

Children of the King Project – Samburu, Kenya

A Fairplay Seventh-day Adventist Church Mission

September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Children of the King friends and supporters,

ASHE OLENG! *"Thank you very much!"—from Samburu, Kenya.*

This month, before we tell you anything else, we want you to hear the voices of appreciation coming from our Children of the King family in Samburu:

"Praise the Lord you servants of God! Praise the name of the living God!" 🙌

Those words are for YOU, our donors!

For months, the Children of the King family in Samburu has been praying—and watching God answer one prayer after another. First came the land, and then the water. And now...**THE BUILDING CAN BEGIN!**

Because of the extraordinary generosity of our donors this past month, we now have enough funding that we are in the planning stages of the **first 30 × 40-foot multipurpose building**. And we are hopeful the funds may stretch far enough to include the toilets and possibly even the kitchen for the first phase of the total campus dream!



And what an incredible answer to prayer! The exciting vision of a permanent Children of the King campus is beginning to take shape before our eyes. Praise the Lord Almighty!

And to every person who prayed, gave, told someone about the Children of the King, or quietly sacrificed so these children could have a better future—**Ashe Nkai te iyie!** *"We thank God for you!"*

"God bless all our donors in the name of Jesus Christ."—Your Children of the King family in Samburu ❤️

Water That Keeps Giving



Last month, we shared the wonderful news that clean water was flowing at Children of the King. But to understand what this well really means, we need to hear from the families whose lives it is changing.

Imagine going days without water.

In a video sent from Samburu, one mother described what life was like before the well. There were times their families simply had no water. They were thirsty. Walking miles in search of water was exhausting—**and when they finally reached it, the water was dirty.**

Then she said something that sounds so ordinary to us, but means everything to her: ***"Now our water is clean."***

And the well has given them something else—**peace of mind.**

Before, children were sent far from home to collect water, putting them at risk along the way. Parents worried until they returned. Now, the water is close. Even the younger children can help carry it home



One mother summed up what that change has meant to their families: ***"now we sleep well and no longer have the stress we had before."***

Think about that. This water has helped parents ***sleep at night.***

The impact reaches far beyond the school. Families are coming from the farthest parts of the community to collect water—***some walking as far as 4½ miles.***

And because Samburu is facing significant, prolonged dry conditions this year, they are grateful to have enough water to help keep the dust down around the schoolyard—a ***small luxury they simply didn't have before.***

Perhaps that is why this message sent from Samburu means so much:

—***"The water project at the school has touched many lives here. Glory be to God the Almighty for the astonishing work! 🕯️"***

The families whose lives have been touched would like to say to everyone who helped make this water possible:

—***"Mikitamyayiana Nkai te Nkarna e Yesu!" ❤️***—*May God bless you in the name of Jesus!*



Even the Moran brothers are smiling!



Growing More Than a Garden

Water changes what is possible.

Now that we finally have water, we've started dreaming about something else we've wanted for the school for a long time—***a garden!***

There is land around the school that could be used to grow fresh food for the children. With so many little mouths to feed every day, being able to grow even some of their own food would be wonderfully helpful.

We also want the children to be part of it. They could learn how to plant, care for a garden and harvest food themselves—***practical skills they can take home and share with their families.*** Over time, what they learn at school could benefit families throughout the surrounding community.

"Study in agricultural lines should be the A, B, and C of the education given in our schools."

—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 179

Of course, growing food in Samburu is very different from planting a garden in Colorado! The dry climate and soil bring their own challenges, and there is still a lot to learn about what will work best there.

Thankfully, we don't have to figure everything out on our own. **The Samburu Project** has years of experience working with Samburu communities and developing school gardens in this very environment. We hope to learn from people who already ***understand the land, the water and what it takes to grow food successfully here.***

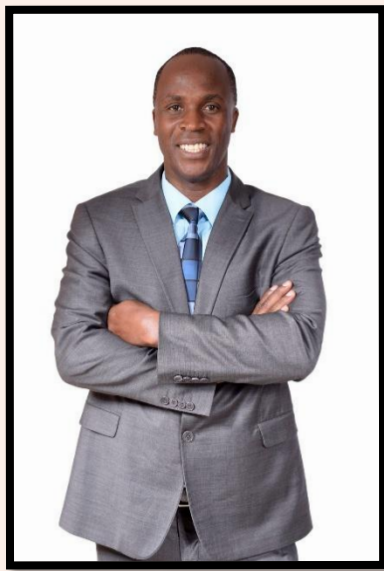
It's exciting to finally be able to think about things like this. Having water has opened up possibilities we simply didn't have before.

Our Newest COTK Team Members

Sometimes God brings people together in ways we could never have planned.

Just a few weeks ago, while attending Adventist World Radio's Inspiration Sabbath Camp Meeting in Jasper, Oregon, Amy met **Judith Marwanga**, a Kenyan who now lives in Canada. The two quickly became friends, and over lunch one day, Judith heard about Children of the King and what God has been doing in Samburu.

As they talked, Judith felt impressed to become involved. She offered to volunteer wherever she could be helpful and also hopes to share Children of the King with others in Canada.



Kennedy Mong'are Mogaka—joining our COTK team from Kenya

Judith thought of her brother-in-law, **Kennedy Mong'are Mogaka**, in Kenya. With his experience and connections there, she felt he might be able to help us as Children of the King moves into this next stage.

That introduction led to an inspiring video call with Kennedy who lives in Nairobi. Kennedy is a Seventh-day Adventist deacon and a business executive whose experience includes risk advisory, business strategy and working with many different organizations and stakeholders.

But what impressed us most was his heart for the project.

Kennedy wants to begin by listening—to Matthew and Saruni, to the community, and to the needs and vision already taking shape in Samburu. As we prepare for the building phase, he has offered to work alongside them, helping us gather the information we need, bring the different elements into a coherent planning framework, and connect the team with the appropriate Kenyan professionals and resources as needs arise.

Kennedy looks forward to working more closely with Matthew and Saruni as together we begin taking these next steps.

When we look at how all of this happened—a chance meeting with Judith in Oregon, a conversation over lunch, an introduction to her brother-in-law in Nairobi, and then a wonderful conversation about a little school in Samburu—we can't help but feel that **God had a hand in bringing us together.**

We are so happy to welcome **Judith and Kennedy** to the Children of the King family, and we're excited to see where God leads from here!

From Tending Sheep to the Classroom

When Matthew and Saruni first met seven-year-old **Munyaki Lekuchula**, he wasn't sitting in a classroom—he was tending sheep.

For many children growing up in this part of Samburu, caring for livestock is simply part of life. But Matthew and Saruni saw a bright little boy who also **deserved the opportunity to learn.** They reached out to Munyaki's parents and talked with them about the importance of an education for their son.

His parents agreed—and Munyaki came to Children of the King.



Judith & Amy — where the connection began in Jasper, Oregon



Today, the little boy who was once spending his days looking after sheep is learning alongside the other COTK children.

Saruni describes him as “**a very brilliant learner**” who is progressing well in school. And now Munyaki is learning much more than reading and numbers. **Each day gives him another opportunity to know Jesus—the Savior who sees this little shepherd boy, knows him by name, and has a purpose for his life.**

Around the COTK Table



A part of the school day that the children seem to enjoy almost as much as learning is mealtime!

For many of us, meals come so easily that we hardly give them a second thought. But for many of the children at COTK, **a full tummy is something to be thankful for.**

And there is something especially sweet about watching them eat together. No screens. No devices. **Just children gathered with their food, talking, laughing and enjoying one another.**

Matthew says their smiles and laughter say more than words. Perhaps these little ones have something to teach us too—to slow down, thank God for what is before us, and enjoy the simple blessing of sharing a meal together.

The Missing Birthday Box Arrives! 📦



For a while, we wondered if our July birthday box would ever make it to Samburu! Along the journey from Colorado to Kenya, it became stuck in Los Angeles—and then seemed to **disappear altogether.**

For an entire month, it was missing. But eventually it was found, continued its long journey to Samburu and, much to everyone's delight, **arrived right along with the August birthday box!**

So this time there was twice the fun as the children finally received the birthday surprises that had been traveling halfway around the world to reach them.

These little boxes may seem like a small thing, but we love the message they carry: ***your birthday matters to people halfway around the world!*** 🎉

And already on its way... the September birthday box filled with love for **Melishu, Naisharu, Saiguran, Faith and Nitalia!** ❤️ 🎂



And Now We Build

When we began Children of the King, none of us knew exactly where God would lead. We simply knew there were children who needed food, an education and, most of all, the opportunity to know Jesus.

One need led to another. Classes beneath the trees. Land for a school. Then water—something this entire community desperately needed.

And now, because of your incredible generosity, **we are ready to begin building.**



There is still much ahead of us, and we will continue taking it one step at a time. But someday children like Munyaki will no longer sit beneath a tree to learn. They will walk through the doors of a school built just for them—a place where they can learn, eat, grow, laugh, and come to know the God who created them.

When we think back to where all of this started, it is hard to believe **how far God has brought us—and how He continues to bring all of us together, from different places around the world, to help it grow.**

Ashe oleng. Thank you very much. ❤️

Ways you can give: Scan the QR code or visit Adventist Giving at <https://adventistgiving.org/donate/ANGMGG>

The image shows a screenshot of the Fairplay SDA Church website's donation interface. The main page is titled 'Fairplay SDA Church' and includes the address '802 CASTELLO AVE, FAIRPLAY, CO 80440-5093'. It features a section for 'OFFERING OF THE WEEK' and 'LOCAL OFFERINGS'. A red arrow points from the 'ADD CATEGORIES' button in the 'LOCAL OFFERINGS' section to a modal window titled 'MORE LOCAL OFFERINGS'. This modal window displays a QR code and a list of categories for donation, including 'Children of the King' (which is selected), 'Capital expenses', 'Children's Ministry', 'Local Women's Mini', and 'Member assistance'. A 'BACK TO DONATION' button is at the bottom of the modal.

Prefer to give by mail?

Fairplay Seventh-day Adventist Church

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A Mission of the Fairplay Seventh-day Adventist Church

Our Mission: The *Children of the King Project* exists to provide Christ-centered education, daily care, and spiritual training for vulnerable children in Samburu, Kenya, helping raise a new generation to know, serve, and follow Jesus.