

799 Cranston Ct.,
Burlington, Ont. L7T 2Y6
March 17, 1986.

Dear Brethren and Sisters.

Greetings and Love in the Master's Name:

Please pardon the delay in preparing a report on the welfare of our Brethren and Sisters in Kenya.

Since the last report from here, Bro. Ed and Sis. Delma Truelove visited Kenya and brought us up to date as to the conditions there in his letter to the brotherhood on their return. Sis. Annetta Jones has also visited Kenya and all have been of great help in working with the brethren and sisters. The Instructor has been translated into Swahili which will be of much help in the education of the young in the knowledge of the Truth.

Their visits have also been instrumental in arranging with Bro. Epaphras a method of accounting as to the receipt and disbursements of the funds that he receives. This information we receive during the year which helps us in our budgeting to meet their requirements. Enclosed is a copy of one of the reports which indicates how the monies have been spent. I don't think there is a need to send all of the detailed information that we receive but feel free to ask any questions on this subject and I will send additional information.

In 1985 we sent to Kenya \$7800 U.S. dollars and \$4100. Canadian dollars. In January, February and March of 1986 we have contributed \$2400. Canadian dollars and \$900. U.S. dollars. This is considerably more than past years but we have received good support from the brethren and sisters which has enabled us to undertake additional projects to assist our Kenyan brethren and sisters.

The disbursements primarily consist of expenses as follows:

Travel to the various ecclesias to support and encourage them.
Stationery and postage and money order expense.
Batteries, tape recorders, and battery recharging.
Wine for meetings
Sustenance of the orphan children.
Money, food and clothing for welfare assistance for those in need.

Medical and funeral expenses.
Bibles and books.
Fabric to make clothing.

Besides the above general expenses we have been able to supply four bicycles for better communication between ecclesias. We also have supplied eight tape recorders to assist in the edification of the brethren and sisters. A special donation was made to have a special bicycle made for Bro. Johnson to help him get around. You will remember that he is the crippled brother who some of you have seen photographs of. All of the above has been possible through the donations of the brotherhood and we thank our Heavenly Father for prospering us that we are able to assist those who are not as fortunate as we are.

The words of Matt. 25 ring clear in our ears. "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Bro. Philip and Bro. Epaphras Wekati are to be commended for their labour to keep the lightstand of Truth burning in Kenya.. Bro. Epaphras writes. "As for welfare assistance, we have been careful not to make it appear that this body is a kind of donor society." We are pleased that that this is the attitude that they embrace and are confident that such shall continue with the encouragement of us all.

We have been able to send extra money for other purposes than just welfare, as you can see. There have been times in the past when we could only meet the minimum requirements but a special donation from one of our ecclesias has relieved the anxiety and will help us to do other things of a longer range.

After Bro. Ed's last trip we have had discussions and correspondence on Bro. Ed's proposal that we endeavour to do things that eventually will make the Kenyans self-sufficient and relieve the need of ever increasing welfare requirement, which cannot help but happen if we leave things entirely as they are. As it has aptly been said "It is better to purchase a fishing pole and show a man how to fish than constantly supply the fish."

Bro. Epaphras has outlined a detailed list of proposals that he sees, if implemented, will help them take care of themselves and keep the welfare assistance to a minimum. In Matt. 26:11 we read, "For ye have the poor always with you:" but the Kenyan brethren and sisters would like to be able to look after their own if it could be made possible. They are industrious and desire to be independent and are willing to do their part to achieve this.

We know that our Lord is at the door and may appear at any time and even though we know this and hope and pray for His early appearing we carry on our lives and make plans only with the attitude "if the Lord wills." In this light we have the opportunity to improve the quality of life of our brethren and sisters and assist them in many ways to make their lot easier and give them something to work for.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter from Bro. Epaphras which outlines his suggestions. I have since requested that he give us a list of priorities as he sees them. In discussing this with Bro. Ed he feels that Education and the rental and cultivation of land are very important. The government pays for primary education only but not for any high school education. Unless a student can graduate from high school it is very difficult for he or she to become gainfully employed and they will always require assistance to survive. In Bro. Epaphras letter to me of Feb. 6, 1986 he states. "From the fund I have paid out some to two brethren and a sister for help with their school fees for the first term (semester) at least part of the term pending your instructions. As for the proposed projects, the brethren are willing to assist in implementing them so it won't be a one man show." This is Bro. Epa's way of saying that he will have some help in achieving what he would like to see accomplished.

The figures he is quoting are in Kenyan shillings. To convert Ksh to Canadian dollars remove the last zero and this gives you our dollars. e.g. 2500 Ksh equals \$250. Canadian dollars. So the care of the orphans is \$500. per year (5000 Ksh) which is low by anyone's standards. U.S. dollars purchase 40% more Ksh so for quickly converting Ksh to U.S. Dollars you divide by 140. e.g. 5000.Ksh equals \$357. This will give you an idea of the amounts that Bro. Epa is talking about in his proposals.

I would appreciate, if after you read Bro. Epaphras proposals carefully that you will give us your comments, ideas and suggestions. Perhaps the total program is too much to handle in a year but it is important that we be aware of what is necessary to make these brethren and sisters self sufficient over a period of time. It is important that we give this serious consideration.

We do have enough in our fund at this time to be able to initiate some of these projects, such as education, land rental and the purchase of sewing machines. But we must approach the complete program with caution.. Welfare, care of the orphans, the sick and the needy are our first consideration and Epaphras is well aware of the priority of this area.

We feel also, that we should try to keep funds in reserve for the unforeseen, such as the threat of another drought already experienced in Africa through which, in the mercy of our Heavenly Father our brethren and sisters were able to survive.

The fear of war and it's effects on brethren, sisters and their families is ever with us in these last days. Unfortunately in Africa the authorities are not sympathetic to our cause of not bearing arms and we fear the oppression that may come about if and when war breaks out.

With these thoughts in mind we can only ask that you continue with your contributions but if any brother, sister or ecclesia would like to sponsor a particular endeavour as outlined in Epaphras program I will certainly allocate such donations for to be used as directed. One of the dangers of making contributions is any show of favouritism. In the matter of education we suggest to Epaphras that the criteria for assistance should be based on a degree of eligibility--that is a standard of grade marks should be achieved in primary school in order to qualify for sponsorship to enter high school.

All assistance should be done through Bro. Epaphras as he and his father, Bro. Philip distribute the funds according to their judgement and the guidelines that we are able to give them. This method of distributing monies prevents dissatisfaction among the brethren and sisters which might occur when assistance comes from various sources. We also want to preserve the anonymity of our assistance.

There is much more that can be added to what has already been said but I leave any further remarks on the foregoing to answer any of your inquiries for additional information from Bro. Ed Truelove or myself.

We are grateful to the efforts of Bro. Ed and Sis Delma and also Sis Annettain their labour of love in assisting our brethren and sisters in Kenya. It is very important that we maintain our contact with them through regular visits and to be realistic the expenses should not be left entirely to those who desire to go to be of assistance.

Many of you have been probably unaware of a problem in Kenya in regard to Bro. Moses Masika. Bro. Moses was a Central fellowship brother when Bre. Ed, David and myself interviewed him for fellowship. Whereas we realized he was an energetic, enthusiastic and of an organizing nature we were unaware of his past but were assured of his sincerity.

He evidently became dissatisfied with the amount of welfare monies that he was receiving but the Wekati brethren felt that there were others who were more needful. Bro. Moses therefore set out to discredit Bro. Philip and Bro. Epa. and to take a group of followers with him. The Lutaso ecclesia left us but the members of his own ecclesia did not. It was not long before the Lutaso members found that they had been deceived and have since returned to our fellowship.

Moses is now alone as he has been refused by those to whom he desired to return. This has been a valuable lesson to our Kenyan brethren and sisters in that they were shown the way of right by Bre. Philip and Epa regarding matters of conduct and fellowship. We are all aware that in these last days the brotherhood is in a sifting process and the Lord continues to choose and reject.

On behalf of our brethren and sisters in Kenya we thank you for your support. Bro. Epaphras writes in one of his letters.

"As much as we would like to get the brethren who receive the assistance funds acknowledge receipt and write back a letter of appreciation it seems it can only be done verbally. Maybe pictures would show the mood of the recipients as they receive various items with joy. And they sure appreciate what they receive.

They have received clothing, reading materials, food, tape recorders and hard cash or money orders. Some acknowledge in writing some verbally. Thanks on behalf of the members of the Kenyan ecclesias, for the labours done towards our spiritual and material welfare. Son in the Truth, Epa"

Our Kenyan brethren and sisters do not want to be forgotten. They need a sense of belonging even as we do. Letters of encouragement are necessary and much appreciated.

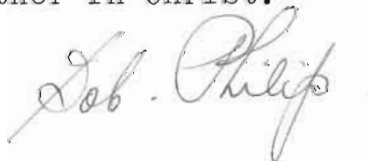
With reference to our Brother and Sister and family in Chile. We have been able to send assistance through the Houston Ecclesia as donations have been received which include help to be directed for this purpose.

As I am no longer retired I have difficulty in acknowledging promptly the receipt of donations..simply because I prefer to reply with a personal letter. However, all donations to the fund should and will be acknowledged even by using a form letter .

We look forward to hearing from you with your remarks and suggestions regarding this report.

In the hope of Eternal Life which we pray that we will all be able to receive at the return of our Lord and Master that we may dwell together in the Kingdom.

Your brother in Christ.



P.O. Box 552
Bungoma, Kenya
E. Africa

EDITED COPY OF BRO. EPAPHRAS LETTER WITH NON-RELATED MATERIAL REMOVED.

December 10th, 1985

Dear bro Ed,

I will try to comment and put some suggestions on questions we have been considering for the past few months on improving the welfare of our brethren and sisters in this part of the world.

SPONSORED EDUCATION: There is no doubt that this would be a worthwhile project in which to put the money for the future welfare of the young as well as the older brethren who would benefit from the upcoming youngsters. As you very well put it in your March Report, education is the lifeblood of existence, materially, in our society. Without education there is little one can do to survive. We have at present six young brethren and sisters whose performance at school or institutions is encouraging. If sponsored, I am almost certain it would pay dividends in the end. Some of them have a year or two to complete the basic employment standard--grade 12. If we set aside Ksh 18,000/= - 20,000/= for the year, it will see them through at the rate of a round figure of about Ksh 3,000/= each for the year 1986. We are thinking of brethren John, Pinon, Arphaxad, Joshua, and sisters Sarah and Catherine to start with.

KNITTING AND SEWING MACHINES: This is another area where money can be useful in alleviating the problems of unemployment. Machines differ in size and usefulness. Looking around and comparing prices, there are machines that sell in a range from Ksh 2,500/= to Ksh 8,000/=. To put a round figure on a cheaper machine, knitting or sewing, we would do with Ksh 3,000/=. If we consider, say, five machines we would put aside Ksh 15,000/=.

MARRIAGE ARTICLE: We are doing our very best to educate our brethren and sisters on the importance of this subject, and the paper you sent has been of very great use in emphasizing the point. Do not tire on this spiritual aspect of assistance to us for it is paramount to our very existence as sons and daughters of the Living God.

HELP TO THE UNEDUCATED: Monthly or quarterly assistance to such brethren and sisters is not, indeed, CANNOT be adequate. Here is a class of people who cannot be employed except as casual laborers; and even this kind of job is hard to come by on permanent terms. We have considered this area and have come up with suggestions which may help to make them self-supporting in the long run. We would like our ideas to be put in motion next year. These ideas tally with what you observed and learned from your previous visits here.

FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICAL CARE: I will start with medical care. On account of the fear our brethren and sisters have over medical fees and the nuisance of visiting government medical centres only to be turned away because there is no medicine, we have thought of approaching one of the private clinics to appoint them as our family doctor, where the family comprises of all our members who may need medical care from time to time. This will cut down on emergencies considerably.

We shall continue to buy or offer money from the fund for the purchase of food and clothing where and when the need arises; but better suggestions are being considered so each family can have a source independent of the fund from which the family can be fed and clothed as we shall see below.

For the orphans, the figure of Ksh 5,000/= per year may still work for 1986 towards their needs.

BETTER HOUSING AND GREATER FOOD PRODUCTION: Brother Bob had asked something about this housing business. If he gets it from you it would still have been said, or communicated to him.

The first housing project can go to brother Francis Bwibo who has a genuine problem on shelter. Since leaving to Uganda he has run from one problem to another. His wife and kids had to escape trouble torn Uganda back to Kenya. It is suggested that the money offered for this could first go to this brother who, although he left for Uganda against our instruction, trouble there cannot allow him to stay. We shall do something for him in this country, God willing. I do not know yet about citizenship, but he seems to have relations in this country.

Another brother to consider is Gabriel Kuto.

If, then, we consider at least three families for houses next year, this would have been quite a worthwhile project. It is mainly the roof to consider; the rest can be erected by the owner. Also, consideration for the labour on the roof is earmarked.

Total cost for the three houses should be about Ksh 12,000/=.

If water tanks are to be considered, it would help families with iron-roofed houses to draw water from their home during the rainy season. What a help!

On food production many suggestions have been put. One is that during this and next month maize and beans could be bought and stored for a rainy day (or should we say a SUNNY day!) in the future. It is cheaper now but prices are apt to go up around March. Another suggestion is that arrangements to hire land on an ecclesial basis could be done now, and a joint venture on cultivating could be done as the year starts. This is considered mainly in the western area where supervision could be carried out easily. We have eight ecclesias here to think of. An acre of land for rent is Ksh 500/= per year. If five acres are rented for the eight ecclesias the total cost for rental would be about Ksh 20,000/= per year. In addition, seedlings will be required as well as ploughing the land. Hiring a tractor to do the ploughing may cost in the range of Ksh 7,000/=. Weeding can be done as a collective thing by members, as well as harvesting. The produce will be for the benefit of the individual members who worked towards the production of the food.

For those who have sufficient land, it is suggested that manure could be bought for them beginning January.

TRADE AS A MEANS OF GENERATING INCOME: We have brethren who have small trades. It is suggested that we offer them something (capital) that may initially be called a loan so they may work harder towards making more money to help bring up the commercial venture. Brother Zadok Mabino falls in this category. Since he is schooled in shoe repair he could do with a few pairs of shoes for sale and see how it works. If it works, good; if it flops, well...

We have brother John Simiyu Walubengo and brother Vincent Rogers Wafula who trade in clothes as hawkers. If we offered them initial starting capital we could monitor their progress and give it our blessing or otherwise, depending upon success or failure.

If this works, and we have those working with the sewing machines to do repair work, in due course we shall have a family supporting itself. Why don't we set aside some funds for such a project beginning next year - perhaps Ksh 10,000/=?

WATER WELLS: It would be a good idea to see this project start early next year. It was suggested that three water wells could be started at Kimikungi, Chenjeni, and Nasianda. When the first three are functioning well, another three could be considered; another one for Kimikungi to cater for members away from the vicinity of the ecclesial hall, one at Makuma, and one at Lutaso. Nalondo will have to wait. Estimate of total cost for three wells - Ksh 6,000/=.

TRAVELLING: We must thank those who have contributed towards this project from the heart. It is a joy to read from the faces of those who have benefitted the appreciation of having acquired bicycles for the work of their respective ecclesias - Nasiando, Kimikungi, Chenjeni (Kimilili), and Nalondo. Initially it cost Ksh 4,000/= for four bicycles; an additional amount was paid for repairs, but the figure for the repairs was barely half the amount of purchasing the four. We had planned to have eleven or so bicycles so we still have seven to consider in the coming year. On our kind of roads this is sure a quick way of getting around. Brother Pinon rode on the Kimikungi bike from Kimikungi to Cheptais and back last Friday with "ease", according to him. I am not sure of the distance but it cannot be less than 40 Km one way.

Travelling on buses to monitor ecclesial progress takes some money but this is useful and has been especially so during this difficult spell of time when our very good brother got sour.

BIBLES, WINE, TAPES, AND CASSETTES: We now have been able to give each member requiring a Bible one in a language he best understands. Thanks to all who contributed towards this project. Being "people of the Bible", nothing can equal such a gift of spiritual nourishment.

Understanding the difficulty encountered by our members in the purchase of wine locally, it has been my duty to purchase, from Nairobi where the prices are low, wine for all the ecclesias in need. Arrangements are to be made for those in schools who can be considered to be in isolation, being away from established ecclesias, to receive a bottle of wine and visits by ecclesial members nearby to break bread with them on any day they get a chance, even on a Saturday. The trend this year has been for the visiting brother to come with the bottle of wine, break bread, and take the bottle away with him.

Another thing to consider for those in schools or in isolation are tapes. We are able to purchase tape recorders at Ksh 1,100/=. Things to consider here is the batteries and the cassettes. As from next year a tape library will have sufficient recorded exhortations, lectures and hymns to go to every owner of a tape recorder. Those with tape recorders now are Migori, Kimikungi, Cheptais, Chenjeni, Nairobi and Kilifi (not delivered yet). Two more are to be purchased this month, God willing. By end of next year we hope we shall have about twelve tape-cassettes or recorders.

Estimating cost of batteries to be bought each month for, say ten ecclesias or tape recorder owners it would cost Ksh 400/= for one half year; for one year it would cost Ksh 800/=.

In closing Epaphras sends his love to all,