

DARE TO DREAM



Dear family and friends,

I'm sorry it has taken so long before updating you on what is going on here in Kenya. One of the reasons is that I have been busy. In this update I will share with you about speaking opportunities I had, outreach, Suba Lakers, Nyechebe beach, organizing and hosting a workshop and moving into the community.

Speaking at churches and schools:

The last month and a half I had the privilege to speak at two churches and a high school. At both churches I was invited and spoke about the same thing. I had shared about a story from the Bible, the prodigal son. (Luke 15:11-32) it is a story about how we view God and who He actually is.



At the school I spoke on identity, and who are you following. Something that happened here was that the teachers from the government-funded school were on strike. They have been promised a raise and never been given. So the students went home and did nothing. After a while some of the girls wanted to make money and started selling themselves. Yes, they started prostituting them self. For such a low price that the other prostitutes started complaining. Now these girls are between the ages of 15-18 years old. So when I was at the school I spoke on who you follow, that the moment others do something doesn't mean that it is a good thing. I got a lot of response from this talk and both teachers and students were happy to hear this and invited me back to speak there.



With a group from SEEK we went to a place called Lwanda. This is a fishing village and a place where a lot of poverty is. We have been invited by a pastor to come and evangelize. Now the way our organization is set up, is not just to talk about God. We always talk about how to improve the lives of the people in practical ways. So we have been teaching there about farming, pollution, managing the environment, business and many other topics. We stayed here for 3 days in tents, had many good talks with people from the area and as you see in the picture, many children to entertain.

Suba Lakers:

As you may know I have been coaching a local girls football team who are playing in the national league right now. This has also been taking much of my time, and it has been great. Especially the last game we had played, the girls were playing amazing. All the passing that they did, setting up through the wings and keeping the rest in the game. It was like watching a professional game. All the things that I have been teaching them they applied. We won that game, even though the others were bigger and stronger, we still out played them. We are continuing with the second round right now the 28th of October was my last game training them before I went home.



I also would like to ask you, that if you have any football (soccer) gear and are not using it anymore to let me know and send it to me. So that I can bring it with me to Kenya. This would help the club and the girls so much. This could be shoes, shirts, shorts, shin-guards, socks or anything you think we could use.

Nyechebe Beach:

I have mentioned Nyechebe beach before. This is a place were the main income for the people is fishing and where immorality is higher than any other place from this area.

Nyechebe beach is one of the many reasons why this province has the highest rate of HIV. Fisherman come in from the other side of the lake and arrive here to sell their fish. If the women want to buy fish they will have to perform sexual favors. This creates the high HIV rate, children without fathers and women without self-value. We have decided as SEEK, that we are going to focus on this village. We are starting with the business owners, since a lot of the immorality starts there. We have come in and have

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been asking about the needs, their view of the village and what needs to change. One of the needs that came up was the need of education in business management. This was interesting since I just had a meeting with the person who organizes these kind of training sessions.



Micro and small enterprise workshop:

After meeting with some people in Homa Bay and talking with the people at Nyechebe Beach, we decided to continue organizing the workshop that would be benefiting the small enterprises/businesses in Mbita. I had put together the schedule, the dates, location and with the support of some of you we were able to help fund this workshop to keep the cost down. We invited the participants and got the speakers together. So in the 22nd we got started with the workshop. The participants were excited and really interactive with the speakers. We had speakers from KIBT (Kenyan institute of Business Training), chamber of commerce, Equity bank, Women Enterprise Fund, Youth Enterprise Development Fund, immigration office, district commissioner, and more speakers. They spoke on bookkeeping, networking, funding, biblical business, communication and more. For most of the people that we invited to this workshop have never gotten the opportunity to get education like this. The people loved the education and have more hope for their business and future, I could maybe even say that we got them dreaming again...



Going home:

In one of the last email that I wrote I said that I'm coming home for a 2-month break. At first I wasn't to sure about going home, because so many things started rolling here that I was scarred that I would lose all of that. But now I'm realizing that it is a well needed break. Especially when I called a friend of mine, talking about going to visit him and

see the fashion show he is organizing. He asked me the question, 'How are you doing personally?' hmmm... Good question. I realized that living a life like this it is hard to get refilled and see how you are doing personally. Therefore I'm at LA right now seeing friends, supporters and many others.

Moving off base:

These last 6 months I have been living on the SEEK base in Mbita. This has been a great welcome to Kenya and has given me the opportunity to go into town and see what the possibilities are, housing wise. I had said before I came to Kenya, that I would look for a community to focus on and live in. Well I did that. I have found a place to live. It is a small place with 2 bedrooms, living room and kitchen area. When I'm in the bedroom I can touch both walls at the same time with my hands. So like I said it isn't big, but this gets me closer to the community and this way I can relate with them better. I'm very excited to move into this place and continue the work I have been doing. I will continue to work with SEEK. And continue with the amazing work that has been happening so far.



Prayer Points and Requests:

These are some things that I could use your prayer and support in:

- Favor and guidance and a lot of wisdom (from other people).
- Open doors for getting the NGO status.
- Extra finances for getting the NGO status.
- Financial supporters, preferably on a monthly base for personal and/or project support.
- Having a good time connecting with friends and family at home - Encouragements by email, letter or any other way.
- Football (soccer) gear for the Suba Lakers.

Love & Blessings,

Bob de Groot

www.projectdaretodream.com

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