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CHE news

THE RIGHT MOMENT TO VENTURE ...

The American Educationist Prof. Henry Wieman had a favorite story he used to tell of a fellow student during his college days.

This student bought himself a special chair equipped with an adjustable book-rest and lamp and he placed a revolving bookshelf within easy reach. He felt that he could study effectively only if he were comfortable , so he bought some soft slippers, a lounging jacket and an eye shade.

After the college evening meal the student went to his room , took off his coat and put on his jacket , put on his slippers, adjusted the lamp, placed his book on the book rest ,sat down , fitted the eye shade –and went to sleep!!!!

How often do we think that if only circumstances were right we could do this, or that or the other. The simple truth is that the WILL to Do something is always more important than the circumstances we try to arrange for ourselves.

Everything is impossible to a person who does not try. There are never right circumstances for one to begin doing something as many of you will testify. As the Scripture says, *“He who looks upon the wind will never sow”*. As you face the next quarter kindly set in motion the plans that you have been waiting so long as to accomplish and do something about them. Step out in Faith and DO IT!!!!!!

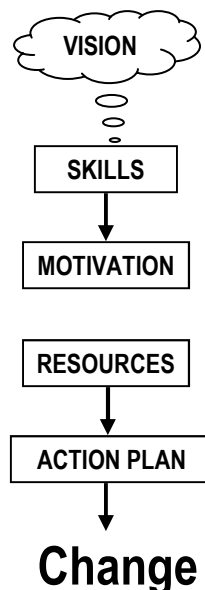
*Tirus Githaka
CF, CHE Kenya*

Managing complex change

There are five components necessary for change: vision, skills, motivation, resources, and an action plan. Each part plays an important role in making any change successful.

Change is difficult when one of these components is missing. Without vision, confusion sets in. Without motivation, change is slow. Without resources, there will be frustration.

This model is helpful in avoiding difficulty during changes. It may also be useful to see why change has not been successful. By looking at the end result, or the lack of change, you can determine what may be missing from the formula. If change is very slow moving, it could be that team members are lacking motivation. If change has begun, stopped and began



again, there may not a clear action plan on how to implement the needed change.

This diagram was originally used by Dr. Gil Odendaal when he was consulting churches. He used a similar model to identify reasons why transformational growth was not taking place in churches.

Recently, he adapted his original model to use as an evaluating tool for CHE projects that were struggling or not reaching their full potential. Training teams and committees could then concentrate on the missing element and correct the situation, resulting in positive change-community transformation.

Gil Odendaal, CHE toolbox.

From the Editor's desk...

The year 2009 was a year we experienced God's favor and great growth. We thank God for the lands that are yet to be conquered. Astounding stories have been told of the seed projects, and many have grown to great levels. We look forward to a time when they will grow into maturity and develop into mature plants (trees) that will provide shelter to many...

As CHE, we seek to be relevant for these times and to be voice of hope for many individuals and communities. One of the great highlights during the last year was the CHE Disability Training and to date much has been

achieved through the CHE disability program, where attitudes of community members towards people living with disabilities has been changed.

Enter 2010 and we still face enormous challenges in this country. When we think of the heart rending stories such as the Mau evictees, we purpose to carry the light to them so that they may envelop hope and embrace Christ, who is a sure foundation even in the midst of all the turmoil. The genesis of 2010 saw the launching into new frontiers, in the Coastal region, Rift Valley, Western Province

and Nairobi as well as the commissioning of new interns into some CHE programs. We still seek to multiply ourselves and We pray, that God will grant us favor as we launch out.

We also continue to trust God for resources that will equip us better for the work ahead of us.

We do thank God for the successes and achievements of the just ended first quarter of the year 2010. Our prayer is that it will be a year that is filled with God's favor and blessing. We thank you for the support accorded to us in any form especially in 2009. Much has been achieved and we thank God for those that have continued to stand with us in prayer. Let us continue to partner together as we seek to build the Kingdom.

Josephine Gathu

Astounding stories...

MAU SEED PROJECT

The evictions of farmers from the Mau forest has resulted in suffering to the evictees some of whom have lived in the forest for a long period of time

This has also led to contention and political bickering, which you will agree with me does not help much. There was also environmental destruction experienced due to the destruction of the forest which is an important water catchment area for East Africa.

Public outcry and concern over erosion of this major water catchment area, caused entire families to be evicted from their homes.

The cries for basic needs for those that had been evicted compelled my heart to do something. I thank God for the CHE program, I felt that it was God's timing to apply what I had undergone through the CHE training. We got together and mobilized the churches around the region to contribute cash and material needs for the evictees of the Mau forest. Support in kind of over Ksh. 500,000 was raised and distributed among them.

It was amazing just to see joy and a sense hope build up especially in the women and children. We encouraged them to depend on God rather than looking on the material wealth they were losing.

KERICHO SEED PROJECT

Different church denominations within Kericho town agreed to come together during the December period to be able to support the sick and the prisoners. The prisoners from two nearby prisons numbered 869 adults and 4 children, while the Kericho district Hospital had in-patients that numbered 250 and 100 outpatients.

In spite of the Mau issue, which had taken up the attention of many, we were able to mobilize for resources

for the hospital and the prison, with the help of Radio Injili and other radio stations whom we brought on board to assist in the mobilization. We were able to mobilize for foods stuffs and other materials totaling to over Ksh. 800,000. We distributed the Christmas Gifts to the sick at the District Hospitals, orphans at approved school, prisoners and the displaced in the Mau.

We thank God for the unity that we saw amongst believers as we came together and ministered to the sick, the prisoners and orphans.

Walter Rutto,
Kericho District

BANGLADESH (MOMBASA) SEED PROJECT



A clean up exercise by community members at the Bangladesh slum

The seed project started early morning at the entrance of the Bangladesh slum in Changamwe, Mombasa by the Miritini ACK Church.

A group of 35 people, made up of elders and the community

members gathered together and collected wheelbarrows, rakes, spades and nylon bags in readiness for a community clean up exercise.

On completion of the exercise, the project leader motivated the entire group by giving them sodas. On follow up, one and a half months later the community had taken up the initiative of keeping their environment clean by taking care of the garbage and the garbage dumping had stopped.

Pst. James Mburu
Urban CHE Co-ordinator

CHE Disability—KENYA

One of the great highlights for the year 2009 was the opportunity to go through the CHE disability training. It has begun a whole new chapter in the CHE operations and with it came the genesis of CHE disability projects within the actual CHE projects.

With the new knowledge came the realization that 4% (1.6 million) of the Kenyan population are people living with disabilities. Of which leaves us with this question?...where are they, that is, besides on the street corners, begging? Government regulations and policies have been formulated and passed on how to assist those living with disabilities, but little has been done.

A community in a creative access region took up the challenge of dealing with those that live with disabilities in their region. It was amazing to see them coming out and naming those that are in their homes and in their neighborhoods, of which were normally kept as secret and not recognized with the rest of the family members.

The CHE Disability Urban program at the Missions of Hope Centre, in Mathare, which is an urban slum has seen a great transformation. Some of the notable achievements include mothers of children living with disabilities have been organized into a support group that meets regularly to encourage and share their experiences as they engage in other income generating activities. After much negotiations with a local children's hospital, the program was able to get doctors and Special Educations Specialists to screen the children living with disabilities.

Jane, mother to Felista, (not real names) had been intimidated by being laughed at by her neighbors due to her daughters condition, who was not walking and this caused her to start hiding her child. After much encouragement from the meetings of mothers of children living with disabilities, she stopped hiding Felista. During a screening that was



Top Picture: CHE Disability Lesson taking place, third from the left, Mr. Dagnachew who was the facilitator.

Bottom Picture: Members of a Kenyan community go through a disability lesson and strategise on the next step for those with those with disabilities amongst them.

done by the local children's hospital, Felista started attending therapy and is now able to walk, although she also requires a speech therapist to help develop her speech.

In another situation, Maureen, mother to Peter, (not real names) who was epileptic had also experienced great challenges. Peter was hyperactive and his mother would tie him up with ropes. Maureen never attended church. After much encouragement and home visits, she started attending church on a regular basis. She has also stopped tying up her son and has enrolled him into a special school. She continues to reform slowly, although she is yet to grow strong in her faith.

Through some of CHE disability training undergone by sixteen women in that community, has helped improve greatly the life of children living with disabilities and their families.

Fred Juma, MOHI

CHE Update—Narok...a personal testimony!!

It gives great satisfaction to see people's lives transformed through the word of God. We are on a mission to rebuild lives and ministries on the foundation of the word of God, His calling and in Jesus Christ our Lord. People continue to gain new vision and confidence in Christ as the Spirit of God continues to blow a new breath into their lives.

Leah, based in Narok town narrates how she has lived her life without a personal vision. Everyday was just another day

that came and went. She tells her story of how once, she attended church and the pastor announced to that those that would like to undergo the CHE program to enroll. Although, initially it did not make much sense to her, she did enroll for the program. As she went through the program, she realized that it gave her depth and a solid foundation as far as the word of God was concerned. The self discoveries on

the truth of the word of God gave her insight and knowledge, of which she has continued to teach her children and to be a pillar of hope for a her family. Today, she says she has acquired a new vision and has had a spiritual awakening. She has learnt to relate well with her husband, her co-wives, children and workers.

Leah, Narok

A CHE INTERN'S MISSIONS EXPERIENCE

Time finally came for me to travel to my mission station which I had imagined would be hot, dusty and bushy. On arrival, I was welcomed by a different kind of weather, people living in a surprising lifestyle and everything was new. Contrary to what I was used to, a prayer was made before departing and it hit me that I was in a totally different place. I thank God for the newly introduced friend, Esther (*not*

attention of God which seemed so real in our midst.

I was given the responsibility of teaching in the school. I was so grateful when I was assigned to teach C.R.E in almost all the classes and other subjects such as English and Mathematics. As I interacted with the children, I enjoyed teaching them songs in PPI and with this gave me the opportunity to discuss the word of God. I thank God for this was a chance for us to discover the truth of the God's word together.

I thank God for the natural talent in plaiting hair, which gave me an opportunity to mingle in, as I ministered to the women in the village.

During this time I discovered the fear that most the villagers had, was the fear of being different from others in the community especially in what they believed in. One young man actually confessed to me that he had given his life to Christ but afraid to let anyone know of his new-found faith.

I encountered several men who had wrong motives but this gave me a chance to tell them about Jesus' and I thank God for sheltering me from all the traps of the devil. I discovered some of the strongholds in that community were immorality, witchcraft resistance to the word of God and stubbornness, although I believe that through the corporate prayers we pulled down these strongholds.

I enjoyed the fellowship with the other missionaries and was greatly challenged by their faith in God. It was a good place for me to learn about mission work.

All in all, I thank God for CHE through which I got the precious opportunity. My prayer for you is that "...*may your territories be expanded as you do this noble job*". I appreciate the time I had with the missionaries and may God shower them with blessings always. I will live to thank God for it was a privilege to be part of the work. He protected me all through and His favor followed me even after leaving. May all the glory be unto the Lord.

By Martha



real name) because she immediately made me feel at home. As I arrived, I was also warmly welcomed by the other missionaries.

All kinds of thoughts ran through my mind as I imagined that I would meet a hostile people who were kind of idol worshippers. I expected a society in which war would break out any time and thought that mission work here would be extremely difficult. The thought of all the stories about scorpions and snakes gave me a chill, which at some point made me think twice about going on this mission.

I thanked God for the abundant water from the nearby river, which meant I could take frequent baths contrary to what I had expected. It actually became an adventure when we would go visiting the villagers and enjoying the beautiful scenery of the river. One of the important highlights of the mission was evidenced in how real the presence of God was and especially during our moments of prayer. The mission ground became more of Prayer Mountain to me and I enjoyed the



Picture above: Some of the common features I saw on my way.

Picture below: River Tana

LION TRACKING GEAR

I am an American missionary stopping in Kenya for a while before heading to my work in Zimbabwe. I met my neighbor Phoebe, a CHE Team Leader in Narok who befriended and shared with me the concepts and methods of CHE.

I was especially taken with CHE's "Story of Lions", an illustration of a community plagued by the effects of poverty and injustice, and empowered to

identify, track and overcome them. For the past few years, I have been seeking tools to help me in the work God has called me to, in reconciliation and healing in Africa.

Through CHE, I now have the "gear" I need to help individuals and groups "track lions" in their lives and overcome them with their own resources. I thank God for Phoebe and the culturally appropriate "gear" she has shared with me through CHE.

Thanks to all those tracking lions with CHE all over the world! May God bless you as you have blessed me.

Kay Lynn Aylard

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADOPT A MISSIONARY BY COMMITTING TO PRAYER, GIVING FINANCIALLY OR GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT?

Kindly contact the Community Health Evangelism Office.

Our contacts are:

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