

"The very hardships you are enduring in your life today have been given to you by the Master, for the express purpose of enabling you to win your crown. Therefore do not always look ahead to your tomorrows for some ideal situation, exotic difficulty, or faraway emergency in which to shine. Rise today to face the circumstances in which the providence of God has placed you.
[Streams in the Desert L.B. Cowman]

Community Health Evangelism (CHE)

Many of you have probably heard of this program, some have even heard of it from me. Its core values are: prayer, the integration of physical and spiritual ministry (wholistic health), community ownership over the program, sustainability, development and not relief, prevention and not cure, participatory training, multiplication through training, home visiting, discipleship, cultural sensitivity, and program effectiveness. It is basically all the makings of a good public health program, and a fantastic foundation and tool for HIV/AIDS prevention and care.

I have known about CHE since 2004, when I went through a training back in Maryland. I knew at the time that it was something God was leading me to learn, but I had never imagined how God would actually use the things I had seen there. It's rather faith-building and life-giving to think that God can equip us and pour so many things into us, purposefully intending to use them later in a way that is far beyond our feeble imaginations. So, though I've never actually been involved in a real live CHE program before, I have started to visit sites where we may want to begin CHE. I have visited a place called Olepishet four times and Olkoroi once. I intend to see a few other places in January as well. So far, it seems as though the communities are very ready and eager to learn more. I am hopeful, though still feeling rather new in the process. I have had some help from three other Maasai who know about CHE as well: Phoebe, James, and Kenson. Please pray for us all as we continue to work together with churches and communities.

Boards

As you may have heard, the goal of missionary work is to work yourself out of a job. Work so that when you leave, the ministries can carry on without you... or better yet, the ministries can excel! There are three ministries for which we, the CMF Maasai missionaries, are in the process of forming boards:

- * The Narok Health Ministries (NHM—the clinic system)
- * The Narok Training Center (NTC—similar to a conference center in the States)
- * The Narok Bible Training Institute (NBTI—a place for leaders to learn more about the Bible, not a place to train Bibles)

The idea of boards is an important one, because up until this point, it was the CMF missionaries who were the owners / overseeing and governing body of these three. We are helping for the leaders and representatives of these ministries to form the boards, so that eventually, they will be completely headed by Maasai. I will be most closely involved with the one for NHM, giving advice on public health issues and strategic planning.

Esarunoto Emaa Community Project

Daniel Ole Isa, an old friend of many CMF missionaries, has registered a community based organization (CBO) to help with the school fees of 23 local Maasai children. I have been working with him since April of this year to get the information of all the children and to develop a plan to help get funds together. He is from an area called Kumpa, which is not geographically too far, but because of bad roads, would take a good 7 hours or so to get to, so we have not managed to meet together very often. It has very recently come to my attention that there may be some dissention, jealousy, and slander brewing beneath the surface in that region over Daniel's project. Without wanting to get too much into the details, I ask that you would pray that there would be openness, humility, grace and patience in the hearts of the all the people in that region. Please pray that God would direct us in the way that He desires this CBO to go, and that I would be able to say the things that need to be said and to be silent when I need to be silent.

Prayer Points:

- * Spiritual Protection: keep praying! Continue to pray for clarity of thought and insight and the character and love of Christ to overflow from me. I don't want to worry anyone who receives this message, but there have been so many examples of serious spiritual attacks on the CMF Maasai team in recent times. Dangerous situations and a lot of discouragement have been heavy on our hearts.
- * Health: I feel tired a lot of the time, and ever-surrounded by sick people. Please pray for God to protect my health.
- * Presidential Elections: The date is set for December 27th. Nearly every conversation these days leads back to politics in Kenya and the upcoming elections. People are concerned with fairness, good representation, growing economics, better

infrastructure—it reminds me that good leadership can influence and impact nearly every aspect of society. So please pray for good leadership for Kenya, one that is free of (or at least less debilitated by) corruption, selfish motives, and tribalism. One that will not worsen the suffering of the oppressed and the poor. One that will be able to lead with wisdom and prudence. Pray for safety for the people of Kenya, that whatever selection is made, there will not be instability, violence or outrage here.

* Community Health Evangelism (CHE): unity among all the participants and leaders, God's guidance and supernatural wisdom to show us how we are to move forward, and insight on the handling of needs and resources

* Boards: A strong foundation for the boards governing the different ministries. Please pray for people who will serve on these boards, who will be faithful and wise.

* Esarunoto Emaa Community Project: Understanding. Please pray that the work of this CBO builds up, empowers, and encourages the people of Kumpa and that Satan would not be able to grab a foothold.

* My Parents: please pray that God would continue to provide for their needs and that He would continue to bring healing and restoration to my mother's vision

With love from above,

Helen

<http://www.xanga.com/smelen>

PS: A Special Christmas Request: Running Water for All!

I live on the same compound as all three of the above ministries—the main clinic, the Bible training institute, and the training center. I have mentioned once before that I don't have running water where I live. Besides the fact that it is sometimes inconvenient, it is actually a hazard when we think about the clinic. There is a rain catchment system, so there is water in the clinic building, and staff can wash their hands. However, when we consider the HIV/AIDS patients that come through there (more than 500 are on our roster), and how each of those patients may have very weak immune systems, it is possible for them to get sick just by coming to the clinic if it is not a completely sterile environment! Right now, it is coming to the end of the dry season, and almost all the rain tanks are empty. This means that we use river water, very brown and dirty water to bath, wash, and sometimes even cook with.

There are so many needs everywhere I turn, but this one is definitely rising to the top as a very big Christmas wish. I believe that we need an additional \$20,000 to repair and set up a very deep existing borehole (well) to provide clean water for the entire compound.

If you would like to give the best Christmas gift EVER—clean running water to me, to the clinic, to the training center, to the Bible school... and even get a tax-deductible receipt to your own benefit:

- * Write a check made out to CMF International
- * Attach a note to the check that reads, "Maasai Capital Projects 070402"
- * Send the check to:
CMF International
P.O. Box 501020
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Thank you! :O)



A CHE (Community Health Evangelism) gathering