



~~EXCERPTS FROM THE~~
Annual Report for 2010
Sam's Place Operations

by
Dr. Vernon L. Williams
Dr. Jerry Drennan
Co-Chairs, Missions Ministry

South 11th & Willis Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas 79605

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
1. Introduction.....	2
2. April Oversight Trip	4
3. Summer Mission Team	8
4. KDPL (Kenya Deaf Prayer and Learning Workshop)	14
5. Fall Oversight Trip and Arrival of the First Orphans	17
Oversight Report by Jerry Drennan	17
Oversight Report by Ted Pemberton	22
6. Registration	24
7. Orphans—Their New Home and New Life	25
8. A New Group of Orphans Arrive.....	30
9. Staffing Plan.....	31
10. Education Plan Overview for 2010-2011	31
Grade Level System and Curriculum.....	31
Space Usage	32
11. Goals and Objectives for 2011.....	33
Attachment 1 – Punch List for Dormitory	34



Annual Report for 2010

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1. Introduction

As 2009 came to a close, progress on the dormitory construction was entering its final stages. The rainy season proved mild and little disruption occurred in the construction activity on the ground at Sam's Place. By the time that the New Year appeared, the three-room Administration Building was finished and serving as a temporary storage location for building supplies and tools. The well and choo (latrine) had long since been completed and were being used by workers as the construction of the dormitory expanded the work force and the number of work hours underway at Sam's Place. Throughout the fall months of 2009, the dormitory began to take shape: the extensive foundation was finished early in 2009, the columns and the second floor soon rose above the red clay of Sam's Place and by the end of December, the dormitory design, first sketched out in a rough pencil drawing by Dr. Vernon L. Williams in June 2008 and a week later drawn by our architect, took shape (see Figures 1 and 2 below), overlooking the future home of our Sam's Place orphans.

The dormitory exterior and interior wall structures were almost complete, the framing for the roof had begun, no windows or doors had been installed, no guardrails on the first or second porticos had been installed, and the entire building still needed much work on the stone and plaster work. In the photographs below you can see that the structure is taking shape in November and December 2009, but there is still a great deal to do.



Figure 1 and 2
December 30, 2009
Front Elevation (left) Rear Elevation (right)



Figure 3 and 4
December 30, 2009
Roof Framing (left) Water Tank Install in Attic (right)

Just a month later in January 2010, the roof is completed and the workers begin to work on the stone work and exterior wall structures. The immediate goal is to have the dormitory ready for use for the Kenyan Deaf Prayer and Learning Workshop (KDPL) to be held at Sam's Place for the first time in June 2010. Looking at the building in January brought worries that there was too much to do, both to the exterior and the interior, to meet the deadline. Simeon Ongiri Atanga, our director and project supervisor, and our contractor worked miracles as the workers labored diligently in the months that followed. By June the dormitory was ready for the



Figure 5 and 6
January 2010
Finishing the Roof (left)
The Completed Roof and Scaffling Removed (right)

KDPL as deaf church leaders from all over Kenya began to arrive at Sam's Place. Waiting to welcome them were the Willis Mission Team from the United States. Led by Dr. Vernon L. Williams (Abilene), Stephen Greek (Austin), and Carl Moore (Tulsa), the team organized the KDPL using the space in the administration building and the dormitory (see section on KDPL on page 18 for more information on the workshop and space usage). Throughout the rest of the summer and into the fall, work on the dormitory continued until November when the staff and the first fourteen orphans moved into the structure. Much work still needs to be done, but 2010 brought to a close the first phase of work on the physical plant at Sam's Place. In the new year, the construction will be completed, the orphans will begin their new life and education in

earnest, and the work of Sam's Place in far western Kenya has become a new beginning for deaf orphans in Africa.

2. April Oversight Trip

Spring 2010 Mission Trip to Kenya and Uganda

Report by Jerry Drennan

Overview

In April of 2010, the partners of HonorCrest, Inc of Ft. Worth, TX accompanied me to Kenya on a survey trip to East Africa. The partners were Jeff Larson and Hollis Drennan. We went on a 10-day survey of mission work in Nairobi and Eldoret, Kenya. Then we visited a few days in Mbali, Uganda. During our visit to Sam's Place, Vernon Williams, who had been in England, joined us. However, both Hollis and Jeff became ill and returned to Nairobi to get medical help. They stayed with the Larry Conway family.

Ministries Visited

The Made in the Streets (MITS) ministry of Nairobi works with "street kids" to help them break addictive habits, to move into safe housing and to teach them personal and business skills for surviving in society. The MITS ministry is a Church of Christ ministry and one of the directors of the project is sponsored from our home church of S. 11th & Willis Church of Christ. The Larry & Hollye Conway family has been full-time missionaries with our congregation for about 25 years, serving all that time in Kenya. Hollis & Jeff were able to visit homeless bases in the slums of Nairobi, to speak to groups of homeless people and to visit the safe house in that area. They were also able to visit the farm in the area of Kimulu, a suburb of Nairobi. Here young people live in dorms, learn English and study the Bible. They also study a trade and work at different skill jobs to determine aptitudes and interests for future careers.

Another Willis missionary family, Keith & Grace Gafner, work in Western Kenya in the Eldoret area. This family has worked with Willis for more than 20 years. Keith's background is in Agriculture and works closely with community and government organizations. We were able to visit several community projects sponsored by religious, service and government groups. The HonorCrest organization agreed to help provide electrical service to one such project that wanted to provide a clinic for supporting midwives within the area. This financial help was the catalyst to get them additional government funds to outfit the clinic.

We then traveled to Mbale, Uganda. This is just across the border from Kenya and is an area that serves much of Western Kenya and Eastern Uganda. The Church of Christ mission group there has received government permission, in fact was requested by the government, to upgrade their two-year college into a full four-year university. The Uganda Ministry of Education has already approved the establishment of Livingstone University. It will be an international university with curriculum programs of Bible, agriculture and technology. We were able to visit the land that has been purchased. Their greatest need at the present time was for some earth-moving equipment to prepare the land for building. The HonorCrest group agreed to help them get the needed equipment.

Sam's Place

While the HonorCrest partners returned to Nairobi for medical services, Vernon Williams arrived to work with me at Sam's Place. Our purpose was to...

1. Solve personnel problems
2. Reinforce our support for Simeon Ongiri Atanga, our director of Sam's Place
3. Reach-out to community resources
4. Plan for the annual Summer team visit from Willis

All of these objectives were achieved. Community contacts were most gratifying and gave us a sense of support from the nearby town of Rongo. Relations with local neighbors were not so successful, however, other families in the surrounding village have become good neighbors for Sam's Place. *Editor's note: The problems with the family who sold the land for Sam's Place will be resolved legally in June (see page 13 for details).*

Return to the USA

Our return to the US was not so successful. Volcanic eruptions in Iceland distributed ash over northern Europe. That meant that flights to and from that area were canceled. We stayed unannounced with the Conway family for several days until we were able to finally get a flight to London/DFW after about 5 days. Our time was spent working with MITS, writing reports, and visiting other missionaries.



Figures 7-11

Hollis Drennan, Jeffrey Larson, Jerry Drennan Visit Rural Projects
in the Eldoret area with Missionary Keith Gafner and his family



Figures 12-13

At Sam's Place, We see that much has been done since the last pictures arrived at Abilene. It is exciting to see the orphan rooms with the beds in place.



Figures 14-21
A Long Way to Go and Two Months to Do It

As we walked the grounds of Sam's Place and examined what had been completed and determined what needed to be done before the KDPL participants arrived in June, it was daunting. Simeon was optimistic and infected all of us with his enthusiasm. It was clear that in the months since the year had begun, an amazing amount of progress had been made toward that point when we could occupy and use the building. The furnishings were well on their way to completion, the exterior finish work was underway, and our deaf workers and our neighborhood laborers were working well together. When we did arrive at Sam's Place on June 9th, we were amazed. Simeon had worked a miracle once again!

3. Summer Mission Team

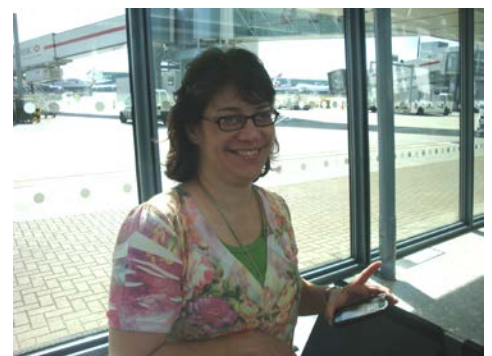
The Mission Team for June 2010 was small by previous years' standards, but it has been usual to have alternating small team/large team configurations over the years. Beginning in 2011 the teams will begin to remain large as student and teacher equipping workshops will begin on an annual basis. Future teams will include deaf preachers and teachers, university/elementary/secondary teachers, retired teachers, and university students—all who will have expertise to contribute to the teacher equipping workshops and student Bible/computer camps that we will offer each year during the summer. During June 2010 our purpose was to begin preparations for receiving orphans and make ready for the 2011 operations, while at the same time, supporting KDPL and visiting and surveying other deaf works in the area.

The 2010 Mission Team assembled in Abilene for the drive to Fort Worth for lunch and then on to the DFW airport. The group met with friends and family at the Spring Creek B-B-Q Restaurant for lunch as has been the tradition each year. At DFW Carl Moore arrived from Tulsa and the team moved through the ticketing and security stations, reaching our gate with time to spare. The team settled down to wait and think about the journey ahead. The 2011 Mission Team included the following members plus Jeff Wilhite who came later to help with the KDPL workshop:

- **Dr. Vernon L. Williams**, co-chair of the Willis Missions Ministry and director of the 2010 Mission Team. Dr. Jerry Drennan did not travel in June, but scheduled two oversight trips in 2010 to Sam's Place: April and November (see Sections 3 and 6). Vernon is a professor of history at Abilene Christian University and has spent the last three years on mission trips to Kenya. Since 2006 he has worked on the financial, construction, and development planning for creating Sam's Place near Rongo.
- **Stephen Greek**, long time missionary to Kenya, has served as a member of the Willis Mission Team for many years. Steve is a teacher specializing in special education and has worked with deaf children both in Kenya and the United States. He has extensive experience in working with deaf schools and orphanages in Kenya and is well known among the deaf community across the Kenyan nation. His preaching and teaching in Kenya has continued on a regular basis since his departure from full time mission work in the Kenya mission field many years ago.
- **Carl Moore**, Deaf Minister and Counselor for Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma served as preacher, Bible teacher, and team member for the 2010 Mission Team to Kenya. Carl has degrees and certifications from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology, Gallaudet University, New York University, and Sunset International Bible Institute. He has been a viable team member

with the Willis Mission Team for four years and has developed an important role as teacher and counselor for deaf Kenyans throughout that nation.

- **Claudia Greek**, long time missionary to Kenya and wife of Stephen Greek. Claudia is a reading intervention specialist and has served student learners struggling with reading comprehension. She lived and worked in the Kenya mission field for many years, had two of her three children there, and enjoyed working with both the hearing and deaf churches. Claudia's extensive experience with home schooling in her own family, together with her teaching experience in both Kenya and the United States, makes her a valuable addition to our mission team.
- **Sharon Arnold**, deaf education specialist for Abilene Independent School District in Abilene, Texas. Sharon teaches deaf education in Abilene but also is very active in the S.11th & Willis Church of Christ deaf program. She is much sought after for interpreting and serves Willis in interpreting for many of our services. Sharon's real value to the team comes from her teaching experience and her knowledge of curriculum for deaf education. It is the hope of the Missions' leadership that Sharon will have many years of service to the deaf orphans at Sam's Place.
- **Alice Caughfield**, long time Willis member, she now lives and works in the Austin area. Alice may have the record for years of service to summer mission teams to Kenya. During the years when raising her family in Abilene with her late husband Dwight (then an elder in the Willis congregation), she became a major part of the Missions program. The late Sam McReynolds (the inspiration for Sam's Place) proved to be Alice's chief encourager for missions and mission work. Alice is a deaf education teacher and continues to be active in working with the deaf. Her expertise in sign language, the love of the Kenyan people, and her dedication to Jesus Christ proved to be an asset for our work at Sam's Place in 2010.
- **Jeff Wilhite**, deacon and chair of Family Ministries at Willis, has been to Kenya twice since the 2008 mission season. Jeff is a programmer with a software company in Abilene and is an active leader at Willis in many areas. In addition to his work with Sam's Place, Jeff is engaged in other benevolence work with orphans in other parts of Kenya. Jeff arrived at Sam's Place this summer in time to meet up with the Mission Team and to assist and work with the KDPL event. His purchase and shipping of Bibles added a special element to the KDPL workshop.



Figures 22-24

In London Waiting for Nairobi Flight: Vernon Williams (left)
Claudia and Steve Greek with Alice Caughfield (middle), Sharon Arnold (right)



Figure 25

The Mission Team Arrives in Nairobi (above)
 Left to right: Carl Moore, Claudia Greek, Stephen Greek
 Alice Caughtfield, Sharon Arnold, Vernon Williams
(Jeff Wilhite joined up later at Sam's Place for KDPL)

The team departed DFW on Sunday, June 6th and finally arrived in Nairobi on Monday night at 9:30 pm. Our driver Joseph had two mutatus at the airport to pick us up and get the luggage aboard for the trip out to our guesthouse. Larry and Hollye Conway were waiting for us with a warm Kenyan welcome. Soon we were ready for bed, knowing we only had one full day (Tuesday) in Nairobi to get supplies and equipment for Sam's Place. We were scheduled to depart for Sam's Place on Wednesday.

While the rest of the team prepared for the trip west, Larry Conway and Vernon Williams went in search of information on purchasing a large generator for Sam's Place. We met with Rajkumar Patil, chief executive of Kirloskar Kenya Limited and found that this Indian company had everything we needed. We discussed power requirements and the special electrical loads that would come with our technology-based operation at Sam's Place. Mr. Patil gave us the specifications of the unit that we would need, the terms of purchase, and delivery requirements. We informed him that we would need to order the unit in January or February 2011. Armed with

this vital information for our fundraising program, we rejoined our team at the Conway home. The next morning we loaded up, and headed west toward the Masai Mara and on to Kisii.

Our arrival at Sam's Place after lunch saw that the dormitory was indeed ready to be used by the KDPL. Simon gave us a tour of the facility, only Vernon had seen the buildings just two months before during the April oversight trip. Much had been improved in just the two months. We departed Sam's Place and checked into our rooms at the Guest House in Rongo for the night. During the night, we learned later the next day, there were some disturbances on the approach to Sam's Place and the next morning we had several legal problems to resolve with the former owners of the land purchased for Sam's Place.

Luckily, government officials in Rongo helped to resolve the problems in our favor. The event allowed those of us with leadership roles to establish good relationships with many in our local government in nearby Rongo: the Chief of Police, the Assistant Chief, the head of the Children's Office, and the head of local government. In keeping with Kenyan cultural practice, we presented each of these government leaders with a certificate marking our friendship with each of them and a small token or gift from Texas. These were well received.



Figures 26-28

Enroute to Sam's Place through Masai Country (top left)

Presenting Gift to Assistant Chief at Rongo (top right)

The Dormitory Ready for KDPL as It Appears Upon Our Arrival (below)



For the next three and half days, the KDPL workshop took place (see section on KDPL below). It was very successful and allowed us to test the functionality of the buildings in place, give the deaf church leadership from across Kenya a chance to see what Sam's Place was going to be, and bring deaf teachers and staff to our facility who wanted to interview for positions at Sam's Place. During the workshop, Vernon Williams interviewed several deaf widows, teachers, and general workman. Some of the teachers and staff who have already been hired or will be hired in the near future were interviewed the three days during KDPL.

Following KDPL Vernon Williams and Simon spent some time going to various office collecting official copies of land documents and working with our advocate (attorney) on reviewing our legal standing and planning for the registration process in Nairobi. The advocate indicated that all was in order and that our legal position was strong and in accordance with Kenyan land laws. This meeting completed our legal work in Kenya for June and preparation on the registration would be completed over the summer and early fall and Jerry and Simon would file the registration package with the Office of Societies in Nairobi in November (see Section 6 on November Oversight Mission on page 21).



Figures 29-30
Simeon Ongiri and Vernon Williams Meeting with Advocate

Perhaps one of the most important tasks the team does every year is to visit deaf schools and orphanages, investigate conditions, provide assistance to children, and reinforce relationships between the Sam's Place Project and area institutions that focus on deaf children and their care and well-being. During June 2010 the primary site visits were to the Kuja School for the Deaf in Rongo and to the Lance Orphanage School for the Deaf outside Kisii. Both deaf facilities were near Sam's Place and the Willis Mission Team has spent many years visiting and working with the two institutions. Stephen Greek taught at Kuja for many years during the time he and Claudia were full time missionaries to Kenya. The Greeks are well respected in these locales and have fond memories and long associations from those days of long ago. Carl Moore spends time each year with the children and teachers at both Kuja and Lance. The images below document this years work with these two important deaf educational centers.



Figures 31-37
Kuja School for the Deaf

Top: Stephen Greek Speaking, Carl Moore Giving a Brief Sermon
Middle: Claudia Greek Speaking to Deaf Students, Kuja Deaf Girls,
Alice Caughfield Visiting a Vocational Classroom
Bottom: Kuja Deaf Girls Performing Traditional Kenyan Folk Dance



Figures 38-43
Visitto Lance Orphanage School for the Deaf

These scenes at Lance's Orphanage and School for the Deaf is very different from Kuja. These children and teachers have very little and our gifts each year mean a great deal to them. It is hoped that Sam's Place will be able to help orphanages like Lance's more and more as operations begin in 2011 and allow for cooperative assistance to these "sister" institutions.

4. KDPL

The annual Kenya Deaf Prayer Learning Workshop (KDPL), held for many years at locations across Kenya, came to Sam's Place for the first time in June 2010. The dormitory and administration buildings were finished enough to be used for the first time. We built a temporary kitchen shed for cooking and serving meals. As soon as the new kitchen in the Multi-Purpose Building is completed, the temporary shed will be torn down. All new buildings will be ready to host the 2011 KDPL and Sam's Place has been named to be the host site for all future meetings. Already Sam's Place is becoming the center for deaf Christians in Kenya. As our orphans grow up, that influence will spread beyond Kenya's borders into all of East Africa.

On Thursday, June 12th the Willis Mission Team prepared for the KDPL workshop that began the next day. Much had to be done. Registration bags and procedures were prepared, electricity secured by two generators, computers set up and made ready, and supplies were brought in from Kisii and Rongo. Carl Moore, the veteran deaf preacher on our team from Park Plaza Church of Christ in Tulsa, had much to do since his responsibilities during the KDPL included a great deal of teaching and preaching. Steve Greek, long time missionary to Kenya, also played a major role. Everyone on the Mission Team had an assignment, along with many of our African deaf leaders. More will be said about the activities as the weekend progressed.



Figures 44-46
The Technology Lab Classroom and Family Room
Seen for the First Time



Figures 47-55
KDPL Scenes

These scenes above illustrate some of the activities that occurred during KDPL. Carl Moore, Claudia Greek, and Alice Caughtfield (top, left) prepare the goody bags for the registration packets on Thursday before the participants arrived the next day. Classes and preaching began the first day (top, middle and right) and ran non-stop through Sunday at noon. Standing on a table to be seen better (center, left) Charles Opayi Ombiji leads singing Kenyan style. Sophe from the Children's Office in Rongo (center, middle) lends a hand with a children's class. Many of the deaf families bring their children and some in this photograph are local children who have joined in the fun and the meal that followed. Carl Moore was a busy man (bottom, left and center), preaching and fellowshiping with the deaf families who respect and look up to Carl as a Christian leader. The last photograph shows Willis missionary Keith Gafner (from Eldoret, Kenya) preaching and Steve Greek (a former Willis missionary to Kenya and long time Mission Team member) interpreting the lesson for Keith.



Figures 56-59
Additional KDPL Scenes

In the photographs above, Peter Kipsigei Langat and Carl Moore (top, left) are active leaders in putting on the KDPL every year. This year over 200 deaf Christians attended KDPL at Sam's Place, and on Sunday morning, eight baptisms resulted from the meeting (top, middle). The group adjourned to a nearby stream for the baptisms. In the right photograph on the row, Keith Gafner presents a Bible and conference certificate to a smiling participant. Jeff Wilhite graciously provided Bibles this year for everyone attending KDPL. What a fitting conclusion to the first annual KDPL to be held at Sam's Place. Vernon Williams staffed the KDPL office in the Administration Building and provided clerical support for KDPL and did interviews of prospective teachers and staff for Sam's Place during the weekend. Sharon Arnold, Claudia Greek, and Alice Claughfield did many tasks to support the deaf leaders during the KDPL days. Above everyone gathered for a group photograph, celebrating the successful conclusion of the three days of prayer, singing, learning, and preaching.

5. Fall Oversight Trip and Arrival of the First Orphans

Our first wave of orphans have arrived at Sam's Place. 7 boys and 7 girls have taken their place at the start of their new life at Sam's Place. All were tested and are HIV free. The children's ages span 5-13 years old. The report below will introduce each of them to you. By the time that the summer teacher workshops and Bible/Computer camps for the children take place in June, we expect to be well on our way to reaching our child capacity at Sam's Place. On the last day of the year, Simeon notified Willis Missions leadership that eight new orphans had arrived (see Section 9 on page 32).

Dr. Jerry D. Drennan and Ted Pemberton from Willis Missions traveled to Kenya in November to oversee the arrival of the orphans, inspect conditions at Sam's Place, and oversee beginning construction of two new buildings. In Nairobi the Willis party was met by Larry Conway, one of Willis' fulltime missionaries based in the capital city. Together the three made their way by automobile to the west, arriving at Sam's Place the next day. The following report of that trip by Dr. Drennan details the activities that took place when guardians arrived with the orphans for the meetings that would lead to the determination of whether the individual orphans would stay. Ted Pemberton gives additional details about construction, furnishings, and the continuing construction.

Oversight Report

November 2010

By Dr. Jerry D. Drennan

Sam's Place USA, the Mission Ministry Committee of S. 11th & Willis Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas has been anticipating the formal opening of Sam's Place, Kenya. We established criteria for accepting our future children/students that would ensure success in the areas of religion, education and personal health.

It is our hope that Sam's Place will become the center of deafness in East Africa for years to come. We want our graduates to be strong Christians with leadership ability and employable skills to be the norm for Sam's Place.

Simeon Ongiri Atanga, our director of Sam's Place, traveled for weeks searching for our first children. He invited individuals that were bright and healthy (non-HIV/AIDS) to select Sam's Place as their home. Jerry Drennan and Ted Pemberton of Sam's Place USA and also Deacons of the S. 11th & Willis Church of Christ were present for the "Big Day."

The Children of Sam's Place

Fourteen children were brought to Sam's Place by relatives, friends and guardians to consider this as their new home. Visitors toured the facilities and talked to staff. Formal presentations were made by Jerry Drennan and Simeon Ongiri Atanga. Community responses were made by tribal leaders, the children's guardians and church officials from the area. A large crowd was present in spite of a steady rain.

One grandfather (mzee) immediately arose to respond to the presentations. He said, "I came expecting to see a place similar to other homes for the Deaf: dirt floors and grass roofs. But this is a stone building with concrete floors, it is dry. The children have their own beds. They will be raised to become Christians. They will be educated with computer technology. I want my granddaughter to be the first to live here. Where do I sign?"

One or two others made similar statements. Immediately every person there, except one, signed the papers to place the children with Sam's Place. One child was already enrolled in a Deaf boarding school and they decided to let that child finish the term and then move her to Sam's Place. The ages of the children were from 5-13 years of age. Each child was given a special hand-made quilt prepared by the ladies of the 11th & Willis Church.



Figure 60-65

Jerry Drennan Speaking (left)

Grandfather Expressing His Amazement (right)

Four Orphans with Guardians and New Quilts from Texas (below)



The six children were assigned rooms, four beds per room. The next morning we noticed that 6 boys had slept in one bed. The beds are larger than the normally small metal cots found in most orphanages in Kenya. We asked, “Why did you all sleep together?” Their response, “We were scared.”



Figures 66-69
Four of the Boys Rooms
Second Floor, Dormitory

Most of the children did not know their names. They did not have a formal language. Most had some basic “home signs” but were known only to a few of their immediate friends. Our first objective was to begin immediately to teach Kenyan Sign Language and stories of Jesus Christ. That will be our first classroom activities for the first few months.

Groundbreaking Activities

The next day we began building the next phase of our campus. Funds are available for the construction of the next two buildings, each to be 30’ x 60’ in size: the Vocational Building which will have two classrooms and the Multi-Purpose Building which will be used as a kitchen/dining hall/classroom/church.

In the Vocational Building, one room will be for woodworking/ carpentry/cabinetmaking and one room for tailoring/sewing. The Vocational Building is to be built on a slope so the building will be a two-level structure with good drainage. The size of each room will be 30' x 30' with storage and a small office enclosed. The plan is to provide another water tank in that area.

The Multi-Purpose Building will include a kitchen built on one end and the rest of the building will serve as a cafeteria or dining hall three times a day. The large room will also be used as a large classroom or meeting room to accommodate the entire assembly of students and faculty. This large room will also be our place of worship. Before our week was finished and we prepared to return to Nairobi for the trip home, the foundation footings for both buildings were dug and stones put into place. By the end of the year, the walls are now being built with brick and are now almost finished. In early January the roof work will begin. In the photographs

below, you will see the ground breaking, the footings work, and the structures beginning to take shape. Completion of both buildings are scheduled for the end of February 2011, depending on weather.



Figures 70-72
Breaking Ground for the Multi-Purpose Building
Jerry Drennan, Ted Pemberton, Simeon Ongiri Atanga

Editor's Note: Beginning with the breaking ground ceremony while Jerry and Ted were at Sam's Place, progress has been rapid as the footings were dug, the foundations laid, and the buildings beginning to rise out of the red soil of Sam's Place. Here are some photographs of the construction progress through the end of 2010.



Figures 73-76

At Left:
Digging the Footings

Below Left:
Vocational Building

Below Right:
Multi-Purpose Building





Figures 77-78
Foundation Begins (left and right)
Multi-Purpose Building in Foreground
Vocational Building in the Distance



Figures 79-82
Multi-Purpose Building (Top Left, Bottom Left)
Vocational Building (Top Right, Bottom Right)

The back of our property had a cow-shade (cow-shed) constructed at this time for the purpose of buying a cow. Napier grass has already been planted in that area near the creek for grazing so that a minimum of feed will need to be purchased. This will greatly cut down on the cost of milk for chai and for feeding the children.

As the time came for Ted and I to depart, the orphans were making their place at Sam's Place, the two new buildings were underway and scheduled to be completed at the end of

February, and Simeon and his family had moved into the Director's apartment and were ready for the next chapter in the life of Sam's Place. The next stage of our journey would be back to Nairobi where there was much to do in submitting our registration papers to the Kenyan government. Our time at Sam's Place was at an end, and we were soon traveling to the east, skirting the Masai Mara just beyond the Serengeti Plains for our next appointment for Sam's Place in Nairobi.

Jerry D. Drennan
December 20, 2010

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During the oversight trip to Sam's Place, Ted Pemberton's role was several fold: a) work with Dr. Drennan, Simeon Ongiri, and our contractor to lay out the next buildings (Vocational Building and the Multi-Purpose Building) in order to break ground for both buildings during the visit, b) inspect the workmanship and construction of the dormitory building, and c) build a sample of the bench storage unit for the Family Room and instruct the carpenter for making the rest of the furnishings for the Family Room area. The following report on those activities by Ted Pemberton provides additional insight on tasks completed during the on site visit and includes recommendations for repairs and additional carpentry work.

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Oversight Report
November 2010
By Ted Pemberton

After spending one week at Sam's Place, here are a few observations I would like to make. There is good news and bad news. Good news, we are there, we are off and running. We have children. We must pray that we are able to offer spiritual guidance and a safe environment for them to grow up in. One piece of bad news is that the contractor who built the dormitory got another job to build a hotel at Masai Mara and left (in this American's opinion) before he was finished. However in most African's eyes it is a wonderful place. Larry Conway and I spent three or four hours walking around the dormitory and made a punch list of things we felt were incomplete. The most important things, for instance safety issues, must be addressed immediately. Some rooms didn't have doors, none of the children's rooms had finished ceilings, the electrical work was incomplete, and much of the cosmetic-type finish work throughout the building has been itemized and scheduled for completion in early spring. The punch list has been prioritized, and Jerry and Vernon will organize the finish work during the next oversight trip to Kenya at the end of January 2011. See Attachment 1 for a copy of the punch list.

God has blessed us with some very capable staff. Simeon is a great administrator, attentive to detail, but lacks some assertiveness. He adapts quickly and will probably overcome this after some time on the job. Naomi (Naomi Nyaboke Ongiri) is a great, Christian wife to Simeon and an asset to Sam's Place. She deserves to be put on the payroll. The night watchmen, Duncan Okeyo and Joseph Migiro appear to be willing to help, always busy cleaning the property. They prepared food for the children and washed dishes, they were good to see things that needed to be done and did them without being told. Elizabeth Omolo, our first widow who

is living with the girls is a hard worker, and I think she will be a good long term dorm mother for the girls. We need to use her as a model when we hire the additional widows for the staff positions for caring for the children.

Tobias was, however, a disappointment. My wife and I have personally contributed to his support for 2 ½ years. He seemed to be more concerned with “who was the boss” than he was with getting the work done. One afternoon while Simeon was gone on an errand, he spent most of the afternoon cutting a piece of plywood to fit in a broken window on his personal automobile. This was after we had received children, and I was disappointed that he was not involved in supervising them. Otieno has a good heart but may not be able to perform the duties we are going to expect from him. I am amazed at how fast news (and rumors) travel without television and radio. Everyday it seems that more people know about Sam’s Place. We are making a positive impact on the neighborhood.

I spent a good bit of time building the first upholstered storage bench for the Family Room. Larry Conway helped me in doing the survey work in the dormitory and with the wood



Figures 83-87

Building the Storage Bench for the Family RoomMulti-Purpose Building
work that I did in the Family Room. Larry Conway is indispensable. He was so much help. I

used local materials so that we can be sure that the subsequent benches are of the same construction and appearance. The deaf carpenter who has been doing most of our furniture manufacturing was commissioned by me to construct two wardrobes to be used for storage in the Family Room, and he can build the rest of the storage benches, using the one I left behind as a model.

I would like to recommend to you Shadrach and his deaf wife who came and spent the day helping us register the children. Both are teachers in other deaf schools. She is certified to teach computers and a number of academic subjects. Shadrach is proficient in signing, Kiswahili, speaks English and he seems to be a good Christian man.

Editors note: This Christian couple will come to Sam's Place as our first academic faculty. Vernon Williams interviewed both of them during June 2010, and it was decided that they would work with our children when the time came for beginning school operations. During the January 2011 oversight trip, Williams and Drennan will offer the couple teaching contracts for the coming school year.

Ted Pemberton
December 20, 2010

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## **6. Registration**

Simeon Ongiri Atanga and Jerry Drennan presented our registration papers to the Office of Societies in Nairobi. We requested a registration as a society under the name of Sam's Place Church of Christ. A society in Kenya is similar to a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation in the United States. Registration as a society will allow us the opportunity to expand in the future with less concerns than a school or orphanage.

Vernon Williams, who recently developed the registration package in Texas for the Southwestern Historical Association, developed the basic organizing strategy to form the submission package for Sam's Place. Using Kenya legal publications, several successful constitutions from "sister" institutions in Kenya, and the advice of our advocate (attorney) in Kisii, Williams emailed the completed documentation to Drennan in Nairobi (see documentation in Attachment 2).

The officers listed in the constitution and on Forms A and B had to be people in Nairobi who were available to sign the documents at the Societies Office. Hollye Conway, a Willis' supported missionary agreed to serve temporarily and is listed as secretary. As soon as the registration is approved, the leadership of the Sam's Place Church of Christ Society will include the two co-chairs of the Willis Missions Ministry from Abilene, Texas USA and two Kenyan nationals.

In the first week of December, Simeon Ongiri Atanga was contacted by a representative of the Societies Office with a request for a site visit to Sam's Place. The visit took place and the representative indicated to Simeon that he would write a very position endorsement of the registration to officials in Nairobi. He also indicated that Simeon should follow up the site visit with an inquiry on status 30 days later. The registration is pending.

## 7. Orphans—Their New Home and New Life

Much has happened with the orphans since Jerry and Ted departed Sam's Place in November. First the orphans received new malaria netting for their bedrooms, something most had never seen before (see below). Later Simeon went to Nairobi with Jerry and Ted to deal with the registration process and also to purchase supplies and clothing for the children. As soon as Simeon arrived back at Sam's Place, things began to change for the children. Each child received new uniforms and underclothing and three pairs of shoes: a dress pair, a pair of tennis shoes, and a pair of sandals. The clothing transformed the students and many had to learn how to walk with the dress shoes. It is fun to watch the video clips (soon to be up on the web) and see how they began to feel special in their new clothes.



Figures 88-90

Receiving the Malaria Netting (Top Left)

Children Before Receiving their Uniforms (Top Right)

One of Our Gate Watchmen Serves Chai and Bread in the Afternoon (Below)





Figures 91-92  
Receiving New Uniforms (Above Left)  
Children Receiving their New Shoes (Above Right)



Figures 93-96  
Naomi Helping a 5-Year Old into Her Uniform (Top Left)  
Boys Wearing the Uniforms for the First Time (Top Right)  
Girls Wearing the Uniforms for the First Time (Bottom Left)  
Children Getting Ready for Bible Class (Bottom Right)



Most of the children have had or have active cases of malaria. This is common in far western Kenya. In November several children had to be taken to the clinic for medication and two weeks ago, one of our youngest girls had a severe attack of malaria. She spent three days in the hospital. She is now back at Sam's Place and is flourishing. If she had not been at Sam's Place, but in the village where she came from, she would have received no medical attention and probably would have died. That too is common in western Kenya. The death rate is high from malaria across Africa. The sad thing is that most victims of malaria who receive proper medical care will survive. But most do not receive the care they need.

Emphasis during the months beginning in November until June 2011 will be on teaching the basics of sign language, Bible, and personal living skills (hygiene and discipline) in their new family unit. They are now engaged in their new learning tasks and have regular church activities in the dormitory. We will have one more oversight trip in late January to check on things, examine the books, and make sure that the preparations for the June workshop season is on schedule. Jerry Drennan and Ted Pemberton (Willis Missions) were there during the first week in November when the orphans came to Sam's Place. Jerry and I will go to Kenya for the spring oversight visit. We will make sure that all is ready for the beginning of our curriculum start up in June.

To conclude the orphan section of this report, let's meet each of our new children. Who are they, how old are they, and what do they look like? These first fourteen children will become very familiar to all of us very quickly as we begin to watch them grow into wonderful, Christian people. They will acquire the missionary zeal, and they will be the ones to open up deaf Africa to Jesus Christ. As the old song goes, "this could be the start of something big!"



Emmaculate Akeyo, 8 yrs.



Brenda Onyach, 10 yrs.



Carolyn Auma, 5 yrs.

Elphas Ondima, 13 yrs.



Brian Mokoro, 9 yrs.



Hesbon Onyonka, 13 yrs.



Violet Achieng, 12 yrs.



Stephen Ochieng, 5 yrs.



Lilian Anyango, 9 yrs.

Jackline Akinyi, 10 yrs.



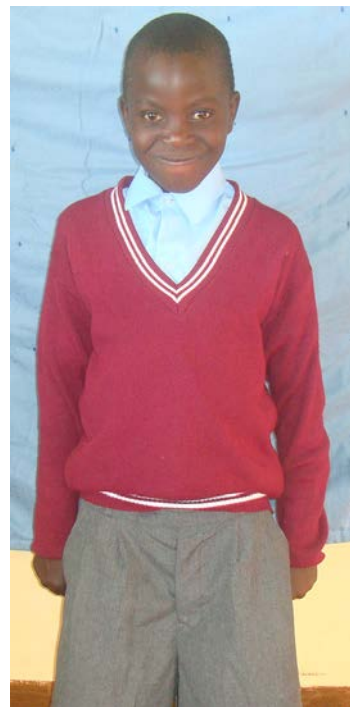
Joshua Onyango, 9 yrs.



Kevin Otieno, 7 yrs.



Sheila Akinyi, 6 yrs.



Simon Onsongo, 8 yrs.

Figures 97-110  
First Fourteen Orphans—Individual Photographs



## 8. A New Group of Orphans Arrive

On the last day of 2010 word comes from Simeon that eight new orphans have arrived at Sam's Place, bringing our orphan population to a total of twenty-two children—twelve boys and ten girls. These new children have not all been processed and registered. That process will be completed over the next week so Simeon and Naomi will be very busy at the new year begins. A few pictures of some of the new children, not all, have arrived so here is a sneak peak at the some of the new children and the relatives who brought them to Sam's Place.



Figures 111-113  
The Next Eight Orphans Arrive at the End of the Year



In the photograph above, relatives fill out the application for their orphan child to be admitted to Sam's Place. Simeon has the process streamlined. Simeon visited in the villages last week, interviewed the relatives and the children, and determined which children qualified for

admission. They will still need to pass medical tests to be taken during the first week of January. The children who have recently arrived at Sam's Place are as follows:

Beatrice Kerubo, 11 yrs.  
Brian Nyabera, 8 yrs.  
Denis Kimoro, 8 yrs.  
Jared Mose, 9 yrs.

Kilion Nyabera, 13 yrs.  
Mark Owen, 10 yrs.  
Elizabeth Anyango, 8yrs (*not pictured*)  
Irine Akinyi 13 years (*not pictured*)

## 9. Staffing Plan

The staffing plan includes a gradual implementation based on the number of orphans at Sam's Place. When peak capacity is reached and forty orphans are in residence, the staff will be as follows:

- Director (Simeon Ongiri Atanga), Bible, Sign Language, English, Administration
- Headmaster, Academic Subjects, Bible, Sign Language, Administration Deputy
- Technology Teacher and Academic Subjects, Bible, Sign Language
- Teacher, Academic Subjects, Bible, Sign Language
- Teacher, Vocational Subjects, Bible, Sign Language
- Widows (4), Caregivers, Cooks, Housekeeping
- Household Director (Naomi Nyaboke Ongiri), Supervision of Widows and Household Operations, Bible, Sign Language
- Gatemen (2), Security, Maintenance, Physical Plant

## 10. Education Plan Overview for 2010-2011

### Grade Level System and Curriculum

Sam's Place will follow a 8-4-4 grade system which will mirror most of the public schools in Kenya.

*Web note: Since 1985, public education in Kenya has been based on an 8-4-4 system, with eight years of primary education followed by four years of secondary school and four years of college or university. Some private schools however, offer a system of education similar to the British system of education with ordinary level exams, "O-levels" taken at the end of 4 years of secondary school and advanced levels "A-levels", taken after two years of high school. Out of all children in Kenya about 85 percent attend primary school. 75 percent of those who complete primary education proceed to secondary schools and 60 percent of those who complete secondary school proceed to higher institutions of education . . . .*

Since our orphans will come to us at various ages and with some variation in terms of their education background (although most will have no education background), the staff will take care to evaluate and assess each child to determine at what level that child will enter the



Sam's Place curriculum. The decision for the entry point will be determined by current knowledge and not age. Older students will begin at the first level unless they can demonstrate knowledge that will place them at a higher grade level.

Another consideration is the nature of our technological delivery system for education. Regardless of previous educational experience by some orphans, it is anticipated that no student will have adequate preparation in the basics of technology. All students will begin with level one in terms of computer keyboarding and the introduction of the digital elements of the Sam's Place curriculum.

During the period November 2010 to May 31, 2011, the children will receive instruction in Kenyan sign language and Bible. Using these two subjects, the children will acquire basic communication skills, knowledge of the English alphabet, and familiarity with the Bible and Bible stories. During this preliminary study, the student will prepare for the summer educational activities that will begin a broad offering of subjects at their level. Each year the Mission Team will teach a Bible/Computer Camp for the children that will equip them for the months to follow.

Each year the Willis Mission Team will bring educators to Sam's Place to teach equipping workshops for the teaching staff. These equipping workshops will provide instruction in the technology tools, the curriculum for the next year, and the books and study materials that will support the curriculum over the next twelve months.

The technology lab and classroom will be equipped fully in June 2011. All computers, peripherals, and supplies will be brought to Sam's Place in June with the Willis Mission Team. Each year one or more members of the Mission Team will be responsible for repair, hard drive renewal, and other maintenance that is required on a regular basis. A contract with a local Kenyan technician will be established for maintenance on the computer lab during the year.

Subjects in the Sam's Place curriculum will include the following subjects:

- mathematics
- science
- English
- reading and writing
- geography
- history
- Christian Religious Education (C.R.E.)
- Swahili
- computer studies
- agriculture
- art
- music
- Kenyan sign language

### **Space Usage**

Classroom space to be utilized during the first year will be the computer lab classroom, the Family Room, the Vocational Building classrooms (2), and the Multi-Purpose Classroom. Student furniture has been manufactured for Sam's Place and other furniture will be purchased as needed. Blackboards will be installed in all classrooms and television/DVD players will be available in the computer lab and in the Family Room. Bulletin board space will be installed in all large classrooms. A comprehensive inventory of education space, equipment, and supplies is currently being compiled for the purpose of meeting those needs by June 8, 2011. At that time the full curriculum offering will begin at Sam's Place. Until then, only Kenyan sign language and Bible will be taught during the preparatory phase.

## **Books**

The typical book list for a level 1 Sam's Place student will include books and workbooks for the subjects listed above. The source of the books will come from Macmillan Kenya Publishers in Nairobi and special technology books and reference materials created at Willis in Abilene.

## **11. Goals and Objectives for 2011**

Below is a bullet list of our goals for 2011. Over three years ago we began with a raw piece of land just outside Rongo, Kenya. In the months and years that have followed, much has been accomplished: buildings have been built, policies put into place, and orphan children have arrived at Sam's Place. The year 2011 will be different for the project because Sam's Place will now begin as a living, breathing place where hope and God's love will make a difference in the lives of many orphans. This is only the beginning.

We have two building projects still not funded that are essential to our operational security: the generator and small brick building and the stone security fence to be built around the perimeter of the facility. In the beginning, the generator will provide electricity for our living spaces and our technology-based curriculum. Later when power is brought to Sam's Place, the generator will serve as backup power. Since electricity is very unreliable in Kenya, the generator will be essential for delivering power for our day-to-day operations. See Attachment 3 for a breakdown of funds needed for the generator and building.

When we began building improvements to the land, the best advice we received for fencing and security called for a wire fence with thorn bushes planted along the interior, circling the land. Since that time, the authorities who have befriended our project suggest that a stone fence with razor wire be built. They suggest that our technology resources and assets will make the school a target for thieves and gangs who would not be stopped by our present fencing strategy. While the stone fence will be expensive, it is essential for the safety of the children and for the protection of the specialized educational tools necessary for instruction and learning. See Attachment 4 for breakdown of funds needed to build the double face stone fence around Sam's Place.

### **2011 Goals and Objectives Recap**

- Purchase and install a generator and building
- Install a double face stone security fence around perimeter
- Full subscription to Friends of Sam's Place
- Full subscription to Orphan Sponsorship
- Inaugurate the annual Teacher's Equipping Workshop
- Inaugurate the annual Computer/Bible Camp for Deaf Orphans
- Establish November 2010 to June 1, 2011 Kenya Sign Language Prep School
- Establish November 2010 to June 1, 2011 Bible studies for deaf orphans
- Establish relationships with area deaf schools and orphanages and develop an organization or association of those similar institutions like Sam's Place that operate in the Rongo-Kisii region
- Begin Pre-Level One curriculum July-December 2011



## Attachment 1

### Punch List for Dormitory

Below are a list of tasks that need to be completed in the dormitory. This finish work should be completed as soon as is possible. See priorities as numbered in each location. The finish work on this list should be done by a separate crew in January and not pull workers from the construction of the two new buildings.

*Note: 1a, 1b, 1c should all be painted at the same time.*

|             | Electrical work                | Masonry work                       | Painting                                                                   | Carpentry work                  | Mechanical work                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Family room | Finish all electrical fixtures | 2. Finish plaster in ceiling beams | 1b. Paint all doors<br><br>11a. Finish painting<br><br>12a. Varnish tables | 1. Finish all built in fixtures | 15. Replace missing glass in windows |

|                      | Electrical work                                    | Masonry work                                                                                     | Painting                                                                                                                                       | Carpentry work                                                                                                                                                   | Mechanical work                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Director's Apartment | Finish electrical lights and wires in sitting room | 3.Plaster around electrical sockets<br><br>5. Plaster shower<br><br>9. Plaster wall and bathroom | 1c. Paint metal entry doors<br><br>7. Paint doors<br><br>9c.Paint window frames<br><br>11b. Finish painting all over<br><br>11c. Paint kitchen | 6. Door for bathroom and shower<br><br>7.Cabinets and shelves in kitchen<br><br>8. Put closet doors and shelves in the bedroom<br><br>9. Put doors on store room | 5. Install toilet seat<br><br>3. Door handle<br><br>9. Put window latches on windows<br><br>14. Install window hardware<br><br>16. Replace windows and toilet in bathroom |

|           | Electrical work        | Masonry work                                                                                                | Painting                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Carpentry work                                                       | Mechanical work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Boys dorm | Install electric plugs | 4. Finish plaster work inside top of all doors in all rooms<br><br>8. Replace tiles in toilets where broken | 2a. Paint iron railings<br><br>4. Paint doors<br><br>8a. Paint stairway and entryway<br><br>9.a. Paint frames and clean windows<br><br>11d. Finish painting where needed<br><br>11e. Finish painting all areas | 2. Ceiling boards installed<br><br>5. Put drawers with stops in beds | 1. Put door handles or friction catches on doors<br><br>4. Put friction latches on inside toilet doors<br><br>10. Reset sink in hallway<br><br>11. Install something for ventilation above toilets<br><br>12. Hardware on windows<br><br>13. Purchase and install gate entry |

|            | Electrical work                                | Masonry work                          | Painting                                                                                                                                    | Carpentry work                                                                                                    | Mechanical work                                                                                                        |
|------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Girls dorm | Put electric plugs in<br><br>Finish electrical | 1. Finish entry area and install gate | 2b. Paint iron railings<br><br>6. Paint or finish doors<br><br>8b. Paint stairs<br><br>9b. Paint frames and clean all windows and entryways | 3. Ceiling Boards<br><br>4. Put drawers and stops on all bunk beds<br><br>11. Finish carpentry work above closets | 2. Put door handles or friction catches on doors<br><br>8. Hardware on windows<br><br>17. Finish everything in toilets |

|                              | Electrical work             | Masonry work                     | Painting                                                                                        | Carpentry work                             | Mechanical work            |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Simeon's and Naomi's bedroom |                             | 7. Put grout in tile in bathroom | 5. Paint all doors<br>9d. Paint window frames<br>11f. Paint bathroom and clean all windows      | 9. Shelves in closet<br>10. Door on toilet | 18. Toilet seats           |
| Computer room                | Finish all electrical plugs |                                  | 1a. Paint metal entry doors<br>9e. Paint frames and clean windows<br>12b. Put varnish on tables |                                            | 7. Put hardware on windows |
| Outside building             |                             | 6. Plaster window ledges         | 10. Paint under Sam's place sign<br>11f. Paint where necessary                                  |                                            | 6. Straighten rain gutter  |