



Update from Tanzania

January 2010

Announcing Our Newly Updated Website

It is with great pleasure that I announce significant additions have been made to the Key Connections Ministries website: www.keyconnections.org. During my recent visit to the States I took advantage of having access to a high-speed internet connection and finally made some long awaited additions. Please take a look and let me know what you think. The "Ministry Services" page gives detailed information about the various media resources we have available and how they are being used in the ministry. The "About Us" page gives our values, our goals, and our statement of faith. The "Prayers & Praises" page provides an area for prayer requests and praises. It is my goal to keep you up-to-date with the latest so that you will know how to specifically pray for the ministry work of Key Connections Ministries. On the "Photo Album" page you will find pictures you can click that will give you captioned information about that picture. There are just a few pictures right now, but I hope to continue adding more and more over the coming months. The "Missionary Partners" page is designed to give you information about the missionaries who are involved with Key Connections Ministries through partnership. Please check out the "Ways to Help" page to learn more about projects and needs that might fit into your mission giving plan. The "Contact & Sign Up" page gives contact and contribution information plus it allows those who are not currently receiving newsletters to submit their request. And lastly, the "Newsletter Archive" page allows you to view back issues of newsletters. In the near term I plan to add detailed information on famine relief projects, videos, information on short-term teams, and future plans. It is my sincere desire to keep this website up-to-date, so please plan to check it on a regular basis to stay informed about the ministry work of Key Connections Ministries in Tanzania.



View from the "Home" page of the Key Connections Ministries newly updated website.

PROCLAIMER REPORT FROM PASTOR ZAKAYO

Pastor Zakayo writes, "On behalf of the servants of God whom I'm working with them in serving God in Loliondo area. I humbly give my thanks to Key Connection Ministries supervised by Steve McFarland and his team for enabling us doing the work of the ministry in the hard areas in the villages by praying for us and giving us Proclaimers which have been the great blessing to us and the community (Maasai and Wasonjo) that we are ministering in which the gospel has not reached well."

JOIN US IN PRAYING . . .

- For Thane and Charlotte White as they work hard to secure needed financial support.
For a special person to help KCM with much needed ministries for Tanzanian children and youth.
For our own tax exempt status in the US and for duty exemption status in Tanzania
For clear priorities as we face far too many very good things to do
For wisdom as we continue to plan and organize this mission

www.keyconnections.org

Your internet link to the ministry work of Key Connections Ministries in Tanzania

OUR GOALS

- Provide free and low-cost materials to church leaders
Train leaders to effectively utilize resources
Develop innovative ways for the poor to obtain key resources
Utilize short-term volunteers and teams to meet critical needs
Impart an urgent vision for ministry and evangelism
Support health and development initiatives
Bring unity to believers with Bible-focused materials

. . . SO THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE THOROUGHLY EQUIPPED FOR EVERY GOOD WORK . . . 2 TIMOTHY 3:17



Key Connections Ministries—USA



Key Connections Ministries—USA Board of Directors
L to R: Caryn DeVore (Director), Judy Fraley (Spouse), Doug Fraley (Director), Steve McFarland (Director), Charlotte White (Spouse), Thane White (Director), John Davis (Spouse), Lois Davis (Director), Steve DeVore (Spouse, photographer [not pictured])

Significant progress has been made with the formation of Key Connections Ministries-USA (KCM-USA) over the past few months. In mid-November of 2009 the Board of Directors came together and approved the By-Laws and approved the opening of a bank account. These approvals allow the final papers to be filed with the IRS for tax exemption status. They also allow KCM-USA to begin accepting and receipting supporter contributions. KCM-USA is a US registered non-profit organization operating in the USA. KCM-TZ is a Tanzania registered non-profit organization operating in Tanzania. Together, these two organizations operating in their prospective areas, work in conjunction to accomplish the totality of Key Connections Ministries mission vision.

Again, we thank the Thayer Christian Church of Thayer, Kansas for providing our tax exemption coverage during the process of registering KCM-USA.

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Introducing the Whites



Thane & Charlotte White

(Nurse Practitioner) and will do field work in the important areas of preventative health, curative health, and community based development. Their years of experience in the business world, and extensive involvement in church leadership positions will greatly assist Key Connections to better fulfill its mission vision for Tanzania.

The excitement is growing as the time nears for Thane and Charlotte White to arrive in Arusha, Tanzania and join KCM-TZ on a full time basis. They are currently in the support raising (deposition) process and are planning an arrival for sometime around mid-year 2010. Over the last few years Thane has been working as an Information Technologies (IT) professional. He completed his degree with Manhattan Christian College last year and is planning on providing much needed assistance to KCM in the areas of teaching, discipleship training, and mentoring. Charlotte is a highly trained and experienced nurse

REPORT ON "HOME" FOR HOLIDAYS

As expected, the holiday trip to the States was on the busy side. I left Arusha on November 11, 2009. The best part of the trip was being able to spend time with family and friends and, of course, a lot of good food. Over my eight week stay I managed to give five presentations, attend three mission committee meetings along with twelve other meetings. Some much needed additions were made to the KCM website (See article.) The dentist found a cracked tooth so I received a crown. I spent a long day babysitting my laptop as I upgraded the operating system to Windows 7. 131 supporter update letters were mailed out. I experienced some extremely cold weather, that I won't miss here in Tanzania. A request for another 200 Proclaimers was made to Faith Comes by Hearing which are scheduled to arrive in February. Rachel continues to do well. She is living with her older brother Matthew and attending the Catholic Charities Day Services. I left Wichita for Arusha on January 7, 2010. Thanks to all who helped in making my holiday at "home" a time filled with wonderful memories to treasure.

SCOLA



Scola has been and continues to be a huge blessing to the mission work in Arusha. As the housekeeper extraordinaire she maintains all the normal household duties of cleaning, cooking, buying groceries, clothes washing, ironing, etc. She is also directly involved in the ministry work through her sewing abilities. She sews all of the Proclaimer cases which is no small task. In addition to caring for her own husband and young son, she has a business making and selling tortillas and carmel popcorn to local grocery stores.

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Famine Relief Project Update

It is such a blessing to report that the drought in northern Tanzania has ended. The rains have returned and with it the grass will again begin to grow so that the few remaining herds of cattle and goats can graze. Even after ample rains, it will take several months before the devastating effects of the long



A Tanzanian woman leaves the church in Oldonyo Sambu after receiving much needed relief food

turned around. Recently planted crops will need to grow and be harvested. Cattle will need to eat the fresh vegetation to grow strong enough to produce much needed milk, and in time, produce calves to begin replacing the many head of cattle that were lost to starvation. It will be a long and difficult recovery process. We will continue to monitor those who have been hardest hit by the drought, such as widows and orphans, to provide assistance as the Lord provides.

Thanks for all of your prayers for rain and generous donations. We are hoping that now life can return to



An elderly Maasai woman praises God in Matale B for the relief food with Pastor Peter Kukan in the background

some level of normality for the Maasai people. We also hope that this recent time of great difficulty has softened their hearts to better hear the Word of God and open their eyes to His call on their lives.

Proclaimer Survey Report

A telephone survey of pastors and church leaders who have been using one or more of the 100+ Proclaimers distributed to date has been recently completed. It was a big job, but necessary to become better stewards of the Proclaimers entrusted to us for future distributions. Polycarp, who conducted the survey, asked each user a series of questions to help us get a picture of the overall effectiveness of the Proclaimer. Of those surveyed, 67% said the Proclaimer was very useful, 4% said it was useful, 23% said it was not very useful, and 6% said it was not at all useful. We were happy about the 71% who said the Proclaimer was useful or very useful to their ministries, but we had to investigate to find out why the remaining 29% were not also finding it useful. After looking at the demographics of where the 29% dissatisfied users were located, it became clear that most were located in the urban areas of Arusha. After more investigation it was found that those living in the urban areas have radio coverage which includes scripture reading. This reveals that Proclaimers are better utilized in rural outlying bush areas where radio coverage is not available. In order to rectify this oversight, Proclaimers from a number of the 29% have been returned and are in the process of being reissued to pastors and church leaders in bush locations.



We believe along with the majority of Tanzanian pastors and church leaders that the Proclaimer is an extremely valuable tool for allowing those from a largely non-literate population to hear the New Testament scriptures in their heart language. God said his word will not return void. Isa 55:11



An group of Maasai encircle a Proclaimer and listen to the New Testament

steve mcfarland



LINKING RESOURCES WITH NEEDS FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

A Personal Update

As I launch out into this new year of 2010 I am grateful to those who have encouraged me to continue on when my ambitions had all but faded away. When God calls you to a ministry it becomes a commitment much like that of a marriage. It transcends mere feelings of like and dislike, happiness and disappointment to a level where you know that you know this is the right place to be and the right thing to do. Even though the flesh tries to focus on the huge mountain before you that must somehow be scaled, the spirit hears that still small voice saying, "I may not remove the mountain, but I will surely strengthen you to endure and overcome."

Your continued prayers and support are greatly appreciated. May you too have a great year in which you endure and overcome by and through God's strength.

Because of the call,
Steven McFarland

REGIFTING?

It's a trend around the world and we think it has merit! Does your church have glass communion cups or trays no longer in use? Do you have a good digital camera that has been set aside for a newer model? Or a working laptop computer you have replaced? Consider giving those items a new life — in Africa! We know many people who would be greatly blessed by those items. If you would like to re-gift, just e-mail us or call Teresa, our US administrator, at (620) 763-2595.

YOUR RECEIPTS

We are deeply grateful for the many kinds of support. We want to be sure that you are getting accurate and timely receipts. If you send a financial gift and fail to receive a receipt within three weeks, please call Teresa, our US administrator at (620) 763-2595 or e-mail us at mcfarland@bol.co.tz. All donations should be made payable to Key Connections Ministries and sent to PO Box 266, Thayer, KS 66776. Please note any designations. Again, thank-you for your generous support — we pledge our faithful stewardship of your gifts to make a real difference in many lives.



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