



Newsletter

2022-2023

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter, covering the transformative period of 2022-2023!

This span has been marked by the gracious intervention of God in various facets of our journey, particularly as we navigated and sought stability in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reflecting on this period, it is evident that we experienced a commendable success with numerous accomplishments. From ministry appointments, the establishment of new church planting to several key group retreats, the remarkable undertaking of a school project, and the pivotal decision to change our name, each victory stands as a testament to our collective efforts.

These milestones, achieved amidst challenges and triumphs, are a testament to the power of unity within our community. As the renowned philanthropist and industrialist Andrew Carnegie once stated, "Togetherness is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results." It is the collaborative spirit among all of us that has propelled us forward, enabling us to reach heights that seemed insurmountable when faced individually.

In this newsletter, we aim to share the details of our journey, celebrate the achievements, and express our gratitude for the shared commitment that has made these successes possible. Together, let us continue to foster a sense of unity and purpose as we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that the coming year holds.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community and contributing to the remarkable narrative of 2022-2023.

Expanding Horizons: Church Planting Success in East Africa

The period spanning 2022 to 2023 has proven to be a transformative chapter for the East African ICOC churches, marked by significant strides in church planting initiatives. New congregations have taken root in Kilifi, Nakuru in Kenya, as well as Mbarara in Uganda. These budding churches, witnessing numerous baptisms and engaging in impactful Bible talks, have demonstrated a consistent pattern of growth over the years.

The launches of these churches were not mere events but celebrations of God's work, with disciples from various regions making dedicated trips to witness and support these new beginnings. Kilifi saw its launch in March 2022, Nakuru followed suit in November 2022, Mbarara in October 2022, and Kakamega experienced a re-launch in October 2023. The involvement of disciples from across the regions underscored the unity and shared joy within the East African ICOC community.

A heartfelt expression of gratitude goes out to all the church members who selflessly sacrificed their time, energy, and financial resources to make these launches possible. It is through the collective efforts of the community that these ventures have flourished.

As we witness the fulfillment of the vision to know God and make Him known in various cities across East Africa, we give all the glory to God for the remarkable journey so far.



Kilifi Launch



Mbarara Launch



Nakuru Launch



Kakamega re-Launch



Appointments

Celebrating New Leadership: Evangelist Appointments in East Africa

The East African ICOC churches joyously announce the appointment of three devoted couples as Evangelists and Women's Ministry Leaders during the period spanning 2022 to 2023, each set to play a pivotal role in the spiritual guidance of their respective regions.

The Namei's journey in the full-time ministry began in 2009, culminating in their recent appointment to oversee Uganda. After moving to Nairobi in 2009 for further training, they took the helm of the church in Kigali in 2010, contributing significantly to its growth. Following a stint in Kampala, Uganda, they were appointed as Evangelist and Women's Ministry Leader on June 11th, 2023. Married since April 5th, 2008, they are blessed with three children – Hannah, Haddasah, and Haven.

With over two decades of ministry service, the Mbuva's bring a wealth of experience to their new role overseeing the Eastern Bloc. Having led the Middle East region and Mombasa Church for over 10 years, they returned to Nairobi and, in April 2023, assumed leadership after Evangelist Mike and Women's Ministry Leader, Liz Odwallo. They are blessed with three children – Maxine, Nathan, and Daniel.

Breaking new ground, the Pallangyo's are the first Tanzanians to be appointed as evangelists in the East Africa ICOC family. Their deep passion for God, extensive ministry experience, and unwavering dedication to serving the Church have been evident throughout their journey. The appointment is a testament to their humility, commitment, and service to the Church in Tanzania. As they embark on this sacred journey, we encourage everyone to offer their support, prayers, and cooperation.

May these appointed leaders continue to inspire and guide the East African ICOC churches in their spiritual journey.



Tanzania

Joachim and Evelyne Pallangyo



Uganda

Johson and Norah Namei



Kenya

Sammy and Eunice Mbuva



Events

Celebrating Reconnection: Highlights from the 2022 Campus Retreat

In a triumphant return after the challenges posed by COVID, the much-anticipated 2022 campus retreat took place in August, marking the first gathering of campus members since the pandemic's onset. The excitement among attendees was palpable as they eagerly reunited, ready to share the experiences they had accumulated during the extended period of separation.

Mombasa played host to this memorable retreat, welcoming campus members from as far as Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda. The journey began in Nairobi, with a scenic trip via the SGR to Mombasa under the cover of night. The retreat unfolded against the backdrop of a picturesque beachfront hotel, providing the perfect setting for bonding experiences, from playing by the beachside to marveling at ocean waves and sunrise vistas.

The retreat went beyond its picturesque surroundings; it marked the moment when Clinton formally requested Natty to be his girlfriend, as the night culminated on a captivating all-white gala.

As the retreat concluded, the disciples, together with the Mombasa and Kilifi church, held a joint service before embarking on a tour of the historic Fort Jesus. This unique blend of spiritual connection and cultural exploration made the event truly remarkable, fostering strong bonds and creating cherished memories among the campus disciples.

Here's to the joy of reconnection and the enduring memories forged during this unforgettable retreat!



Events



Campus Challenge Camp 2023 Takes Kenya by Storm!

In an exciting twist, the Campus Challenge Camp of 2023 ventured beyond its traditional Nairobi setting, making a significant impact in three diverse Kenyan cities: Nairobi, Mombasa, and Eldoret. This marked a groundbreaking departure from the usual single-location setup, offering campus students across the country easier access to this transformative experience.

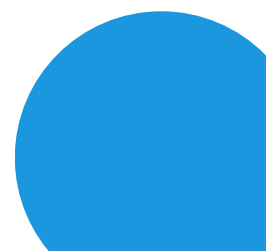
In Nairobi, the heart of the campus movement, the Challenge Camp unfolded at Rowlan Camp, hosting over 80 campus members from all four regions: Northern Bloc, Southern Bloc, Eastern Bloc, and Western Bloc. The inauguration of this remarkable event occurred from the 24th to the 26th of March, setting the stage for an enriching and spiritually invigorating experience.

Meanwhile, in the Nyanza and North Rift regions, campus members from Kisii, Kakamega, Eldoret, and Kisumu united to share their unique experiences. The Coastal region witnessed the convergence of campus members from Kilifi and Mombasa churches at Shimba Hills in Kwale, from April 7th to 9th, 2023, with over 30 campus disciples in attendance.

Here's to the expansion of horizons and the continuous growth of the Campus Challenge Camp!



This multi-location approach provided a dynamic platform for youth to engage in team-building activities, fostering connections, and, most importantly, deepening their understanding of God. The overwhelming success of this unique experience has left us eagerly anticipating more of such activities in the future.





Events

Recap of an Unforgettable Teens Camp Experience!

In our recent camp, despite a last-minute change in venue and limited planning time, we experienced an overwhelming turnout of 225 participants, including 13 children from Kampala, Uganda, attending for the first time. Held at the picturesque Lakewood Emerald School Kitengela under the theme "UNMASKED" (John 10:10), the camp fostered an environment where both campers and counselors openly shared their fears, struggles, and victories.

Many attributed their profound encounters with God to the camp's classes, supportive community, and serene surroundings. The impact extended beyond the camp, with a camper-led service where insights were shared with parents and the broader church community. Post-camp, guided by God's grace, several campers decided to deepen their faith journey through study and baptism in their respective churches, starting with Kisii church. The collaborative efforts of the camp management team and ICOC Kenya leadership were celebrated, expressing gratitude for God's mighty works throughout the transformative event.

In the wake of the resounding success of our recent camp, we're thrilled to share that plans for this year's camp are already in motion. The upcoming camp, themed "Be Humble," draws inspiration from Psalm 25:9, "He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way." Building on the momentum of our previous camp under the theme "UNMASKED" (John 10:10), we are eager to create another transformative experience for all participants.



In reflection, the camp serves as a powerful reminder that, even in the face of challenges, God's grace prevails, creating life-changing experiences for all involved. This newsletter encapsulates the collective joy and gratitude for the success of the camp, highlighting the transformative power of faith and community that resonates long after the tents are packed away.



Events

Highlights from the East African Marrieds Retreat 2023

A memorable and enriching experience unfolded in Arusha, Tanzania, as the East African marrieds gathered for the much-anticipated retreat in 2023. The retreat's theme, "Connecting with One Another," seamlessly aligned with the broader 2023 theme of "Connected."

The journey to this transformative event was nothing short of remarkable, with a convergence of most of the married disciples occurring at the Umoja Sanctuary in the early hours of October 20th to travel together to Arusha, Tanzania.

The enthusiasm was palpable as many had embarked on overnight travels from various regions in Kenya, while others joined from Uganda.

Throughout the retreat, three compelling lessons took center stage, delving into the theology of marriage and God's original design, exploring emotional connections, and navigating the intricacies of financial bonds within marriage. The lessons, complemented by engaging group discussions, provided couples with a unique platform to share and connect on a deeper level.

As the echoes of this retreat linger, the East African marrieds community is invigorated, carrying forward the spirit of connection and unity into their marriages and the broader community.



Community Work

Community Event during the World Environment Day at Kaloleni Health Dispensary, Makongeni.

On 3rd June 2023 HOPE worldwide Kenya (HWWK), in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Kaloleni Health Dispensary, CIHEB-Kenya, and International Churches of Christ (ICOC)- Nairobi, held a community event to commemorate World Environment Day at Kaloleni Health Center in Makongeni – One of the wards, where the CONNECT DREAMS Project has scaled-up its coverage.

The theme of the day was 'Solutions to Plastic Pollution', and the aim was to involve volunteers in promoting a safe and healthy environment. The event was flagged off by one of the HWWK Board of Directors and the ICOC- Kenya, lead Evangelist Mr. William Auki. The Kaloleni Health Center Site-In-Charge Ms. Alicia welcomed the volunteers to the facility and expressed her gratitude for the partnership. The HWWK Board of Director's Chairman Prof. Alex Muumbo and the HWWK Executive Director Dr. Julius Nguku graced the event and participated in the clean-up activity.

There were 159 volunteers who participated in the event including HWWK staff, members of ICOC Nairobi, community health promoters, CONNECT DREAMS Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW), and mentors. The Kaloleni health facility serves as one of the CONNECT DREAMS Project referral networks to improve bio-medical services uptake by AGYW.



Before and After pictures of the central roundabout at the Kaloleni Health Center. Volunteers removed weeds, dug, and beautified the garden.

The Project is funded by PEPFAR through a sub-grant from CIHEB-Kenya. The community service included: garbage collection, painting, weeding and cutting grass at both the dispensary and area chiefs compound, digging a drainage, washing and cleaning tents, patients' waiting bay, and rooms, beautification of the garden, trimming the fence and many other activities.

Missions Training

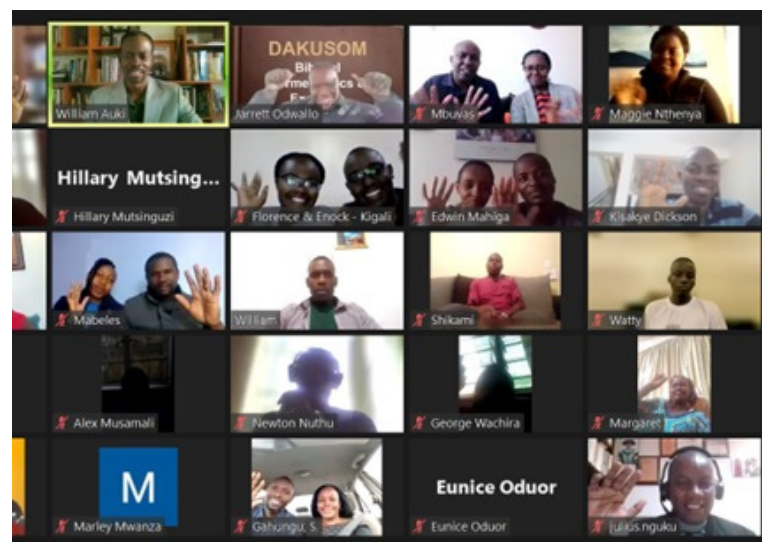
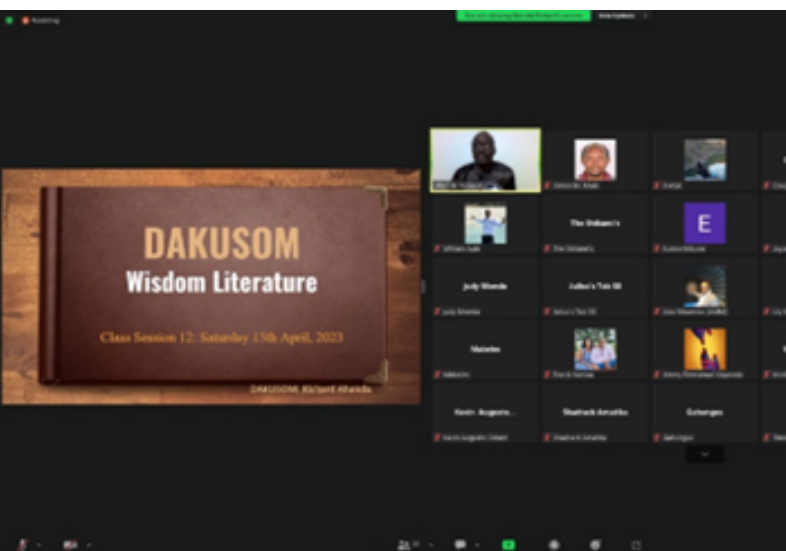


Fostering Growth and Honoring a Legacy: East Africa School of Missions (DAKUSOM)

Behind the scenes, a dedicated Leadership Team, backed by the Church Administration and the Church Board of Directors, tirelessly works to ensure the smooth operation of both financial matters and ministry work through regular meetings. In January 2023, this team foresaw the start of the East Africa School of Missions named DAKUSOM (DAn KURia School Of Missions).

The late Dan Kuria was a paid minister who had been sent to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to lead the church there. Within the few months of his presence the church experienced amazing change and growth, especially among the university students. Unfortunately, Dan Kuria was shot dead during one of the university riots. In honoring Dan Kuria's legacy, DAKUSOM stands as a testament to the enduring impact of a life dedicated to mission and service.

Since its inception, DAKUSOM has welcomed 40 students who have diligently engaged in two essential units: Biblical Hermeneutics and Exegesis, and New Testament Survey. As we approach mid-December 2023, the completion of these units signifies a significant milestone. The knowledge gained has empowered the students to become invaluable assets, providing substantial support to ministries across East Africa.



Milestone Achievement: New Floor Added to Nairobi Christian Academy (NCA)

In an exciting chapter of growth and development, we are delighted to announce the successful completion of a new floor at Nairobi Christian Academy (NCA), a testament to God's faithfulness throughout the undertaking. This expansion, costing slightly above Ksh 10 million shillings, is a significant stride forward for NCA, enhancing our capacity to provide quality education to the community.

The realization of this project was made possible through a collaborative effort. Funding came from the school's earnings, supplemented by a strategic bank loan. However, the heartwarming aspect of this achievement lies in the support received from our brothers and sisters in the North Carolina churches.

Their generous donations played a crucial role in bringing this vision to fruition. To our beloved friends in North Carolina, we extend a heartfelt thank you. Your ongoing support is deeply valued, and we are truly grateful for the unwavering commitment that continues to propel NCA to new heights.

Together, we celebrate this accomplishment and anticipate the positive impact it will have on the educational journey of our students.



Other Stories



Land Purchase

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news from the Northern bloc, where significant strides have been made in improving our facilities and expanding our reach.

Thanks to the generous contributions from Northern bloc disciples, we've successfully constructed dedicated classes for our Kingdom Kids, who had been meeting outdoors for an extended period. This impactful project, funded by the Northern bloc disciples at an estimated cost of Kshs 300,000, reflects the community's commitment to providing a conducive learning environment for our children. Heartfelt appreciation goes out to all the disciples who played a part in making this initiative a reality.

In a bold move toward growth, in 2022, we acquired an additional piece of land in Mbeka, South Nyanya (Kisii), measuring 50x100. This new acquisition complements the previously purchased land, resulting in a substantial 100x100 plot in Mbeka. The expansion holds tremendous potential, as we now have the opportunity to erect a sanctuary for our brothers and sisters in the region. This sanctuary will not only serve as a place of worship but also as a hub for discipleship, fostering spiritual growth and community bonds. We're excited about the possibilities this new space brings and look forward to the continued flourishing of our community in Mbeka.

Chance for Africa

Our heartfelt appreciation goes out to our cherished brothers and sisters abroad, whose unwavering support continues to make a significant impact on the lives of our young ones through school fees assistance.

In the year 2022, the benevolent efforts of Chance for Africa reached new heights as they generously supported 40 deserving children with a total contribution of Kshs 1.4 million. This substantial support not only eases the financial burden on these young minds but also paves the way for a promising and bright future.

We are deeply grateful for the commitment shown by Chance for Africa and our overseas community, as together, we contribute to shaping a better tomorrow for these aspiring students.

Benevolence

In the spirit of benevolence, the year 2022 marked a profound impact as 132 families, constituting around 500 individuals, received various forms of support, including food assistance, house rent, medical aid, school fees, and burial support. This collective effort, orchestrated by the coordinators and generously contributed to by the congregation, has truly made a meaningful difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. A heartfelt thank you to all who played a part in bringing smiles and relief to those facing challenges.

In another uplifting development, the welfare group experienced a revival, introducing a new wing where members actively contribute to an insurance scheme. This initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden of funeral expenses for both group members and their dependents. This thoughtful and forward-looking approach showcases the compassion within our community, fostering a sense of solidarity and support during challenging times.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The leadership would like to acknowledge the support of all the disciples in East Africa for their generous contribution which has gone a long way to advance the gospel in the region. We are very grateful for our partner churches who have continually sacrificed for the mission work in East Africa.

These include: Athens Georgia, Baltimore, Des Moines in Iowa, San Antonio, Tri-Cities, and the NORTH CAROLINA CHURCHES i.e. Ashville, Charlotte, Piedmont Triad in Greensboro, Triangle, Winston Salem)