

HERITAGE OF FAITH AND HOPE CHILDREN'S HOME AND SCHOOL

OUR STORY

Our story is about connections! God connecting the right people to the right places at the right time.

In 1996, I Joseph and my wife Teresia lost our jobs. For the last 17 years, Teresia was working as an underwriter in Kenya National Assurance while I was a commission agent in the same company. The company went under receivership thus rendering all staff redundant and without their terminal payment. The staff demonstrated for eight weeks but their petitions went into deaf ears.

By then we had five children of our own and we needed food and school for them. At the same time, we had secured a house mortgage with the same company which needed to be serviced. We had no money except Ksh. 4,000 shillings plus faith in God. At this juncture, we made a vow to God that ***“God Bless us and we shall touch and transform a life of a needy person”***

HUMBLE BEGINNING

Armed with the Ksh 4,000 and Faith, Teresia had a conviction of selling meat. One day she set out to the slaughter house in the outskirts of Nairobi city (Kiamaiko) and bought goat meat worth the same amount. She cut them into portions of two kilos, one kilo and half kilo and started house to house hawking within the Eastland of Nairobi. She was carrying the meat on her head with a big basket (Kiondo).

KEY MILESTONES

From the initial Kshs.4000 we now had accumulated a working capital of Kshs. 300,000 after paying various bills. The meat business grew exponentially. We were able to cater for our children's needs besides paying our house mortgage to the full.

After a while, we were able to walk to a motor vehicle dealer (DT Dobie) and through the assistance of a local Christian Entrepreneur Sacco Society where we were members, we were able to buy a brand new pick-up, which we then used to enhance our business transport portfolio.

2002

In 2002, Teresia started visiting the streets of Nairobi along Agha Khan walk and interacting with the street children trying to understand why they are in the street. She started feeding them in their base every day. The children became very friendly to her and that is when we thought of identifying the neediest among them who were willing to be taken out of the street and be given a new lease of life.

On 30th August 2002, we rented a facility in Athi River and relocated 38 of them marking the birth of Heritage of Faith and Hope Children's Rehabilitation Centre. At the Centre we took holistic care of these children, which included provision of basic needs, rehabilitation service and school and vocational training for those who could not go school.

2003

- In 2003, Heritage of Faith and Hope Children's Rehabilitation Centre was legally registered under the society's Act.
- In 2003, through a Christian Entrepreneur Sacco by the name CHESS, Teresia was invited to attend a Partners Worldwide Conference in California where she was given ten minutes to share her testimony on how we started the meat business and later on a Children's Home/Rehabilitation Centre.

- It is in this Conference where we connected with a family of Rod Huisken and his wife Char Huisken who were meat dealers in America. This family was touched by Teresia's testimony and the vision we had and God gave them the burden of partnering with HOF feeding program.
- Immediately, Huisken's family started donating USD 2000 monthly, which catered for 50% of the feeding program to a population of 50 children by then in the orphanage. This was a huge boost considering that we had no consistent funding portfolio and the children population was growing rapidly.
- By then the 38 children were admitted in a local public primary school (Mlolongo). Some few grownups boys attended vocational training to pursue various courses like carpentry, mechanic and masonry.

2004

- Eight students who had qualified to join High School were admitted courtesy of a friend owned a private high school.

2005:

- The family of Rod Huisken visited HOF for the first time. They found a critical challenge of housing. The 12-roomed facility we had rented was over-congested due to the increase of children population. Huisken decided to intervene by supporting us to rent a 33-roomed facility. He continued facilitating the 50% feeding program besides paying for the new house rent at Ksh 85,000 per month.
- Mavoko Municipal Council through the then Mayor allocated a 3-acre piece of land to HOF at Sabaki Estate of Mlolongo in the recognition of the noble undertaking Heritage of Faith had initiated.
- We started a primary school called Heritage of Faith Christian Academy in Mlolongo to accommodate the growing number of children. We relocated children from the local public school they were attending to the new school. Due to the school locality, we integrated them with the children from the community.

By this time, the challenges of HOF had shifted from provision of food and clothing to provision of quality education. We had employed qualified P1 teachers in our school and the number of those students who were joining high school was growing rapidly. This translated in more resources going towards education.

The core mandate thus was geared towards ensuring that all beneficiaries acquired quality education to the apex level in a bid to be able to secure good employment and become self-reliant in future.

INFRASTRUCTURAL/PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

2011

- In 2011, we were able to relocate over 100 children to their new home at Sabaki. The children continued walking all the way to Mlolongo to attend school. This was not tenable due to distance and terrain between the two location and this being a demonstrated need, it prompted the Huisken's family to start paying for HOF school bus at USD 1,100 per month. The school bus transported the children to and from school at Mlolongo.
- Later on, the management found the need of starting a school in Sabaki. Therefore, the children were relocated to Sabaki hence closing down the Mlolongo school. The bus continued providing transport to the few community children that were attending HOF school at Mlolongo.

BOREHOLE

- Other partners came forth to help the good course and contributed towards drilling a borehole at a cost of close to Ksh. 2 Million. The borehole is able to produce water sufficient for the children's domestic use. The water is also used in vegetable drip irrigation, dairy farm and poultry farm. We have connected some few neighbors with piped water and we bill them every month.

GREEN HOUSES

- Thereafter, some partners came in and assisted us in putting up 2 greenhouses which played a big role as income generating project. The initial five years saw the green houses produce enormous amount of tomatoes, which in return became a good source of income.

DAIRY FARM

- Some other well-wishers contributed funds towards putting up a dairy farm unit and buying the high milk-producing cows. The cows are able to provide enough milk for our domestic use and we sell the surplus to our neighbors.

POULTRY FARM

- Maranatha Christian School from Canada also came on board and donated some funds which we used to put up a poultry unit. The local exotic breeds chicken, broilers and ducks are able to provide eggs and meat to the children besides selling the surplus for sustainability.

2017

MODERN KITCHEN / DINING HALL BY LIONS CLUB OF NAIROBI - DAGORETTI DISTRICT 411A

- Lions International in partnership with several local companies committed their synergy in putting up a modern kitchen and dining hall. Their projection was to accomplish the project within the same year but this was hampered by economic meltdown that paralyzed most of the sectors in Kenya by then.
- Most building material that had been pledged did not come through on time hence delaying the completion of the project in the expected time. Coupled with the economic effects of covid-19 experienced from March this year, the project completion delayed further.
- In August this year, Lions international embarked on the work and are determined to complete it within the shortest time possible.
- Once complete, the modern kitchen/dining hall will go a long way in addressing the hygiene and sanitation issues in the institution hence creating a conducive feeding environment to our children.

OTHER MONEY GENERATING PROJECTS

In order to be fully sustainable, we have initiated more IGA as follows:

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| • Open field vegetable farming | • Hardware |
| • Pig rearing | • Timber yard |
| • Sheep and goat rearing | • Garbage Collection |
| • Retail shop | • Outside catering unit/Tents and plastic chairs for hire. |
| • Barber shop | |

- Security and Cleaning services

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

- **PRIMARY SCHOOL** - Heritage of Faith Christian School continues to be the best in terms of academic performance in Athi River sub-county. Pupils record high grades that enable them to secure the best high schools in the country. Currently we have over 65 learners in primary school who ranges from PP1 to eighth graders.
- **HIGH SCHOOL** - Currently, 52 students are attending various high schools in Kenya.
- **UNIVERSITIES/TECHNICAL COLLEGES** - Currently, 11 girls and 5 boys have graduated from various universities/technical colleges with various degrees and diplomas and most of them are now employed and earning for their living which is a huge motivation to the other children behind them. 14 boys and 5 girls are currently in various universities/technical colleges taking different Degree/Diploma courses.
- **JOB CREATION**

Thanks to those who have donated funds to this project because apart from transforming the lives of the needy children and especially orphans, Heritage of Faith has also created employment to the following number of people:

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| a) 14 trained teachers in our Christian school. | d) 2 animal farm attendants |
| b) 13 support staff in the Orphanage | e) 2 guards (Day and Night) |
| c) 1 irrigation farm attendants | |

Total 32 workers who are able to provide for their families through the vision of Heritage of Faith.

OUR MAJOR CHALLENGES

Factoring in the IGA that we have initiated with a rationale of being sustainable and some donations from well-wishers, we are able to cater for 75% feeding. The critical challenge has been in fulfilling the other 25% feeding, education for high school and universities/colleges and salaries for teaching and non-teaching staff to mention a few.

OUR FUTURE PROJECTION

Our future projection is to put up Modern classrooms in our piece of land at Sabaki Estate. The school will be an income-generating project hence attracting our neighbors to seek admissions for their children. This will in return bring in more funds putting us in the road towards full self-sustainability.

APPEAL

We are inviting more people of good will to come forward and partner with the vision of Heritage of Faith which entails giving home and hope to orphans and vulnerable children by transforming their lives through giving them love, care, protection and above all giving them quality education, which will enable them to be self-reliant in future.

For any clarifications or enquiries kindly reach out to the following key contact persons:

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