



# EMERGING HUMANITY

## NEWSLETTER



The students at this nursery school in the rural area had no chairs and sat on the ground before Emerge. We delivered ten tables and benches to their school.

### Desks and chairs for 500 kids

In this project, Emerge manufactured different types of desks and chairs for 560 students from different age groups. For instance, at Ezra Gumbe Primary, we manufactured 150 chairs and desks with built in storage lockers for eighth grade students. We also crafted 75 desks which sit 3 children per desk for students at Pandpieri Primary. These types of desks are suitable for children between the ages of 8 and 12. For the five and six year old students we built tables which are in the shape of trapezoids because the shape encourages child-to-child interaction and group learning.



### 75 classrooms painted

In our September newsletter, we reported that we had painted 18 classrooms at Ezra Gumbe Primary. Since that time, we have painted 57 other classrooms at 4 different schools for over 4,000 children.

As a result of painting these classrooms, the staff noticed immediate improvements in the energy and positivity of the students. Tyler Hoegger (seen in the photo on the left) was the manager responsible for the entire project. In August he traveled from his home in Salida, Colorado, to volunteer for two months with Emerging Humanity in Kisumu.



Before



After

### Migosi girl's bathrooms

We have just completed the installation of 8 brand new toilets at Migosi primary school. This project has doubled the amount of sanitary facilities available to 1,000 young women who attend school every day. In the bathrooms we installed ceramic tiles because they are non-porous, they are easier to clean, and they do not absorb smell. We have also positioned a 5,000 liter rain-water catchment system directly inline with the toilet facilities so that students are able to wash their hands after using the bathroom.



We installed tile in the bathrooms for another reason as well. Migosi primary is often referred to as a 'slum school' because many of the children who take refuge in its learning environment are living with single parents or grandparents in the Nyawita and Obunga areas of Kisumu town. The living conditions inside of these areas are very harsh. The low-income households place enormous challenges on the students and it takes a special type of school to accept and nurture these young people. The most tragic side of this situation is that students attending Migosi are affected - over time they learn not to believe in their own value. So put tile, which is viewed as luxurious in Kisumu, because we wanted the students and the community to see how much we value the children at our partner schools.



This Autumn, that desire to demonstrate the precious value of the students at Migosi Primary began to work. As we neared completion of construction, members of the surrounding community began to refer to the project as the "ultra-modern" pit latrines. Today, the bathrooms are in full working order - preserving the health of young women. And, they were recently visited by both the Mayor of Kisumu and a national Member of Parliament.

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## Tribute to Ken

At Migosi Primary, the construction of the girl's latrines would not have been possible without the wisdom and enthusiasm of Emerge Engineer, Ken Akech.

Sadly, in October Ken passed away from a sudden undiagnosed illness. The bathroom complex at Migosi Primary was the last work that Ken constructed before he died. We are deeply indebted for the part of his spirit which he gave to our projects. Ken worked tirelessly on the job at Migosi because he was excited for the opportunity to use his skills to help children. All of the projects that we announce in our newsletters are accomplished by working closely with local craftsmen like Ken. Ken was one of the most delightful and skilled craftsmen that we have ever worked with. He will be dearly missed.



## Emerge announces a new partner school!

We are very proud to announce that Emerging Humanity has signed a partnership agreement with a wonderful new school in Kisumu. St. Mark's Primary School has enthusiastically agreed to maintain a high level of community participation and ownership in order to fulfill its portion of the contract. Last month, over 60 parents and members of the community came to school on a Saturday to plant trees. During that day, eucalyptus and several other species of water-loving trees were planted along the upstream portions of the campus in order to increase the absorption capacity of the soil, because the school is located in a flood-prone section of the Nyalenda community.

St. Mark's Primary has approximately nine hundred students enrolled. Many of these students come from extremely vulnerable backgrounds and as a result the school has meager resources for their education. As an Emerging Humanity partner school, St. Mark's Primary will gain access to funding for a series of projects which are designed to create a holistic transformation of the learning environment. Over the next six to eight months, Emerge will be helping St. Mark's Primary with rain-water catchment systems, and flood-mitigation strategies.

We are currently helping them build a school lunchroom, and establish a tree nursery and environmental club for students. Last month, we painted all 17 classrooms in the school as our first project under the partnership.



## Got milk?

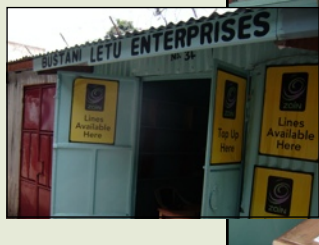
The start of October was blessed by the arrival of Sita, the dairy cow. The sale of her milk is an important addition to our Bustani farm which is aimed at creating consistent sources of employment for youth in agribusiness.

Sita is living on the farm in a cedar wood house that the farm employees constructed. She loves to eat napia grass and molasses.

## Bustani Store

Last month, we began a Bustani diversification fund aimed at creating jobs for youth who want to work in the city. In the photos below, Charles and Lillian are working in the Bustani Letu wholesale shop. This store is selling supplies to small businesses such as hair salons and shoe-shine parlors located around the central bus station.

Lillian is also managing the wholesale distribution of pre-paid cell phone credit throughout the city, which is another BUstani employment initiative. Over the next month we are also going to open a motorcycle repair shop which will employ up to 5 more young people. So stay tuned...



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