



Two months of YWAM LA in Kenya

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Visitors:

Last year I was telling some people; 'you know what I miss when I'm in Africa? Some of my friends! Well, this year God made it happen and brought me some visitors. In the month of May, my friend Roger came out for 10 days. He has been a good friend of mine for a couple of years now and he decided that he wanted to come and visit me. We had a lot of fun in the 10 days he was here, but in that time he was able to see some of the hard reality that exists where I live. Some of the things he saw here have changed his life and he is longing to come back to Africa.

The other visitor was my sister, Rosa. This was a great surprise to me, because I never thought she would want to come here. But I'm so happy that she chose to come. She went with me to all my visits, and whenever I had to do some work by myself, she would take the time to sit in the shade and read a book.

It has been a great blessing to have these two come out to Kenya and see how I live here and walk the same roads, eat the same food and deal with the same heat. Thank you guys for coming.



Roger after 1,5 weeks in Kenya, and he loved it

Teams:

After my YWAM LA team left in the first week of July, we received two other teams. They weren't teams that I was in charge of, but I was able to assist and help in whatever way possible. Three days after YWAM LA left, the second team arrived; Calvary Rivergate from Nashville. This team was in Kenya two years ago as well, so I remembered a lot of the team members from last time. I became good friends with some people from that team.

After Calvary Rivergate went home, we had one week to breathe and before the next team arrived. This team was from Smyrna, Tennessee. Some of you might remember my friend Curt who also has been living in Mbita Kenya. Well, this team was from his home church and some of his friends were able to come along with them, so he was very excited for them to arrive. This also marked two years of serving in Kenya for Curt, which meant that he was headed home.



Calvary Rivergate team getting ready for a group photo at the end of their stay in Kenya

With both teams, we were able to do so many things here in Mbita; from teacher training, to hosting 950 children for games and lunch, building a shop for widows, to praying over the area with 150 children. And so much more! On both teams I was able to meet some old friends, but also some new ones who have been such a blessing to me. I'm sure they'll be friends for many years to come! My role with these teams was just to make sure that if there was anything they needed, I would be there to help them out. I also know that it is nice for visitors to be able to talk with someone about the things they see and experience with someone who knows both cultures. It was such an honor to be able to be that person for these two teams. They were a huge blessing to me, and I hope I was the same to them.

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Business Training Uganda:

Somewhere in May/June I received a message from a good friend from LA saying that he was coming to Uganda in July and that it would be great to meet up. A week later I received another message from him, 'Oh and could you speak with me about micro finance?' Well, sure! So in July I made my way out to Kampala, Uganda to meet up with my friend and his daughter to speak to 30-50 business people about micro finance. My friend spoke on social media and how that can and will help their businesses. This was such a great teaching for me, but the people there loved it even more. To them, Facebook and Twitter are still just social communication tools not meant for business. So this lecture was a great revelation for them.



After my friend and I were finished speaking, people came to us saying that next year we should come again, but stay with them for a whole week. So, we will be back next year!

Business Training Kenya:

This year we have organized another business training. This time we had two different groups in one week. One was our regular group of various business owners from the community. The other group was a group of widows that SEEK has been working with for almost a year. They taught them a skill and are now planning on opening a shop where they can sell their products. They asked me if I could help with training them in business, so I gladly spoke to them as well.

Our 4th and 5th business training from that week brought us to a total of 75 trained business owners. It was again a great success and at the end of August / beginning of September, we will begin with our follow up visits.

The business training was primarily funded by those who had bought a picture book this last winter. Some of your

donations have also been used to pay for the widow's certificates. Thank you guys for that!



Mary Mora was also one of the widows who attended the training

New Loans:

The month of July was a great month for loans. We were able to give out 5 new loans! On our website, you can find more information about to whom we have given new loans out. We are not able to do this without your donations and I want to thank you for that. Some specifically gave towards loans and others gave donations without specific designation, so we looked at where the biggest need was. Our 'Dreamers' are our biggest priority and are always looking at how we can help them in the best way possible. At the end of August we should be able to give one, maybe even two more loans out. That would bring us to 12 loans to date. Step by step we are making an impact in the area!



Carolyn is now waiting for funding for a new loan

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A Dreamer; Martin

As you may remember we like to highlight one of our 'Dreamers' in every update. This time we would like to highlight Martin.

Martin is a beekeeper and also processes honey for sales. He received a loan from Dare To Dream and was able to repay that loan in 3 months time. Martin is a hard worker and has a great vision for his business. Because he repaid the loan so fast and continues to work hard we allowed him to apply one more time with Dare To Dream to give him a final push. So if you are interested in this send us an email for more information on his loan application and details.

We continue to visit him and call him even though he has finished his repayments. For all of us to grow we don't just need money, we need to know that we are not alone in this world and that we are doing it together.



Martin was able to purchase packaging materials and extra honey stock

Searching:

This last month we have been looking for someone to take over my (Bob de Groot) position in Mbita. In our process of handing over to project to SEEK we had to look for a person that can do my job.

After reading through and short-listing we finally came down to 5 out of the 20 applications. Last week we had our job interviews and at the end we were pretty sure on who it was going to be. Now we just have to go into discussing the details of the job contract and all. When we have officially hired her, that's when the training will start. And at the end of November she should be able to run the project together with Nick from SEEK, with who I have been working since the beginning.

Right now it will look like I need to pay this persons wage out of my own pocket. If there is someone who has it on their heart to help pay this persons wage kindly send me an email. We are looking for a way to have the project fully self-sustainable, but that will probably be sometime next year.

Next:

This year we are not just looking for a person to take over my job, but also a new location to start the Dare To Dream project. At the moment we have multiple locations and options, but we are not sure where to go. We are always open for your input and new ideas, so please contact us.

We also are very thankful for your support, that as we are looking back at these almost three years, we realize that we could never have done anything without you support. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts and the hearts of the Kenyan people!

Love and Blessings,

Bob de Groot
Dare To Dream



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