



## MINISTRY UPDATE

### JUNE 2020

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As the first cases of COVID-19 appeared in Kenya in mid-March, the government took quick and aggressive action to close off the country to outside travel and shut down all public places and gatherings.

Public health officials came to the MCCH compound unexpectedly and told our staff that all of the children would have to return to their guardian homes for an undetermined amount of time to limit the spread of the virus.

Immediately, believers in Kenya and the United States began earnestly praying that the Lord would make a way for the children to stay at Mescal's where they would be safe and well-protected. After several days of the children being in their guardian homes, the Lord turned the hearts of the government officials to allow the children to return to Mescal's!

During the COVID-19 crisis, MCCH leaders have been prayerfully seeking the Lord for wisdom regarding the best ways to love and serve their community while keeping the children and staff safe. Long time MCCH church partner, Frazer United Methodist Church, located in Montgomery, Alabama, blessed MCCH and all of its missions partners by doubling their monthly financial support in the month of May.

This generous action prompted MCCH to serve the Luanda community through providing extra monthly financial support to our guardian homes while the pandemic continues. In addition to serving our guardian homes, MCCH has been able to purchase food and supplies to distribute to approximately 60 families in the Luanda community!

Along with the COVID-19 crisis, due to effects of the rainy season in Kenya normal water supplies for the community are polluted, severely limiting access to clean drinking water. MCCH has been able to share safe, clean drinking water with the community from the school's newly constructed well!

Before the pandemic began, MCCH hosted a weekly Sunday School program for children in the Luanda community. When the COVID crisis occurred, weekly Sunday gatherings could no longer take place, but the desire to interact with and encourage their friends in the community remained on the hearts of Mescal's kids.

(Story continued on following page)



Each Sunday afternoon, Mescal's kids continue to spend time talking, singing, and praying with their community friends along the fence line surrounding the compound. Founder and Director, Ruth Owuor, made each child a mask to wear during these gatherings and has taught the children about the importance of maintaining proper distance for the safety of themselves and their friends.

We praise the Lord for the way He is shaping the hearts of Mescal's kids to value and care for the friends God has given them from the Lunda community!

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In this time of distancing, in order to show love for our neighbors in the best way we know how, the MCCH Board of Directors has decided to postpone the Building Hope dinners that were set to take place on April 25th in Lineville, AL, and May 2nd, in Montgomery, AL.

The dates for these dinners have been rescheduled for **Thursday, September 17th in Lineville, and Saturday, September 26th in Montgomery.** Please make plans to join us on one of these nights to celebrate God's faithfulness to Mescal's throughout the years! We'll be taking a grateful look at the past, an amazed look at the present, and an expectant look at the future as we anticipate the continued work of God in the coming days!

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- Pray that the Lord would continue to keep the children and staff healthy at MCCH
- Pray that the Lord would continue to give wisdom to the MCCH leadership on how to best serve the Luanda community during this time



Enhancing Trust



Much has changed in the past few months, but the calling for MCCH has remained clear! Read the message on the school's true purpose from MCCH Assistant Director, Steven Owuor:

"The building of this school serves as an outreach program, and we are reaching out to the rest of the community, not just Mescal's kids...From the point that the children's home began we knew that the rest of the community plays a vital role in its growth because God wants us to reach out to everyone. That was the instruction of Christ – that we should reach out to the rest of the world and impact them with His gospel of good news."

Anticipation is growing as we look forward to the day when Mescal's kids and children from the Luanda community will have the opportunity to receive a Christ-centered education at the school the Lord has provided through MCCH!

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Nebat is a fourteen year-old young man who has been part of the Mescal's family for the past eight years. Nebat is able to speak English very well, and has a contagious smile! Recently, as the COVID-19 crisis caused children and staff to hold weekly church services on the MCCH compound, Nebat prepared a message from the book of Jeremiah and preached to his peers about the Lord's desire for holiness and repentance among His people. We are so proud of Nebat and the many ways he is growing, both physically and spiritually!