity between believers here. The girls, Katie and Anna, did a very great work. We wish God's blessing upon their life.

At the beginning of July, Bonnie Parker joined us, and we did two Gypsy camps together. I cannot express enough how thankful we are for Teleios Ministry and for everybody who helped us through Teleios Ministry with these camps. Without your helps these children never could spend a week in the camp like they did this summer.

Even if the two weeks at camp were very different because of the different kind of Gypsy children, I am very happy because God's blessing was upon both weeks. Next to the good food, fun games, and happy songs, the children heard through Bible stories about God's purpose with their lives.

I am very glad that God worked in some children's hearts so intensive that they made a decision to follow Jesus. I am very thankful for Bonnie who was the “heart” and “mind” at this camp. She made the Bible study plans, all that craft work and a lot of other things. And for Katie and Anna, for Borzasi family, for Dohi family, for Zozo and for everybody who helped with financial, prayer or work support, God bless you and help you continue His work.





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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.....

Teleios Ministry: Helping God-Given Visions Become Present-Day Realities.

For almost 10 years, every time you see a Teleios Ministry newsletter, web site, letter, any form of communication, you read the phrase above.

As you study the lives of men and women of vision in the Bible (sometimes called dreams—Abraham, Joseph, Mary, Paul, etc.), you see that vision comes with great cost or sacrifice. When they have this vision, they do not see all the cost. Joseph had a dream/vision of prominence and power that excited him and that he shared with his family (*Genesis 37-49*). He did not know the cost of that dream/vision. He had a God-given vision. God did not show him the path, only the vision.

When we think of a vision, we think of everything working out well and living happily ever after—peace, prosperity, or whatever you want to add to the list. But, a God-given vision comes at a great cost. Truth is that the cost is rarely revealed when we first catch the vision or dream the dream. Over time, the cost comes into focus. How we deal with that cost is really what makes or breaks the vision. We could become focused on the

cost, the adversity, the price of the vision in real-life terms. While the cost of our salvation was borne by Jesus Christ, the cost of a God-given vision is played out in our lives.

We have to be honest about a vision or dream. There is a cost that we cannot measure or know until we begin its pursuit. We can anticipate, strategize, plan, or calculate, but we cannot really know the cost until we begin to live the dream—pursue the vision. The cost then becomes all too real. Sometimes the realization of the vision comes only after years of “cost.” God guides us, moves us, positions us so that we can fulfill the vision He has given us. He brings people into our lives to assist, encourage, guide, and, sometimes, challenge us.

There is no greater way to live than in pursuit of a vision given by God. God-given visions always involve changing people’s lives in Jesus. God-given visions always have a real world, practical, everyday impact. God-given visions always have a cost. Honestly, sometimes the cost of the Teleios vision is a great struggle. I thank God that out of those times comes times of great renewal to the vision.

Why did I write this Reflection? Because I realize that many times churches and people fail to pursue God-given visions because of the cost.

The “Christian” road is littered with abandoned visions. People have misunderstood that a God-given vision is without cost, or that God will make the road smooth. I have learned that the greater the vision the more jailers for Paul, more jealous siblings for Joseph, more misunderstanding and pain by Mary, and on and on. Cost is the opportunity for the greater work of God. Cost is the witness, the testimony.

Mine and Bonnie’s God-given vision is to help the God-given visions of others become a present-day reality. The cost pales in comparison to the visions that this newsletter contains.

Thank you for walking with us in prayer, encouragement, support, and challenge as we pursue our God-given vision of assisting others with their visions. Let us fulfill our vision by assisting you in pursuing yours.

With Love In Christ,

Floyd

