

# A New Beginning

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

\$50,000 Gift . . .	2
The Site Plan	2
2007-2008 Funding Plan	3
2009 Funding Plan	3
2010 Funding Plan	3
Our Mission . . .	4
Oversight Plan	4
You Can Help	4

## Construction has begun at Sam's Place! Kenyan Deaf Children will have a New Beginning

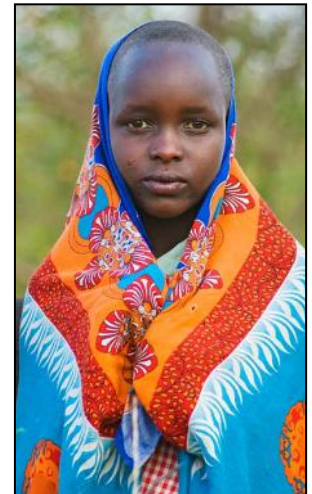
Construction has begun at Sam's Place! During the past year, the ground has been prepared for the construction of buildings that will become the new home and school for deaf orphans at Sam's Place. The well has been dug, the choo (Kenyan latrine) has been excavated and the multi-room building placed on the foundation (see Simeon proudly displaying the new

choo. Today the land is fenced and the thorn bushes are growing around the inside perimeter of Sam's Place. Recent work has completed a security gate and guardroom at the entrance to the compound. The landscape reveals the beginnings of the very special place that will become Sam's Place. Everywhere you look

concrete and construction indicates that the work is well underway and that soon the buildings will begin to appear.

During the Willis Missions trip to Kenya in June this year, the foundation of the two-story dormitory will be begun. The dormitory will serve as the home for the children and provide space for family activities, classrooms, and Bible studies. The dormitory building also will be home to widows who will care for the orphans and some of the staff and their families. As the center piece for Sam's Place, the dormitory will become a true home for our deaf orphans, a place of nurturing, where Christ will be the principle focus in their lives.

In the pages that follow, read more about the plans for Sam's Place and pray for God's guidance for our continuing journey in Kenya.



**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

- *Anonymous foundation gives \$50,000 to Willis Missions for construction of dormitory at Sam's Place.*
- *Sam's Place site plan is unveiled*
- *Funding strategy explained*
- *Oversight plan brings new responsibilities for Willis in Kenya*

## Our Long and Continuing Road in Kenya

Willis has long been the "mission church." This image of our church family comes from a half century of making a difference in the world. Early on our church family recognized our responsibility to take the Great Commission into all the world. When one looks back at the work that has been completed and the foundations that have been established, it leaves a person breathless. What a

legacy to have and to build upon!

Our long and continuing work in Kenya is entering the 21st Century with a small but innovative and important project. As the AIDS virus continues to destroy families and threatens the very fabric of life in Kenya orphans are paying a high price. Hearing orphans surely suffer too but the deaf child is often singled out to be

abandoned and sometimes worse. A common practice is to take the deaf orphan deep into the jungle and leave them tied there to be prey for the wild animals. These frightened and desperate children have no hope as Kenyan society sees them as flawed children to be discarded. But God has a plan for them—and for us! There will be room at the inn for those who find their way to Sam's Place

## \$50,000 Gift from Foundation Received for Dormitory

December 2007 brought a wonderful surprise for Sam’s Place—a gift of \$50,000 towards the construction of the dormitory. Willis Mission wrote this first grant proposal and sent it to an “anonymous” foundation in November 2007. A few weeks later we received notice of the large gift. The foundation made the gift contingent on keeping the foundation anonymous. They prefer to work behind the scenes to support God’s work in the world. We are so grateful for this partner who will make a real difference in the lives of so many Kenyan deaf orphans.

A second grant is currently in progress that will request additional funds from a second foundation. Together with funds from the Willis Mission Emphasis Week contribution

and other gifts from individuals, funding will be sufficient to complete Phase 1 in the construction plan (see page 3 for the 2007-2008 funding plan).

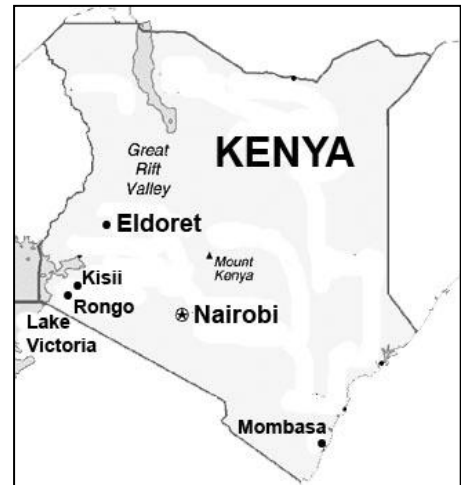
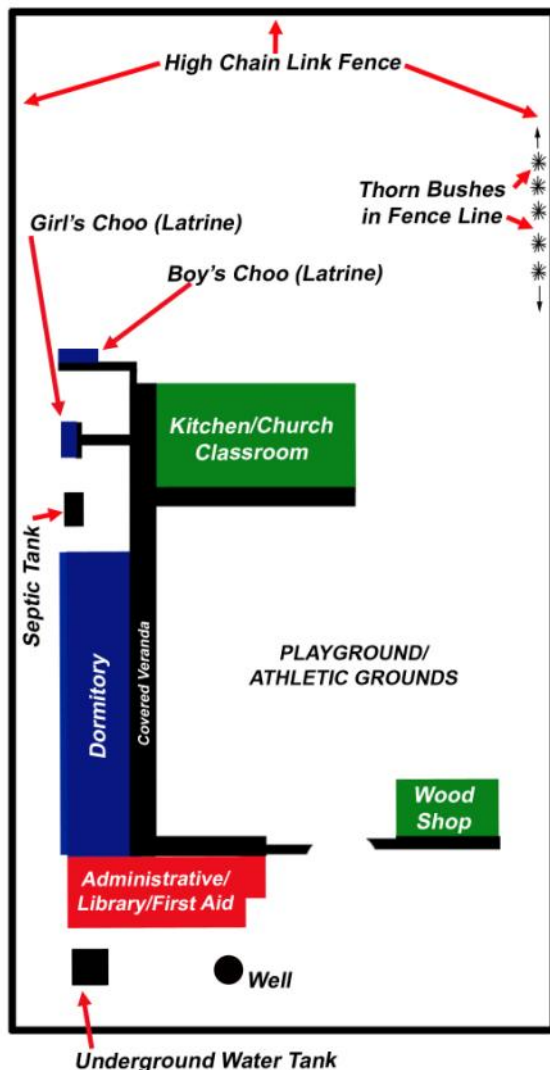
Construction of the dormitory, the choo, the well, and the guardroom will make it possible to begin tentative operations at Sam’s Place. As 2009 and 2010 unfolds, other buildings will come online as grants, contributions, and individual gifts provide funding for Phase 2 and Phase 3.

The Construction Fund is but one part of a three-pronged strategy to fund Sam’s Place. The Endowment Fund, seeded first with a gift from Sam McReynolds, is growing and is available to individuals to contribute to the fund so that day-to-day operations will be adequately funded. It is

*“...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19*

projected that the Endowment Fund eventually will provide \$20,000 per year to cover the cost of operating Sam’s Place. An additional \$330,000 is needed to create the endowment to fund a distribution of 5% per year for operations.

The Education Fund will provide funding for support of educational operations at Sam’s Place. A critical part of the educational plan will be a comprehensive Bible studies program for each child. This plan calls for a home environment (in the family room) that is Christ-centered. The educational curriculum and the home setting will offer a well-rounded Biblical foundation for each child—one that will equip them for life. See our mission statement on page 4 that gives some insight into our plans for child development at Sam’s Place.



# The Four-Year Funding Plan

**Phase 1:**  
January 2007-  
December 2008

Sam's Place South 11th and Willis Church of Christ		Page 1			Phase 1 Cost Estimates January 2007-December 2008		
Expense Description	Item Cost	Willis	Indiv Donors	Anonymous Grant	Grant Request	Total Contributions	
Land Purchase	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000.00	
Fencing, Security landscaping, water well, sanitary facilities with concrete work, electricity routed to site, architectural work.	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
Leadership and Planning Workshop, Abilene--Kenyan and American leadership.	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	
Dormitory Building, level one, 2925 sq. ft. @\$30 sf	\$ 87,750.00	\$ 13,875.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 43,875.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 87,750.00	
Dormitory Building, level two, 2925 sq. ft. @\$25 sf--Note: In Kenya due to environmental considerations, second story construction must be based on a concrete/steel floor, not wood. Construction of a second story generally saves the cost of a second roof and additional ground space. In this case, by building a second story, Sam's Place saves \$14,625 in construction cost and frees up 2925 sq. ft. of ground space to be utilized for other purposes.	\$ 73,125.00	\$ -	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 6,125.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 73,125.00	
Oversight Team to Kenya, July 2008	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 190,875.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,875.00</b>	<b>\$ 37,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 190,875.00</b>	

**Phase 2:**  
January 2009-  
December 2009

Sam's Place South 11th and Willis Church of Christ		Phase 2 Cost Estimates January-December 2009				
Item Cost	Willis	Indiv Donors	Grant Request 1	Grant Request 2	Total Contributions	
Dining Hall/Classroom/Church Building, Multi-Purpose, 3240 sq. ft. @\$30 sf	\$ 97,200.00		\$ 47,200.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 97,200.00	
Concrete, walk ways	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00				
Furniture/Equipment, Dorm/DH/CR/CH	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,000.00				
Kitchen/Equipment	\$ 15,000.00		\$ 16,000.00			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 128,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 14,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 47,200.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 128,000.00</b>

**Phase 3:**  
January 2010-  
December 2010

Sam's Place South 11th and Willis Church of Christ		Page 1			Phase 3 Cost Estimates January-December 2010		
Expense Description	Item Cost	Willis	Indiv Donors	Grant Request 1	Grant Request 2	Total Contributions	
Admin/Library/Clinic, level one, 2100 sq. ft. @\$30 sf	\$ 63,000.00			\$ 63,000.00		\$ 63,000.00	
Admin/Library/Clinic, level one, 2100 sq. ft. @\$25 sf--Note: In Kenya due to environmental considerations, second story construction must be based on a concrete/steel floor, not wood. Construction of a second story generally saves the cost of a second roof and additional ground space. In this case, by building a second story, Sam's Place saves \$14,625 in construction cost and frees up 2925 sq. ft. of ground space to be utilized for other purposes.	\$ 52,500.00	\$ -			\$ 52,500.00	\$ 52,500.00	
Shop Building, 880 sq. ft. @\$30	\$ 26,400.00		\$ 26,400.00			\$ 26,400.00	
Driveway/Parking	\$ 9,375.00	\$ 9,375.00				\$ 9,375.00	
Tools & Equipment/Shop	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 2,010.00	\$ 2,010.00				\$ 2,010.00	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 158,285.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,385.00</b>	<b>\$ 26,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 63,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 52,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 158,285.00</b>	

# Sam's Place

*A Home for Deaf Children  
in Kenya*

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- Vernon Williams, Co-Chair  
Email: vwilliams@acu.edu
- Gary Stephen, Shepherding Elder  
Email: wvgs@nts-online.net
- Colleen Blasingame
- E.B. Dotson
- Jean Dotson
- Cindy Latham
- Jeff Latham
- Debbie Oliver
- Frankie Parker
- Pres Parker
- Cecil Faye Pemberton
- Ted Pemberton
- Eileen Stephen
- Jeff Wilhite

## Elders

- Raymond Blasingame
- Joe Cardot
- Keith Dowell
- John Robinson
- Roy Shake
- Gary Stephen
- Roger Thomas
- Steve Willingham

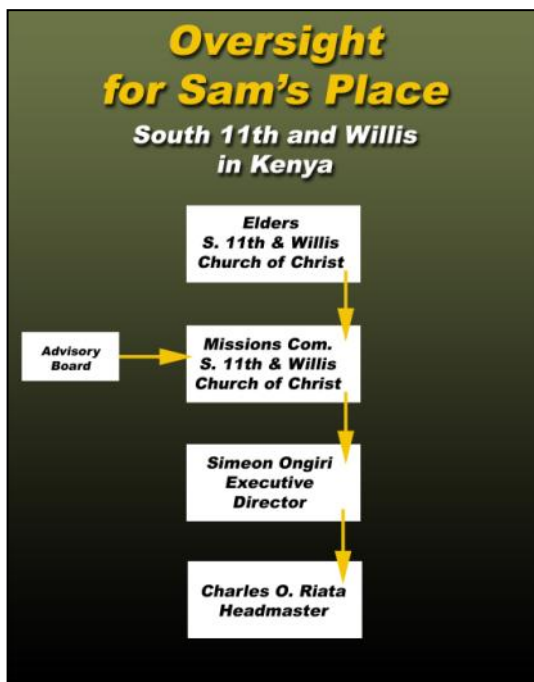
We're on the web!  
[www.willismissions.org](http://www.willismissions.org)

## Our Mission at Sam's Place

*Sam's Place will provide an environment for deaf orphans in Kenya that is conducive to spiritual and academic growth. Important values will be emphasized that focus on:*

- *stewardship*
- *emotional stability*
- *spiritual maturity*
- *integrity*
- *honesty*
- *self-control*
- *compassion and respect*

*Taught within the context of a Christian world view, each child will grow to maturity equipped with the tools they will need to make their way in life and make a difference for God wherever they may go.*



*"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress. . . ." James 1:27a*



## You Can Help Make a Difference

How can you help Sam's Place?

Help with construction of Phase 1 is an important opportunity to help Sam's Place now. Construction is the most immediate need but funding the Education Fund and the Endowment Fund are also critical to making the entire plan work. All three funds are wonderful opportunities to take the story of Jesus to Africa and make a difference there. Small, medium, and large gifts are needed to build the endowment fund. No gift offering is too small.

The Endowment Fund will ensure that the day-to-day operations of the facility will be secure and stable.

It has been said many times that it takes a village to raise a child. We have witnessed that reality at Willis where all have taken a role in raising our children. These deaf orphans need our village, all of us who are God's people. Our village, at Willis and from other congregations everywhere, can live the lesson Jesus has left us. Pray for Sam's Place and discover how you can be a part.

