



**NewVines International, Inc.**

**Restoring Hope, Regaining Dignity, Building Futures**

## **Newsletter September – 2021**

**“If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love.... I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:15)**



### **3 YEARS OF NEW VINES INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY**

Let me share with you a small sense of the joy that you have helped NVI to bring to our friends in Africa, despite COVID restrictions:

Beginning with 1 location in Kenya and 1 in the Ivory Coast, in the last 3 years we have expanded to 7 locations in Kenya, opened ministry in 3 more countries, and currently have 27 formal training groups in 4 countries. We've added a Director of Training & Operations in Western Kenya, and are reaching approximately 3,400 men, women and children. As we write this, we are talking to groups and/or trainers in 3 more countries as well! It seems as though the Holy Spirit has given us training material that really resonates with the people we speak to! The expansion of this ministry has exceeded my wildest expectations!

**KENYA:** In Western Kenya, we had just hired our brother-in-Christ Fred Ohdiambo as our Director of Training at the time of our last update. Fred since has developed and trained 4 widow's groups (about 80 women in all), overseen the distribution of grants to widows in Kandaria and Katito, taken training to some already existing groups (about 120 men and women), and commenced or finalized training in 5 other towns in SW Kenya. Oh yeah – and he also coached MANY men and women through the successful development of business plans and startup of small businesses!

Fred writes that one of his students, John (picture at right), from Kissii *“like many youths in Kenya, was jobless when he came for our introductory training on using wisdom in savings. After receiving training he learned the essence of keeping small savings from his little and unreliable sources of income like working for people in their*



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farms. He used his savings to erect a simple structure for poultry and bought some few chicks. With discipline that he learned in the business he has managed to reinvest into the business and can now supply eggs to vendors within his neighboring town and church members. He is much grateful for the training that he received and look forward to receive other sessions of training." You can hear the story in John's own words at this You Tube address (active link in electronic version): <https://youtu.be/7XL9zyOhBnU>

**Katito and Kandaria:** Last Fall many of you donated to NVI's Virtual Concert for Widows in Africa. As a result of this event, we are in the process of funding approximately 60 widows with grants to rebuild their small businesses following the COVID lockdowns.



Rose, one of our widows who received a grant, has a poultry business. She asked for funds primarily to acquire an incubator, which will significantly expand her business and diversify her product line. She put it to work immediately! This will make a great impact in her business!



#### Eldoret:

We commenced our training program with a group in Eldoret who has a dual charge – 1) to reach out to women who are exploited (economically and in other ways), and 2) to reach out within the Eldoret area to other church groups there. It is a hand picked group – especially selected for their experience and motivation – and they have been a joy to work with! Here are pictures of the team, and some of the women to whom they are reaching out.



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**Teen Challenge – Nairobi (Christian drug rehab program):** We began training the Teen Challenge Alumni in early 2021. We're already seeing students putting the training to work.

**IVORY COAST:** (Abidjan) After going through training, our brother Olivier (also a pastor), had gained such confidence and business skills that he was able to acquire a suite of lab equipment and establish a health clinic in Yopougon and employ 6 people! This is a great example of Christ-centered economic development!



**UGANDA:** In March 2020 we began working with the Bible Presbyterian Church of East Africa (BPCEA), and to date have taken them through 4 of 6 modules of training.

The response has been fantastic. Below is a picture of Rachel with her husband (a local Pastor) You can also listen to Rachel's story at this You Tube address (active link in electronic version): <https://youtu.be/NjS79yjBfhw>



### **ETHIOPIA**

Despite our best efforts, we were not able to enter Ethiopia this trip. We recorded the full seminars and sent them as YouTube videos, but the network in that area is not strong enough. This remains an issue for which we are requesting continued prayer – we are convinced the Holy Spirit wants us to be at work in Ethiopia!

### **MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT - TRAINING**

Due to restricted travel in 2020, we saw a need to learn to use the Internet much more for our training, so we have re-written our modules from a "printed training manual" format to a "Virtual Lecture" format for use with online video platforms. This has allowed us to make significant strides in the second and third quarters of 2021, beginning training in Uganda, Teen Challenge – Nairobi, Thailand, and beginning advanced training through our staff in Kenya.

We also developed a new training Module "Managing Household Money" (a much-needed subject!) and have rolled it out in Katito, Eldoret, Uganda and Teen Challenge. This is another one of those training sessions that has really changed people's lives!

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### **IMPACT**

Last year we sent you the results of our annual impact survey (link to our website here if you did not see that) and we are working to develop a better format this year. However – we continually monitor impact throughout the year as we meet and talk to our students. One of the most gratifying statistics we heard was on this last trip – I had the opportunity to meet with about ½ of the women to whom we gave COVID grants. What they told us was both shocking and gratifying:

- **75%** of them told us that they were now able to afford their children’s school fees, while
- **50% said they could now afford to feed their children every day** and
- **all** mentioned their small businesses were revived.

Praise God!

### **THANK YOU JESUS:**

While Virgil (NVI President and Founder) been busy travelling, writing and presenting training, our living Lord has been at work as well – in the last month we have received confirmation of two church-based grants – one allowing us to hire a full-time Director for Uganda, and one a Director for the Ivory Coast! Wow! Those were going to be my prayer requests for this update and they already are answered!

Additionally we’ve seen volunteers step up to several key roles.

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

- Ethiopia - obtain visa and related paperwork to begin in country person training in 2022
- Continued training for our possible leadership teams in Thailand and Cambodia
- Finalize establishment of our “Regaining Dignity” program – NVI’s outreach to exploited women.
- Volunteers – overseas and in the US! NVI is growing rapidly, and we need help in a wide variety of areas!
- We also received a challenge Grant – a 1-1 match for funding a key part of our fundraising infrastructure. Please pray that funders and donors will respond to the need!

Thank you!

### **SAVE THE DATE:**

(Pittsburgh area)

### **DATE NIGHT FOR A DREAM**

We’ve begun planning for our second annual *Date Night for a Dream - Dinner Dance on February 11, 2022*. Please join us at the Doubletree Hotel in Cranberry Township from 7:00pm to 11:00pm for a fun evening with your date. More information to follow.

Thank you very much for your faithfulness in praying and supporting financially our ministry in Africa.

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