

Faces of PROJECT BEYOND CATALYST

Catalytic partnerships locally and around the world: Kenya, Uganda, Peru, Syria, Multi-Site, and Multi-Ethnic



The Catalyst adventure has begun—and “catalyst” is a good word to describe the partnerships and progress that have occurred!

A team of Christ Community leaders recently returned from an extended time working with our partners in Uganda, Kenya, and Syria. The trip was demanding and difficult. It stretched and challenged our leaders as they became more aware of the need and pain experienced in our international fields. It also affirmed the calling that God has placed on Christ Community through Catalyst. The gospel is making a difference!

Uganda

School: In Kabasindagizi, Uganda, an education is something to be cherished. For 128 energetic children, it is also something to take advantage of. In April 2009, our teams traveled to the village—soon to house a community center and new school—and reported that much is taking place. Children from various religious and cultural backgrounds attend, plus adult literacy classes are being held every afternoon. Life is hard here with issues of HIV/AIDS, clean water, relational abuse, and spiritual lostness. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with our Ugandan brothers and sisters.

Marriage Conferences: Having no access or opportunity to think about relationships, many African pastors and their wives eagerly accepted our invitation to attend one of the marriage seminars offered. At the end of the day, the team reflected on the challenges and the glimpses of hope they experienced. The need for discipleship—seeing the Gospel impact the lifestyles and thinking of believers—was great. Devalued women and unloved children mire the church in a sad spiritual and material poverty. Although anger and deep wounds characterized many couples, the team witnessed encouragement—husbands serving their wives during a meal and a couple sharing a plate of food to symbolize what they had learned.

Relationship Building: With Project Beyond Catalyst funds, our partner organization in Uganda, Evangelization Strategy for Africa (ESFA), is enjoying a new motorcycle. This allows them to travel to more villages to continue the ministry work that they have started.

Kenya

In a land of many needs, it can be overwhelming to know where to start. But God has given our church a vision—one that is God-sized and could impact a culture for Him.



Girls' Rescue Center: Anyone visiting Kenya for a short time can see that **the Lord's salvation is abundant**—most claim to know Him. Most, however, have not let the truth of the Gospel transform their lives and hearts. Young girls are still sold into marriages in **exchange for a small dowry. But, the Girls' Rescue Center is under construction, with the first two buildings almost complete!** Within months, the Center will provide a home to 10 girls who either have been married or are trying to find an alternative to being married off. One of these girls is Rosaline.



Rosaline: Rosaline is a vibrant, 22-year-old woman who was forced to marry when she was just 16. When Rosaline refused her mother-in-law's **request to curse Christians, her husband would beat her.** When Rosaline could take the abuse no longer, she returned to her **father's house. But he, along with his other children, would not talk or pay attention to Rosaline.** She was seen, but would not be heard. Rosaline is now back in school—thanks to Project Beyond Christmas Gift Catalog funds—and will be one of ten girls who will live at the Rescue Center beginning this summer.



Maasai Village: While in Kenya, our team experienced an emotional day **when they visited a small village in the country's Rift Valley. A week prior, six children had died of starvation, and cows were dying because of the severe drought.** The team brought an offering from our church in the form of two truck loads of food. Many people lined up to **receive a week's worth of food. Joy and compassion filled the team as they did the work God had called them to do.** But their joy was short-lived as they realized that this food would only last one week.

Syria

The bold courage of faithful believers challenged and encouraged the faith of members—and pastors—from Christ Community.

The faith of our Syrian brothers and sisters reveals a clarity of purpose, a determination to share the Gospel no matter the cost, and a faith in the miracles of God.

"Z" and "N" accept whatever consequences come from following Christ as God's platform for others to hear the message. "M" is gifted in areas of healing and expecting the miraculous. The team saw this faith in the vividness of the vision of "N", who after years recounts the details of his vision—a vision that gave birth to an unwavering faith demonstrated under pressure—as if seen yesterday. "D" has a strategic mind, able to see villages perhaps a bit more like God does, hearing the cries of lost people. These are just a few of the wonderful people who are our partners in Syria. Many have come to faith. The need to disciple these believers and develop new leaders is great.

In addition to quality fellowship time, the Christ Community team held a three-day conference in Syria. **Eighty-three Syrians gathered for it. While the theme was "family," the heart of this time was to invest in leaders.** Since then, our national director has received phone calls from participants and even some pastors who heard about the quality of this time. Five couples were from Muslim backgrounds who now follow Christ.



Summer Plans and Prayer Points

Three teams from Christ Community will be visiting Catalyst works this summer. Please pray for the team traveling to Uganda (June 19-July 3) with medical, sports, clean water, **and women's teams; the team to Peru (July 10-19) with medical, sports, clean water, youth, women's, and discipleship teams; and the team to Kenya (July 9-26) with sports, construction, women's, and veterinarian teams. Pray also for plans underway to help in the training of leaders in all of these countries and the continued development of the ministry of the gospel that affects people's entire lives and cultures.**

As of June 1, 2009, contributions to Catalyst total \$329,000. Our goal is \$3 million.

