

A New Beginning

VOLUME 4

SPRING 2010

A New Generation of Deaf Leaders will Emerge from Sam's Place

Equipped with a Technology-Based, Christian Education, Sam's Place Graduates Will Lead East Africa into a New Era of Hope for Deaf Children

The AIDs epidemic has caused catastrophic damage to families with children throughout the African continent. Nowhere has this tragedy been more devastating than in Kenya. Families struggle to take in the children of family members who have succumbed to the virus. But there are limits. As a general rule, deaf children have no place in the extended families and are viewed as defective, often abandoned by their relatives who take in the healthy children but reject the deaf, blind, or infirm. Just a few years ago, 2.3 million Kenyan children were orphans. It is estimated that in 2010 that number will increase to 2.5 million. Of that number 46% are AIDs orphans, the single largest group generating deaf orphans everywhere. As a consequence, hundreds of thousands of deaf orphans in Kenya have no safety net within their biological families. What can we do? How can we help the hundreds of thousands of deaf orphans?

There are many deaf orphanages in Kenya. Some are crude sheds that house ten or fewer children, all living in squalor and poverty. Still others are larger,



with one or two hundred deaf orphans. The standard of living is low and the future for these children is limited. In spite of hundreds of these many desperate orphanages littering the Kenyan landscape, they reach but a tiny few of the total deaf children at risk. Most deaf orphans are left to fend for themselves. So what is the answer?

The answer lies in the deaf children themselves, and God's plan for the world. Take a small group of forty deaf orphans, give them a 21st technology-based education that will equip them to live and work in the deaf and the hearing world. Add to that education, a life filled with love and the nurturing of a Christ-centered, comprehensive Bible education. The result will be a

generation of young deaf adults who will be comfortable in both the deaf and hearing worlds. After years of instruction and experience using 21st century technology, they will leave Sam's Place with an education superior to that found anywhere in Kenya or East Africa. These bright and confident young adults will be much sought after in the Kenya business world for the education and skills they have. These Sam's Place graduates will build a new life for themselves and enter the middle class where they will make a difference for Kenya. But they will do much more.

Growing up at Sam's Place, the children will learn of Jesus and his plan for missions throughout the world. They will

discover the crisis that is real for other deaf children who live around them, who struggle in Kenya, and those who have no hope throughout Africa. The lesson in missions will be placed on our children's hearts to learn well, to use their talents for Jesus, to grow up with a determination to open new doors for deaf children everywhere. Wave after wave of Sam's Place graduates will add to the growing number of deaf adults who will replicate Sam's Place in many places, bringing Jesus and hope to a desperate deaf world.

So soon after the first graduates of Sam's Place enter Kenyan society as viable and valuable citizens, their Christian faith will bring a new era of hope for the deaf culture throughout Africa.

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2008 CONSTRUCTION PHOTOGRAPHS:

- Above, carpenters building the bed units for the orphan rooms upstairs. They are using the computer classroom for the fabrication of dorm room furnishings. Every piece of furniture in the dormitory will be handmade by workers, many of whom are deaf.
- At right, the 40 ft. x 108 ft. dormitory begins to take shape in January 2010 as the exterior receives its final finish work and workers begin the process of completing the interior spaces.



\$50,000 Challenge Gift Received to Finish Construction at Sam's Place

On February 1, 2010 Sam's Place received a \$50,000 challenge gift from a Christian couple in Tulsa to finish construction. The challenge gift will provide matching funds to raise \$100,000 to finish the dormitory, the vocational building, and the multi-purpose dining room/classroom/church building. The challenge grant is in two parts:

1. For the dormitory—there are twelve rooms upstairs, six in the boy's wing and six in the girl's wing. We are asking families to fund each of the twelve rooms with a gift of \$5,000 per room. Each room sponsorship will provide for furnishings, technology access, fixtures, electrical, and finish work for four orphans who will live in that room. Widows will live in one room in each wing and serve as house mothers.

By the end of January 2010 we had received funding for two room sponsorships with cash donations of \$10,000, and during early February, a \$25,000 challenge gift was received to fund five additional rooms, if other families would fund the remaining five rooms. One new sponsorship of \$5,000 was received immediately, triggering a matching grant of \$5,000, bringing a total of four dormitory room funded in full. Four additional sponsorships are needed to complete the dormitory room funding and qualify for the remaining \$20,000 in challenge grant funds.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 2 Rooms Funded 2009 | \$10,000 |
| 1 Room Funded February 2010 | \$ 5,000 |
| 1 Room Matching Funds Qualified | \$ 5,000 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| 4 Room Sponsorships Needed | \$20,000 |
| 4 Room Matching Funds Available | \$20,000 |

| | |
|--|----------|
| Total Room Sponsorships When Fully Funded | \$50,000 |
|--|----------|

2. The vocational and multi-purpose buildings will be less expensive metal buildings built on concrete slabs. The estimated cost of the two buildings is \$50,000. The challenge grant will match all construction gifts, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. So gifts totaling \$25,000 for the two buildings will qualify for an additional matching grant of \$25,000.

All donations used for Sam's Place construction or sponsorships for orphan rooms received beginning February 1, 2010 or after qualify for the matching grant—up to \$50,000 in matching funds. Since the matching grant is for construction, Endowment, Education, and Operations Fund gifts do not qualify for the matching program.

All contributions to Sam's Place is tax-deductible. Send your checks made payable to: South 11th & Willis Church of Christ and mark the memo field—Sam's Place. See page 4 for Willis contact information.



Finish work continues in the dormitory. The plastering process is completed in the computer classroom. Next step will be the painting to finish out the space. Soon the furnishings will be installed. See page 1 for a photograph of the lab space being used for manufacturing the furnishings for the orphan rooms upstairs.

Sponsor an Orphan Program to Begin in May this Year

The Sponsor an Orphan program will be rolled out in May 2010 to assist in funding the care and education of the orphans who come to Sam's Place. Together with earnings from the Endowment Fund, each orphan sponsor will provide \$35 per month for clothing, feeding, and educating our orphan students.

"Sam's Place graduates will enter Kenyan society as viable and valuable citizens, their Christian faith will bring a new era of hope for the deaf culture throughout Africa."

Details and other specifics will be available in May. Write to Willis to get on the mailing list for the Sponsor the orphan program.



The new Sam's Sign is finished and ready to install along the highway between Rongo and Kisii. The sign will be placed at the turn where the road leads to our complex.

Teacher and Staff Training to Begin in June

In April 2010 Jerry Drennan and Vernon Williams will travel to Kenya to hire teachers and staff for Sam's Place, work with Simeon on the final construction tasks to be done, engage in oversight activities at Sam's Place and missionary operations, and prepare for an intensive time of training scheduled to take place in June. This year's mission team traveling to Kenya will open Sam's Place, and operations will begin with teacher and staff training. The 2010 team will include a number of professional deaf educators, deaf preachers and teachers, and those who are specialists in the use of technology in the educational environment.

For the first time Sam's Place will host the annual Kenya Deaf Prayer and Learning Workshop. Deaf church leaders from all over Kenya will gather to celebrate the beginning of Sam's Place and use the facilities for Bible study and other workshop activities.

It is expected that the first orphans will arrive at Sam's Place later in the summer as the facility comes online with furnishings and the equipment needed to operate the school and orphanage.

Construction Funding Details As of March 2010

| Amount | Funding Plan to Complete Construction |
|-----------|---|
| \$11,000 | Cash on hand in Willis Missions Construction Fund |
| \$20,000 | New Orphan Room Sponsorships (does not include matching funds) |
| \$28,000 | Willis Missions Emphasis Week Request, March 2009 |
| \$50,000 | Challenge Matching Grant (\$25,000 Dormitory/\$25,000 Orphan Rms) |
| \$38,891 | Complete Dormitory |
| \$20,000 | Generator, Generator House, water treatment |
| \$25,000 | Complete Vocational Metal Building |
| \$25,000 | Complete Multi-Purpose Metal Building |
| \$108,891 | Total Cost to Complete Dormitory, Vocational Metal Building, Multi-Purpose Metal Building, Generator Building, Generator, Water Treatment Plant and Finish Work |

| 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 | Yes | Yes |
| 4. Roofing | \$14,800.06 | Yes | Yes |
| 5. Building Completion/Door and Windows | \$14,468.46 | Yes | Yes |
| 6. Building Finishes | \$15,960.00 | 50% | Yes |
| 7. Ceiling | \$16,145.41 | 50% | Partially Paid |
| 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 | 20% | Partially Paid |
| 12. Plumbing and drainage | \$11,082.44 | 10% | Partially Paid |
| Totals | \$225,352.82 | | |
| Breakdown Detail: | | | |
| *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 | Yes | Yes |
| *Final Construction Processes (Steps 4-12) | \$97,227.21 | 60% | 60% Paid |



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- Ted Pemberton
- Beth Purcell
- Eileen Stephen
- Jeff Wilhite

Elders

- Raymond Blasingame
- Joe Cardot
- Gary Stephen
- Roger Thomas
- Steve Willingham

We're on the web!
www.willismissions.org

Make your tax-deductible donations payable to:

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

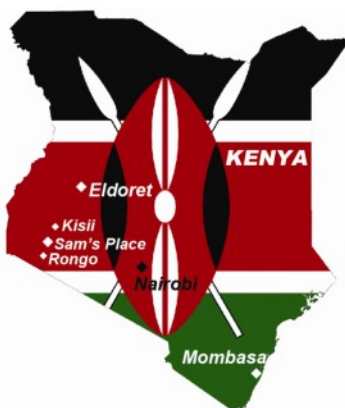
Mark your memo field on your checks for Sam's Place.

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.

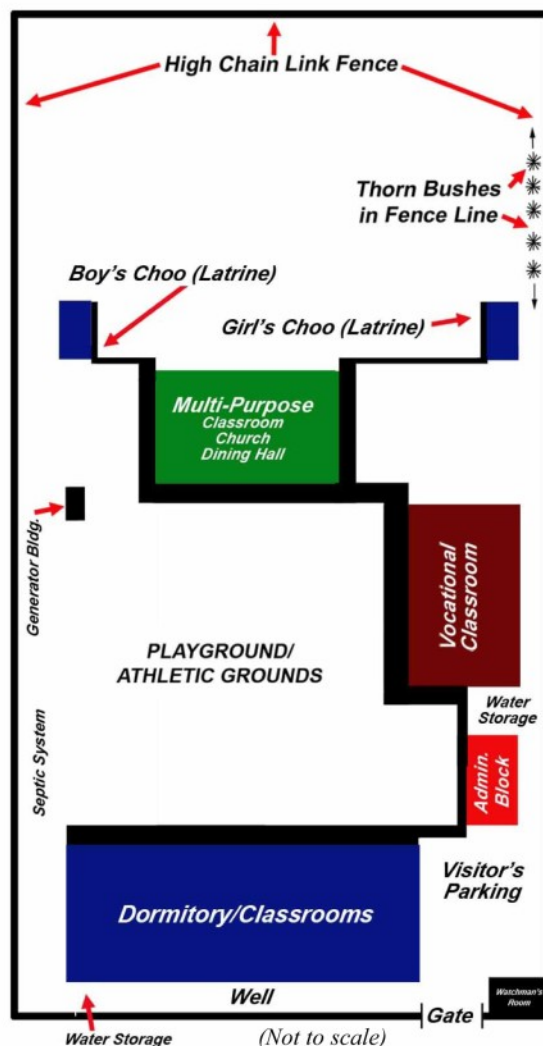


Make a Difference! Give to Sam's Place Today

The year 2010 marks the point in time when we cross the finish line and complete the race. Three long years of construction have brought us to the place when final construction donations will complete the dormitory, the Vocational Building, and the Multi-Purpose Dining/Classroom/Church Building. There are many ways you can push us over the top for construction or help with operations by giving to the Endowment Fund or give special funds for equipment and instructional needs. Partner with us today and send a gift that will truly make a difference for Sam's Place and deaf orphans who now will have hope and a future.

- Sponsor an orphan room (\$5,000)
- Make a gift for construction
- Make a gift for the Endowment Fund
- Send funds for computers, books and Bibles, equipment

Make your tax-deductible gifts payable S. 11th & Willis Church of Christ and send it to 3309 S. 11th Street, Abilene, TX 79605. Please mark your memo field on your check for Sam's Place.



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