

# A New Beginning

VOLUME 3

SPRING 2009

## Great Things Accomplished at Sam's Place in 2008!

Construction on Sam's Place began in earnest in early 2008, and much has been accomplished on the land in the months that have unfolded.

In the photographs below you can see our new three-room administrative block. The building is finished and is temporarily used for storing valuable building materials and serving as a sleeping and eating place for our watchman. When the or-

phanage and school opens, the administration block will provide offices for our director, Simeon Ongiri; our principal, Charles Otieno, and a third office area for clerical personnel. The administrative space will serve Sam's Place well and provide low-cost office support for operations year round.

You will notice that there have been revisions on the construction plan, eliminat-

ing for the time being, the old Administrative/Library building. It has been replaced with this three-room administrative block and reallocating space for the library in the family center and computer instructional space in the large dormitory building (see pages 2-4 for more information).

The largest and most important building, the dormitory, began construction during the spring and summer. The dormitory will include living space for 40 deaf children and their room mothers on the second floor, a 3-BR apartment for the Otieno family, a computer classroom, and a family learning center on the ground floor. Completion of the dormitory is scheduled for the end of December this year.

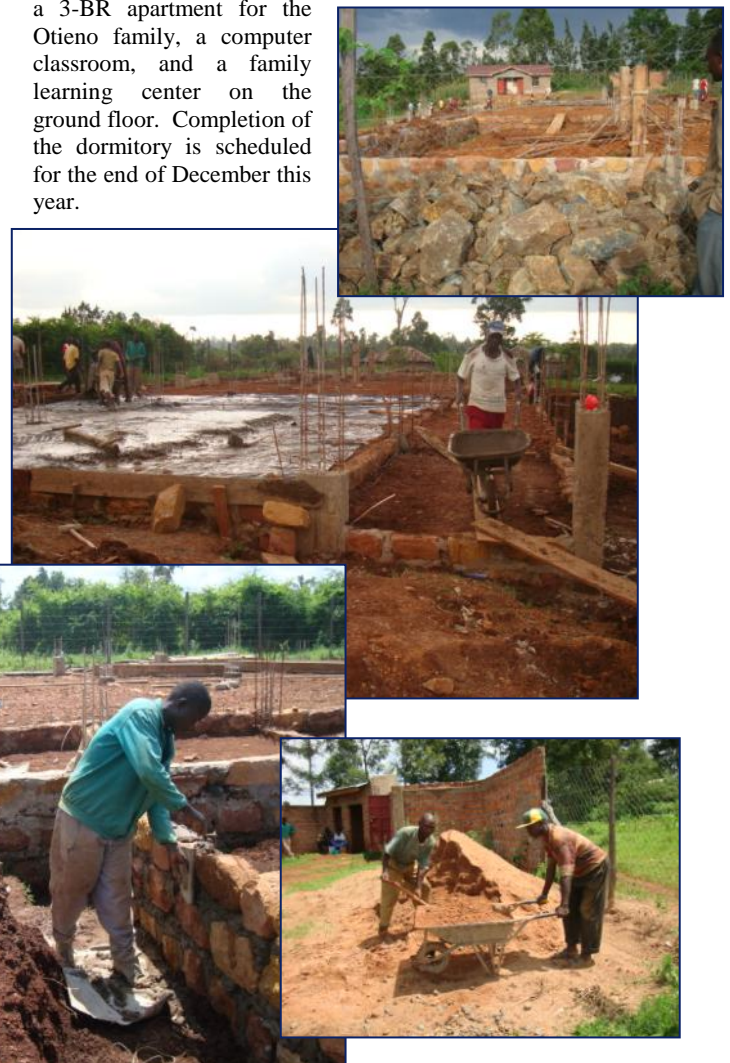
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### 2008 CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS:

- Above, the three-room Administrative Block is completed and is used temporarily for storage of building materials and living space for the watchman.
- At right, four photographs of the beginning construction of the foundation for the 40' x 108', two-story dormitory. Many of the workers at Sam's Place are local deaf men.



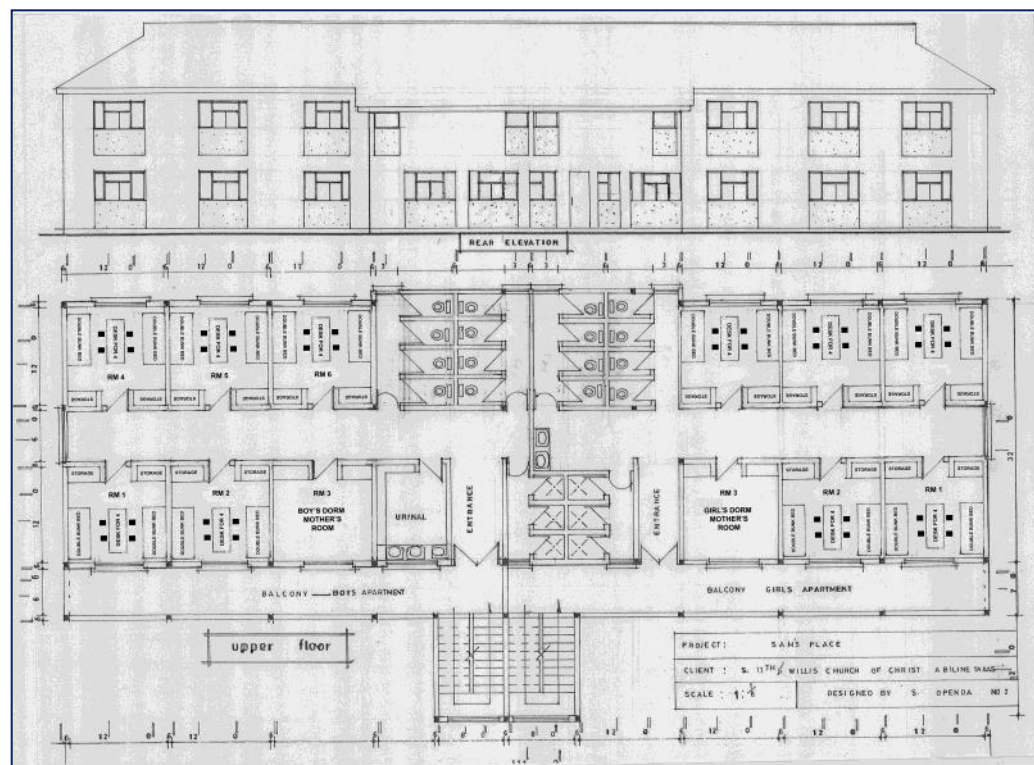
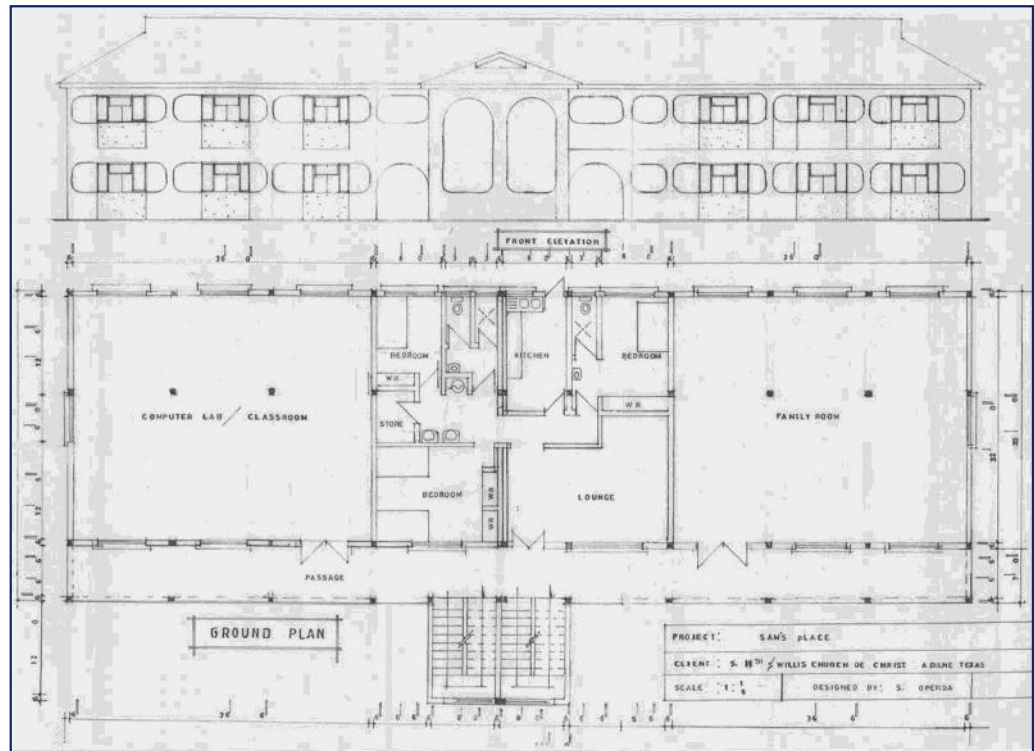
## Dormitory to be Finished by End of 2009

The dormitory will be the center of living and learning at Sam's Place. Early last year construction began on this 30 x 108 ft., two-story building (see the floor plans at right). As the new year begins, the massive foundation is finished and the dormitory is now beginning to take shape as the superstructure is being built. Plans call for the building to be finished by the end of the year, in time for deaf orphans to arrive at Sam's Place in January 2010.

Notice in the top drawing (at right) that the plans provide for a large classroom/computer instructional space. The curriculum taught at Sam's Place will be based on the latest technology and educational strategy. Our deaf orphans will begin a study program that will allow them to learn, develop and be able to communicate with both the deaf and hearing worlds. At graduation, our graduates will be much sought after by business.

The family center on the opposite end of the ground floor will give our orphans space to be a family. Here they will fellowship, have devotionals and worship, play games and study. It will be their home place, a place for memories to be made.

The top floor contains the living space for our girls and boys, each group assigned to rooms of four students and



*“Sam’s Place will be the difference between life and death for deaf children who live in a world where there is no hope and no future.”*

each group having widows who will live with them and serve as their dorm mothers. You will notice that the dormitory plan includes a well-designed restroom and shower facility, one for boys and one for girls.

During 2009 we have much to do and accomplish to be ready. Will you help us make the dormitory a reality? Send a check today (see contact information on page 4) that will help provide a home for deaf orphans and a learning environment that will change their lives forever. You can make the difference.



## How Can You Help Sam's Place Today?

Our funding strategy for Sam's Place is simple and straight forward: we pay as we go. When funds are available, we build. There is no debt involved in our funding plan so all that has been accomplished has been paid for in cash. The land, the legal fees, architectural drawings and plans, the fence, the water well, the thorn plantings, the entrance gate/watchman room, road repair, the choo (outdoor restrooms), the three-room Administrative Block, and the construction currently underway on the dormitory—all this has been paid for in advance by those Christian brothers and sisters who share a vision for deaf orphans in Kenya.

Now the superstructure is going up next. We have funds in place to pay for this next step, but as you can see in the spreadsheet below, we need your help to finish the building and open Sam's Place. We are now collecting funds for the final steps—the roof, the second floor, the plumbing above the foundation, and the furnishings and fixtures still need funding.

As recipients of the Lord's blessings and stewards of those resources, we ask that you consider a gift to Sam's Place for 2009 dormitory construction. It is an important piece in the plan to provide a place for deaf children to learn and to grow in the knowledge of God's plan for them. Sam's Place will be the difference between life and death for deaf children who live in a world where there is no hope and no future.



*Two early dormitory construction scenes: top, preparing the footings to support the upper floor and roof (see the Administration Block in the distance); bottom, the support columns begin to*

### Dormitory Funding Details

Amount	Funded By
\$65,000	Cash on hand in Willis Missions Construction Fund
\$26,000	Willis Missions Emphasis Week Request, April 2009
\$50,000	Foundation Grant
\$59,618.82	Church partners and other friends of Sam's Place
200,618.82	Total Cost to Complete Steps 2-12 Dormitory Construction

Steps	Cost	Completed?	Paid in Full?
1. Land purchase, legal fees, architectural plans & drawings, fencing, thorn plantings, choo #1, Administration Block bldg., water well, entrance gate & watchmen space, tools, road work, transportation, repairs, digging of choo #2	\$24,734.00	Yes	Yes
2. Foundation to support a two story load with plumbing installed and stubbed off.	\$24,734.40	Yes	Yes
3. Super-structure concrete work	\$78,657.21	In Progress	Funds Available
4. Roofing	\$14,800.06	No	No
5. Building Completion/Door and Windows	\$14,468.46	No	No
6. Building Finishes	\$15,960.00	No	No
7. Ceiling	\$16,145.41	No	No
8. Pelmet, iron mongery, wall unity and mirrors	\$10,400.38	No	No
9. Rain water installation	\$6,846.18	No	No
10. Paving & painting	\$4,214.09	No	No
11. Electrical work	\$3,310.19	No	No
12. Plumbing and drainage	\$11,082.44	No	No
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$225,352.82</b>		
<b>Breakdown Detail:</b>			
*Pre-Dormitory Costs (Step 1)	\$24,734.00	Yes	Yes
*Foundation/plumbing below ground (Step 2)	\$24,734.40	Yes	Yes
*Superstructure (Step 3)	\$78,657.21	In Progress	Funds Available
*Final Construction Processes (Steps 4-12)	\$97,227.21	No	No



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### World Missions Ministry Members

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- 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)

Send your tax-deductible donations to:

### *Sam's Place*

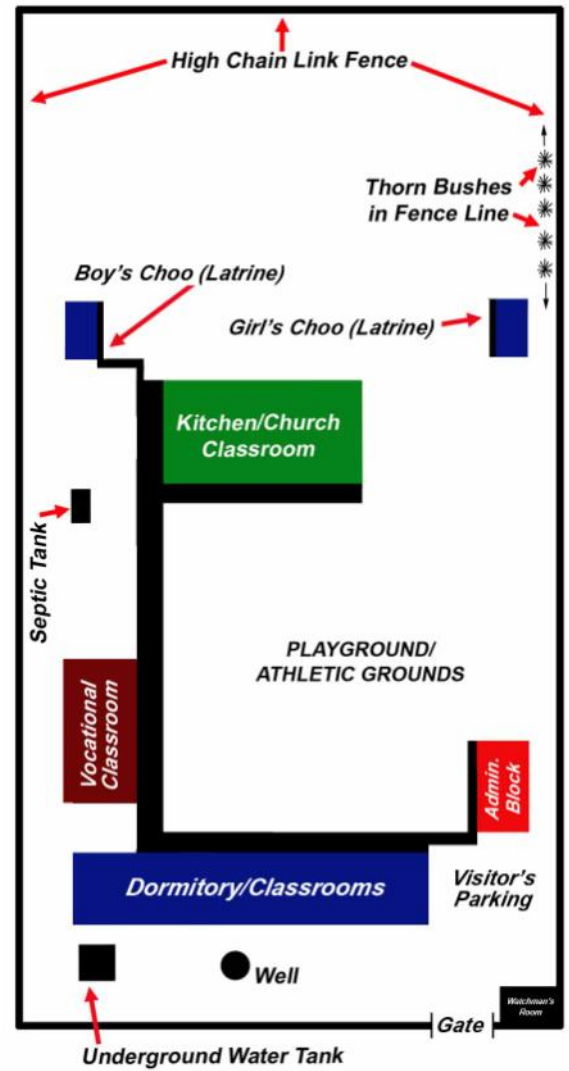
S. 11th & Willis Church of Christ  
3309 S. 11th Street  
Abilene, Texas 79605

## 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*

## Summer Mission Team to Kenya

June 7-24, 2009

A summer mission team from congregations in Tennessee, Mississippi, Tulsa, and Houston will join S. 11th & Willis in sending a joint team to Kenya in June to minister to the deaf, work at Sam's Place, and provide teaching and preaching for rural congregations in western Kenya. The leadership team includes:

- Jerry Drennan and Vernon Williams who chair the missions ministry at S. 11th & Willis and oversee the Sam's Place Project
- Carl Moore, deaf preacher at Park Plaza in Tulsa
- Stephen Greek, former missionary to Kenya
- Billy Leavell, deaf preacher from Mississippi

The team will spend much of its time at Sam's place where a number of construction tasks will be done with participating deaf and hearing Kenyan brothers. Other work will include staff training and equipping sessions for Sam's Place leadership personnel, teacher training, a children's camp for neighboring children, and perform essential logistical work for Sam's Place in Nairobi and other points of supply and service.

Many of our team will be sending out requests for support for this important mission in June. We urge you to give due consideration to these requests and provide funding if you can. The work in June will be a significant step towards the opening of Sam's Place and developing resources in Kenya necessary for the care and nurturing of our deaf orphans who will soon come to Sam's Place.