

Greetings in Jesus Name,

I sincerely and honestly pray that you and yours are doing well, and covered by the precious blood of The Lord Jesus. We are doing fine, God being on our side, we have gone beyond our expectations. He is ever faithful and gracious.

With September here, we have every reason to thank God for the things He has faithfully done from January up to now. Sometimes it's very easy for us to forget or even take it for granted or even be tempted to think that it just happened by default. However, am strongly convinced that God has been behind the wheel invisibly working all things for good. Despite the challenges, obstacles, and tough terrain encountered this far, He ensured that we are not consumed, rather, strengthened in our faith, trust, and believe in Him.

A number that we are walking with clears University

August was an exciting month as we saw a number of the young people we have been walking with (discipling /mentoring) finish successfully their university education. Arnold, Phoebe, and Denise have been studying different fields and did their last papers this August, now they wait for their graduation which we all look for. We are enjoying our time together as family with the two young men. Isn't it so amazing to just flash back those early years of my childhood life in Mathare and remember many times we struggle to have food for our small family and that it was not unusual to sleep on an empty stomach not because we so wished but that there was no food. Today by the grace of God He has blessed us with those opportunities that we can share with others.

Exciting Board of Governance

Our board of governance, charged with the responsibility of ensuring that we realize the godly given vision, and that the goals set are achieved, not to forget also that it is a voice and sense of God's independent management eye of the work in Mathare, is one of those key things we celebrate how God is just worked it out together. Our meetings are proving to be a place of exciting moments of reflection dreaming big. For the last almost five years now, God, graciously, has helped us to put up the foundation and we are now convinced that take off time is at hand. That the season has come that we now have to strategically and efficiently fulfill His purpose in Mathare is evident. Putting up of structures that will ensure that we get the results needed is thus not an option.

Divine Confirmation within the time of thinking Change of Strategy

From June, 'changing our ministry approach and strategy to; 'a more meaningful, fruitful, strategic, and purposeful.' This has been a feeling in my heart and thoughts. To my surprise, a

friend (pst. John Makwata) who never knew this was going on and that I had even begun talking to the church on the same subject gave me a book on Purpose Driven Church as a gift. I went through it within a short time because it just kept bringing everything in perspective and clarity. No sooner had I finished this material, I received another book from Rev. Stuart on the subject Trellis and the Vine. Again as I tried to understand how Rick Warren says, that ‘pastors are to do the coaching work’ more as believers that are raised go out and multiply Mark Dever comments as he recommends this book by saying “According to this book, Christians are to be disciples-making disciples and pastors are to be trainers.” In the same Grant Retief says “The mindset put forth in this book have not only impacted many of our churches, but have changed our regional thinking, planning, and strategy.” I think this is confirmation enough that this is the way to go. To this effect we have thus begun working out the strategy which we intend to launch during our 5th anniversary later in the year in November.

Transformation

God’s congregation in Mathare is doing very well. August was that month that gives us joy just as is the case with families. This is the time we have our youths and teenagers who are in boarding schools in church, and we have a moment to catch up with them as they all-round. These youths with others that are usually with us in church brings energy and youthful power to the entire congregation. God has used our youths in such a wonderful way, to the extend we see them serving God and ministering to the poor community. This August they visited Danoko childrens’ home in Kanyama, Korogocho, not far from Mathare where they took food, clothes, soap, among others items to share with the orphans. This have they not done once, or twice but more, and in more than one home. The interesting thing is that, they do not choose such a path because we (church) ask them to, but that they choose too. Now, this is transformation! Seeing such a big heart coming from our context (that of needs and many expect to receive and not to give) is a big indicator that God is at work and that we all have something we can share with the world no matter where we are or we come from.

God Provides Moments of Rest, Reflection, and Re-energizing



God has been so gracious to our family even ensuring that He performs a miracle to remind us that He so cares and is concerned of us. Let me bring this to perspective. A month after Eden was born, Concepta developed post delivery high blood pressure and there and then God knew that she needed rest, but also that all of us as a family that for 9 months we

had waited in anticipation to see this child and that with the experience sometimes we had challenges here and there. He opened a big door for us to have one week holiday in a 'Muzungi' house where we had everything provided for and on top of that a big treat to the elephant center, giraffe center, places that though in Kenya and in Nairobi, none of us had been there. This time again, one week after Angela was born, the pressure just miss behaved so badly that she had to be admitted in hospital. God again after this, visited us yet with another treat to Lukenya Get Away. This time, again, as a family we were booked for and all fee paid. On top of this, good lessons on personalities were brought to us and we just had time to laugh at each other most of the time, realizing that most of the time what we thought was a problem, never even existed, but that we were just different. I don't think that this happens by chance or accident. God plans it all!

Tr. Belinda's miscarriage of a 6 month pregnancy

After successfully closing for holiday break the school, our students and staff went on a five week holiday, where all expectation and prayer is that all goes well. However this was not the case with Belinda, who teaches nursery and pre-unit in the 4B learning point. Today as I write this is when we have extensively talked with her and it was such a big thing to hear her express the trouble she went through following a 6 month miscarriage. She has had problems in her delivery system and Doctors had told her that she cannot conceive. Fortunately six months before her miscarriage she did and had hopes to see one day this child and become a mother. Unfortunately it never happened. As I talked to her, I got reminded that we are here for not just doing things because we have to do them. We don't just run a school because children need to learn, or provide room for employment because people are jobless and that it becomes an achievement to provide one? No! Our primary goal remains, 'reaching out' our interest and objective stands out that God wants to use all these avenues to reach out to His people. We are committed to walk with such, and I have asked Belinda whose mother we fellowship with that she joins her mother so that this can bring us closer with her and that we can easily find that platform of walking with her.

A successful start



Schools have resumed studies after the long holiday. A good number of our pupils have already reported with new admissions coming in for early vacancy booking as we come to the close of the year which warrants new admissions in the respective classes. God having provided for something to eat, its such a joy for us all to see that learning went one in week one uninterrupted as compared to the

public schools whose teachers are entering week two of their strike in demand for salary and other services increment. One of our staff that really encourages me with her commitment to her job is Tr. Juliet. She teaches at the Juja RD learning point and can you imagine she comes in with her child who is still so small to the school? Not many will and can do this. She is such an example of perseverance, patience and team player. We hope that the stalemate between teachers and the government will cool down so that pupils from those schools can go back as soon as possible. Otherwise with the trade union of Kenya having thrown their weight towards teachers and threatening to call for a national wide strike of its members in solidarity with the teachers.



Ladies; skill and economic empowerment

The few ladies we have at the sewing room, kept their game and ensured a win this time managing almost 90% in beating deadlines in production. This can only be a sign of growth and improvement. Snider, who joined us 4 months ago, is already benefiting from the work she is doing. I saw her on day one when she came in, and have seen how she has kept moving with a lot of determination which has started



paying. By the Grace of God, this is what we do, and are committed to do. Out of the sales we make, we are able to pay labor to those at the stage of production and get raw material that we don't have. But also, that we consider adding whatever we need like machines and the rest. Today out of the sales we made in August we have a brand new machine that will be designated specifically for production.

Baby Care

Centre of Hope and Transformation has grown her wings and extended an arm to the desperate kids that so needed help. Margret Ouko is one of my long time friends. She started running a baby care sometime back and was a key contact when we were starting the work in Mathare 4B, (our second learning point). She gave us a number of kids she was



looking after and even mobilized others from parents she knew. All along, she has continued to request if we could take over the baby care she is running but not much interest had been generated. This time, because of a hospital being established by the government, close to the

house she was renting for the kids was demolished. She called me and informed me of the same and cited that they she had no place to take the kids. Sometime back we got access to some room that we have been thinking of using it as kitchen but till the kid's emergency came, we had not begun using it. In June the chairman of the board challenged us that we should begin thinking strongly about having a baby care because many kids here are at risk. That their parents will leave them in baby cares that do not take serious what they are doing, matters health of the children, the condition of the rooms they are in, with many being done in people's houses that are so squeezed, malnutrition matters, just but to mention a few. The demolition of Margret's place was such a bad thing, yet it opened an opportunity for us to put the vacant room into a more meaningful use and also opened an avenue and platform for a ministry that targets these young ones.



Prayer Item

Church Plot

With our rent having gone to 10,000/= KSH a month from June 2017 and our giving not having proportionally gone up. We are beginning to see signs of financial strain from a distance. But also that our current rental status, limits us so much as a far as development in concerned. In order to fully achieve the church vision as it is a permanent place seems to the major cartelist. For the last close to five years, we have been at the mercies of landlords who sometimes will not understand when your rent is not in, in good time. Dreaming of opening up to a more constructive, and engaging from with much activities in mind and heart, we feel that as take off time has come, God should make away for us to own a piece in Mathare where we intend to put up a bigger church, prayer and discipleship centre, a fully equipped pre-school, have a fully equipped clinic, a gym, social hall, fully equipped technical institute with a welding workshop, carpentry workshop, tailoring workshop, bead work workshop; a music recording studio, an instruments training school, just to mention but a few. For this to happen, we need this land.