



SCRIPTURE UNION OF KENYA

NEWSLETTER

Psalms 119:105 | 2019 SUK Updates

Our Children

Our future

In This Issue:

Message from the National Director

Children Resource Centre (CRC)
(Phase I, II and III)

Spiritual Nurture Programmes

Scripture Union Christian Book Centre

Devotional Materials

Contact Us

Psalms 119:105 | 2019 SUK Updates

Message from the National Director

Creating the future we want, today
Redeeming Kenya through Ministry to
13.5M children in our learning institutions



Things Fall Apart

Chinua Achebe's novel, *Things Fall Apart* makes for an interesting read...the Igbo society of Nigeria, once knit and held together by an agreed value system, culture, traditions and religious beliefs, is unable to hold together during a time of major

change brought about by the coming of the White Man. Okonkwo, a once referred, hardworking, and respected, confident man, becomes the epitome of things falling apart when, unable to come to terms with the changes, commits suicide.

Kenya, like Igbo, has and is going through major changes, albeit for different reasons. The once held belief and value system that expected respect of the elderly by the young, for example, viewed family as a sacred institution, where the poor and needy were the responsibility of the community, where sex was taboo for certain age groups, where the child was the responsibility of the community...all these have been thrown to the wind.... and in their stead, selfishness, greed, immorality, theft of public resources, family dysfunction, have invaded our space...every space and institution. Is it a wonder that the rate of suicide and murders have hit the ceiling....things have indeed fallen apart.

Aware of the need to reach the 13.5M kids in the Kenya ECD and primary schools with the Gospel of Christ, a space allowed by the GoK through the Programme for Pastoral Instructions (PPI), the leadership of SUK, in our meeting in August, reflected on God's plans for these little ones and some biblical metaphors that would help us understand our role as Christian leaders, with a mission;

God's image of the Future - Zachariah 8:1-23

Zachariah depicts the future which God, who was "burning with jealousy for Zion", anticipated for Jerusalem which "would be called the Faithful City, and the mountain of the Lord Almighty will be called the Holy Mountain"; in this restored and rejuvenated city, men and women of ripe old age will sit in the streets, each of them with cane in hand because of their age; city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there, depicting security and peace; there will be vibrant community life of peace, prosperity, truth being spoken; a remnant will enjoy a good environment

that has yield and sustenance and salvation of the Lord; the people will enjoy assurance of God's commitment to do good again, and a promise of plenty.

These dear friends are the same kind of blessings Kenya can and will receive when we align ourselves with the guidelines stipulated in God's word. Of more critical importance is the fact that Kenya can and will be restored if we focus our energies on instilling values of God's kingdom in the 13.5M children located in our ECD and primary schools. Somebody reached us when we were young...and look what we have become!. We must reach them when they are young.

Metaphors to help us create the future God wants:

Scripture provides several metaphors which can help us engage our task. We will share a few;

1. The Builder - Psalms 127

- Has a plan and an implementation strategy (considers the task and counts the cost)
- Must be focused on the project
- Must mobilize all the requisite resources (human and financial, materials and tools) to facilitate accomplishment of the end result

2. The Watchman - Ezekiel 33

- Knows the great responsibility vested on him/her...the blood will be required on him if he does not warn those who are perishing
- Be bold, Alert and courageous to accomplish the task
- Be armed at all times and take risks to preserve life
- Be responsible and accountable to the Sender and all those in his team

3. The Midwife - Exodus 1-2; 6:14

- Must assist with the delivery process (bringing forth a new thing)
- Must be courageous and focused on the task in the face of pain and panic (mother and father)
- Must pay critical attention to time, because a little delay could mean the death of the mother and/or baby
- Joys in bringing forth a living child, not a still birth

4. A Bridge builder - Exodus

God used Moses as a bridge builder, moving the Children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan. A bridge symbolizes

- Eternity, vision and hope for what will be achieved "on the other side"
- Strength, empowerment, and security for those who cross because it is solid
- Access to new ideas and challenges; permits new experiences, new life

God has given the adult Christian in Kenya an opportunity to birth, to watch, to build and fac-

itate the little ones who are beloved of the Lord to move from “here to there”. May we take this responsibility with the seriousness and urgency it deserves, for therein lies their future, and the future of this country Kenya

Nancy Kahuthia (Mrs.)

Children’s Resource Centre (CRC)

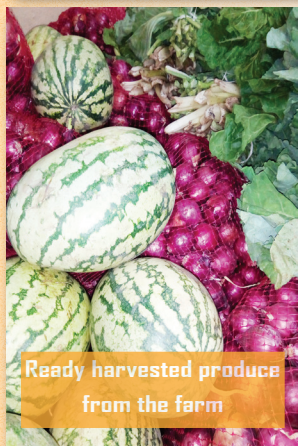
Phase 1 – First Steps: Dedicating the Land

Since the Commissioning of the Borehole and Ablution block in November last year, the Children’s Resource Centre has been the venue of two tented children’s camps, in April and August this year. The Children’s Camp, dubbed the “Junior Leadership Experience” (JULEP) focused on equipping children from across Kenya with Biblical leadership truths and skills aimed at molding their character and enabling them to be effective ambassadors of Christ in their homes as well as learning institutions.

As a way of creating sustainability, we set aside part of the land for farm use. By God’s Grace, we have been able to produce fresh onions, tomatoes, kales, danias and melons, that have both serviced the children during the Camps, as well as being sold locally. The children have experienced first-hand how these crops are grown and have made



April JuLEP participants enjoy a melon while lunch is being prepared



Ready harvested produce from the farm



Some of the spinach growing in the farm

use of them with no apologies. It has been a joy to host the children in what they call “our camping facility”. Thanks to all those who have been part of the project.

Phase 11 – Amphitheatre and meeting hall



The Team of Contractors, Board Members and Staff that was present during the Groundbreaking

With the support of one of our partners, we, on 17th September this year, embarked on yet another bold move—the groundbreaking for the camping area, amphitheater, meeting hall, open kitchen and expansion of the ablution block. The day saw National Governing Council & SUCBC Board Members, Architect, contractors and SUK Staff lay a stone of remembrance, (literally) in Thanksgiving to God for his provisions and committing the entire process to him for guidance, speed and strength. Indeed, we have experienced His faithfulness, as the ongoing work picked up progressively, and is due to be completed in December. This is just the beginning of more works to be undertaken, and we crave your continued partnership and support to see this project fully realized.

Phase 111 – Accommodation for adults

With the camping area and meeting hall complete, we will, by God’s help and support from his people, embark on developing accommodation facilities for adults namely, Sunday School, teachers, PPI facilitators and parents. The facility will be a ministry hub for building capacity of thousands of children workers and parents to facilitate children ministry and healthy families.

We invite you to be part of this visionary project.



Ongoing works on the Amphitheatre with central fireplace, one of the structures for the Isinya CRC

Spiritual Nurture Programmes

We have remained committed to our core mandate of facilitating spiritual nurture to the children in the primary schools, building capacity of Sunday School teachers and PPI facilitators, and distributing Christian literature. Our flagship programmes including weekly school Bible clubs, inter schools rallies, Jesus Film Shows, Vacation Bible Schools, holiday camps, and PPI classes, Positive Parenting seminars and publishing/distribution of materials have continued unabated. We are assured that these efforts are bearing fruit that will abide to eternity.

We thank God for opportunity to give input to Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and Ministry of Education in curricula development for CRE, Pertinent and Contemporary Issues, Values Based Education, Parental Empowerment and engagement, formulation of National framework of Chaplaincy policy for learning institutions as well evaluations of course materials. The Competence Based Curriculum (CBC) has great potential of developing the child into an all-rounded person and we look forward to working with other stakeholders to this end.



Sunday School Teachers training in Kiambu County



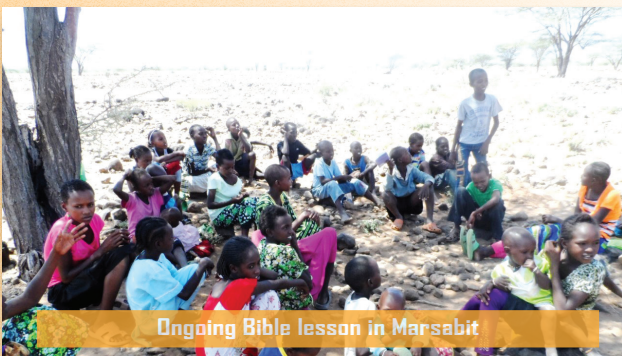
VBS in Laitokitok—children learning how to pray



Children preparing to watch God man film in Kisumu



Ongoing Bible Club Rally at the Nairobi Arboretum



Ongoing Bible lesson in Marsabit



The Team in Eldoret undertaking conversion of our PPI material into CBC format

Scripture Union Christian Book Centre (SUCBC)

Despite 2019 being a pretty challenging year in terms of business, we thank God for miraculous sustenance. The need for the Word of God has never been more glaring in Kenya as it is now, and SUCBC is committed to continue availing the Bible and Bible helps in various forms. Be on the look out to our E-Devotional materials soon. We are also seeking for more partnerships and agents to ensure that these materials are availed in more homes and schools.

The National Governing Council, in its AGM this year, approved a robust and “out of the box” thinking Corporate Plan for SUCBC. With this came the recruitment of Mr. King’ori Muito as the General Manager for the expanded business arm and Ms Christine Odera, to serve as the Finance Officer. We look forward to their valued input.

karibuni sana!!



Ms Christine Odera,
Finance Officer, SUCBC



Mr. King’ori Muito,
General Manager, SUCBC

Devotional Materials



Our Devotional Materials namely Daily Guide, Daily Power, God and Me, Uteithio Wa O Muthenya, Nam Ak Isoman Kotugul and Utethyo Wa Kila Muthenya are ready for

use and distribution. Kindly order your copy and help us distribute to your family members, churches and to as many parents and young people in schools as possible.

We have also just unpacked a great assortment of Bibles and Christian literature. Catch a copy for yourself and Christmas gifts for your loved ones.



Thanksgiving for:

- For you, our dear partner, who has stood with us this year
- God’s leading to the Scripture Union International Global board led by Monika Kuszmierz
- Stability and unity in the country
- God’s amazing grace, enablement, protection and provisions throughout the year
- The Governance Team for their wise and dedicated leadership
- Stakeholders who have played critical roles in ascertaining SU success; Editors, Writers, Committees, Volunteer workers and Christians who have prayed for the ministry and generously given their resources
- Partners and churches who have walked alongside SUK
- The little children and young people who have come to faith through our programmes and for the Christian teachers and PPI facilitators who have supported the work in schools
- Many lives that have been transformed through our literature department

Pray for:

- Spiritual and physical health and protection for all the SU stakeholders and their families
- Strength and focus for the next couple of months as we distribute the Devotional Materials.
- Wisdom and clarity as we finalize and implement the SUK Business arm Strategic Plan.
- Unity for the Church in Kenya in our mandate to love and serve the Lord
- The Education Sector; we thank God for giving us Christian leaders committed to the spiritual wellbeing of the children. Pray for Grace and wisdom on them to enable them foster the spiritual wellbeing of the children.
- Strength and renewed zeal as we embark on our God given mandate in 2020.



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*Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous 2020!!*

