



## **2023 Newsletter**





K3C Pastors' visit to Chakamba Pastors Fellowship



Prison Ministry with Kody Barbier and Team



Roka Open Air Crusades



School Children Happy to Receive Bibles



Gideon's Bibles Distribution to School Children



K3C Pastors' Visit to Kipini



Prison Ministry



# Introduction

The year 2023 was special to the Charitos Staff on the Mission field. The LORD has indeed been very gracious to Charitos despite the many challenges in the year, including drought then serious flooding cutting off Lamu County from the rest, lack of funds, insecurity from terrorism that has resulted in many deaths, burnt homes and one Church razed down, and deaths in Michael and Alice's family and Michael's sickness, just to name a few.

We are very grateful to God for the individual partners and Churches who have stood with our vision and mission at Charitos and prayed and sent their financial support and encouraging messages to us. In this Newsletter we want to particularly mention five partner Churches, two in Kenya, two in South Africa and one in the UK, who have stood with Charitos in 2023.

**Walmer Methodist Church** in Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with the initiative of the Missions Pastor Rev. Audey Van Wyk, sponsored Alice's mission to their Church in June. The Church has also sent regular support this year to cover some of the needs of the Ministry. (Rev. Audrey and Alfonso Wessels of Harvest Christian Church had lead a team of Missioners from their Churches for a Mission in Lamu and Tana River Counties last year.) Rev. Audrey also stood and comforted Alice the morning Alice landed in Port Elizabeth. Alice's mother had passed on that night and Michael, left behind in Kenya to recuperate from a spine injury, had to break the news to Alice and son Joseph via a video call. Rev. Audrey was there to hold Alice and pray and comfort her. May the LORD bless her abundantly.

Another Church from Port Elizabeth is **Harvest Christian Church**, under the initiative of Alfonso and his wife Adri, who lead Missions in the Church. Harvest Church sponsored CTA's Farming God's Way training in Hindi mid this year. The Church has been sending regular encouragements to Michael and Alice and has stood with them in prayers during some of the great crises that they have gone through. We are indeed very grateful!

**Kileleshwa Covenant Community Church** (K3C), which is the home Church for Michael and Alice and their children, stood with them during the difficult moments of Michael losing his dad and Alice losing her mom and sister. A prayer group in the Church where their daughter Anne is a member also raised funds for Michael's Physiotherapy Sessions in Nairobi where Michael was receiving treatment for his spine injury. Also, the senior Pastor Rev. David Obuki together with Rev. Peter Mwangi visited Michael and Alice in Lamu to fellowship with them and get acquainted with CTA Ministry activities and partnerships with Churches in Lamu.

**Christian Church International (CCI), Wellsprings** in Thika town near Nairobi is another Church that has stood with Charitos. The Church has been regularly communicating with Michael and Alice and supported them during the mentioned bereavements. The Church also sent representatives to stand with Michael's family during the funerals.

The other Church is **Sherwood Forest Community Church** in Mansfield, United Kingdom. The Church has been consistent in sending some support at least twice each year for several years now. The support has gone a long way in helping Charitos do Ministry in this rough and tough terrain, replete with numerous dangers and challenges. May God bless them for their continued support and prayers.

We have several other individual partners, some who have given one-time gifts in the year, especially during the Mission to South Africa and during the bereavements. We are very encouraged by their giving. Three individuals have been consistent in sending their donations, and we are eternally grateful for their support. It may seem small compared to the huge needs in the Ministry, but nothing is small when given from a generous and a cheerful heart! We have been able to at least fuel and maintain the Ministry vehicle through their giving.

Most of our other Partners did not manage to send any funds this year. Our partner organization, the Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) who has been funding most of our trainings, were not able to fund any of our proposed trainings this year due to financial constraints on their end. However, they managed to continue the on-going sponsorship of the two University students and a few secondary school ones under Charitos, for which we are very grateful. VOM also donated 2,000 children's Bibles (Bible Stories, both in English and Swahili), which Charitos distributed to the Sunday school children across the County, all the way to Kipini.

Other Partners who usually support Charitos were unable to do so this year. It has been a challenging year financially and CTA was unable to do many of the planned Ministries due to lack of funds.

# Ministries Done in the Year 2023

Despite all these challenges, God opened many doors of ministry among different Churches in Lamu County. The year began with a three-day open air crusades in January in Roka village in Hindi, organised by a Church called Gospel Revival Centre (GRC). Alice was one of the Evangelists. The crusades ended with the opening a new Church branch at Roka village in order to disciple the people who gave their lives to Christ. As I write this report the new believers are growing spiritually and the Church is growing in numbers.

In the same month of January, Alice taught in a two-day ladies Seminar organized by Gospel Revival Centre Hindi and Roka branches. Some of the topics covered included:

1. A snapshot of the Faith of Timothy's mother Eunice (1Tim. 1:3-5; Acts. 16:1)
2. Women in Ministry... Do Women Have a Place in Ministry?
3. The Strength of a Mother
4. Woman as a Wife (Eph. 5:33)

One question of discussion was:

**Is it possible to love your husband and not respect him?**

In the month of February, Alice also taught in a two-day ladies seminar organised by Redeemed Gospel Church Hindi. Areas covered included:

1. Being an Example (1Tim 4:12-13; 1Pet. 3:3; Prov. 31:30)
2. The Godly wife (Eph. 5:22,24, 33; 1Pet. 3:1-2)
3. Handling the In-laws; (Ruth 1:14)
4. Mother-Child Relationships

In the month of March, Michael and Alice were invited to minister in the Couples seminar organised by Full Gospel Church in Ndeu village, Hindi. The topics covered were the role of a husband and wife in the family, and Conflict and Conflict management in Marriage.

## Reaching out to Muslims Seminar 24th-26th March

Michael was involved in facilitating a three-day seminar on reaching out to Muslims and discipling believers from a Muslim background. The seminar was organized by the Full Gospel Church in Mokowe town. The participants were equipped with skills to reach out to Muslims and how to disciple those who turn to Christ.

## Home Visitations and Food Relief Donations for Vulnerable Senior Citizens 11th -13th April

Michael and Alice were delighted to be visited by their Pastors from Kileleshwa Covenant Community Church, (K3C) Nairobi. It was an awesome moment for the two Pastors catching up and getting to see what is happening in the mission field. The team consisted of the Senior Pastor Rev. David Obuki and Rev. Peter Mwangi, together with Harriet Were. Their main agenda was to visit the Michaels, see and experience the connections they have with the Churches in Lamu and explore areas for possible future missions, starting with this year.

The team was able to meet with a cross-section of Pastors and Bishops across Lamu County starting with far away Kipini, then Chakamba, and Mpeketoni town. They were able to interact in discussions as they listened to the challenges these local pastors are going through. They also discussed different ways that K3C can get involved in mission work by engaging different groups and different ages in their Churches. The K3C pastors proposed a Mission to Mpeketoni to be hosted by the Full Gospel Church in the month of August. Unfortunately this didn't take place due to the heightened insecurity.

The K3C team also donated foodstuffs to over 40 vulnerable senior citizens families in Hindi Division who are 70 years and above. During the distribution of the food packages, one elderly lady gave her life to Christ. The prolonged drought had greatly affected many families and it was such a relief to receive some food.





## Youth Conference 2023

In the same month of April, Charitos organized a four-day Youth Conference at Gospel Revival Church in Hindi. The facilitators were Pastor Ronnie Nyaga from Nairobi, Roseline Sibinde from the Voice of the Martyrs (VOM) organization, Joseph Chege (Michael & Alice's son), and Michael Mbugua. The topics covered included the following:

- Youth and the Internet— Re-ordering priorities
- Emotional Crises
- How to overcome Failure
- Youth and the Bible
- Double Standard Christians
- Purity
- Relationships (Boy-Girl, Parents-Children, Children-Community).



## Visiting the Widows at Mpeketoni: 2nd – 3rd May.

Roseline from VOM was accompanied by Alice in paying a visit to the widows and the students that are being supported by the VOM organisation. Interacting with these widows and hearing how much their faith has grown despite the daily challenges they undergo is quite encouraging. We thank God for VOM for the good work they have been doing in Lamu since the 2014 Massacre.



## Farming God's Way Seminar 25th -26th May

A farmers training seminar on the new method of farming dubbed Farming God's Way was organised by Charitos Transformation Africa. The seminar was held on Michael and Alice's farm in Hindi. The facilitator was Anthony Muga, trained and accredited trainer in the method, currently working with Care of Creation in Kijabe. At least 32 participants were in attendance. Anthony emphasised that the participants should always remember the acronym **ACUWBS**, that is;

- Acknowledge God and God alone
- Consider your ways
- Understand God's all-sufficiency
- What you saw you will reap
- Bring all the tithes and offerings to God
- Stake your claim





A few participants have started practicing the method on their kitchen gardens and they are so excited at the outcome. The biggest challenge many are facing is getting enough mulch to make “God’s blanket” covering of their soils. The advice is to start with preparations early for next season.

Michael and Alice’s experimental maize plot yielded wonderful results! They are grateful to Harvest Christian Church for sponsoring the seminar.



## **Visit to Walmer Methodist Church, Port Elizabeth, South Africa 8th -14th June**

Michael and Alice were invited by Walmer Methodist Church in Port Elizabeth, in the Eastern Cape of South Africa to take part in “The Pentecost Mission Month” facilitated by Walmer Methodist’s Missions Pastor Rev. Audey Van Wyk.

They were to share on the work under the Aweer people as the Church is focusing on Unreached People Groups in Africa. All of this encapsulated in the work and vision for Charitos Transformation Africa. Michael and Alice worked for 10 years as Linguists developing the Aweer language and translating the New Testament into the language.

Unfortunately, Michael couldn’t make the trip to Walmer because of health challenges. A previous MRI revealed that two of his lower discs had been compressed from an earlier motor accident. He had slipped and badly injured the same area, two weeks to the journey! He had serious back pain due to this and had to remain in Nairobi for treatment and undergo several Physiotherapy sessions. We thank God for his continued recovery allowing him to resume his work in Lamu. We thank you too for your prayers and financial support during this trying season.



Nevertheless Alice and Joseph their son were able to travel to Walmer. Alice was able to speak and share about Charitos Ministry in the 7 am, 9 am and 6 pm services. She was also able to share with the Confirmands class about her calling to Missionary work during their Confirmation classes facilitated by their Youth Pastor, Pst. Benjamin Friedemann. Later that afternoon they were then able to meet and connect with the team that had come to Lamu for missions in October 2022 to catch up and briefly speak about the next mission trip to Kenya.



On Monday and Tuesday Joseph and Alice joined Alfonso and his wife Adri of Harvest Christian Church. Alfonso and his family were missionaries in Kenya for many years before they re-located back to South Africa. They have interacted with Michael & Alice before in various activities.

The Alfonso's were able to expose Alice and Joseph to the great work that they are doing among the under-privileged, drug addicts and marginalized communities in Port Elizabeth's Bethelstore and Kleinskool townships as well as a Farming God's Way demonstration on a farm at Port Elizabeth's Grassroof Restaurant, which was a real encouragement to them having just done the training earlier in May.

The visit culminated with an interview at Harvest Christian Church facilitated by Alfonso and Adri.

Some of the topics covered in the interview were:

- What does it mean to have a heart for missions?
- Bible translation and its challenges and how long it takes, its sacrifices and long term commitment.
- Raising a family in the mission field.
- How we have trained and continue to disciple people to continue with the work.
- The need for a Bible in one's own language.



## The Full Gospel Men's Conference in Mpeketoni 29th June – 1st July

This was the second men's conference organised by Rev. Lawrence Kariuki, the Bishop of Full Gospel Churches in Lamu County. Michael was facilitating this together with Bishop Gabriel Nyambu, the Regional Bishop of the Full Gospel Churches.

The topics Michael covered included the following:

- Communication and Conflict Resolution
- Parental Authority
- Parenting Styles
- The Role of a Godly Father

At the end of the conference, the men had planned to have a visit to the new Lamu Port in Hindi. They had a wonderful outing and a time to bond. Michael accompanied them. They had also planned to make a stop-over on their way back to Mpeketoni for lunch at Michael and Alice's home in Hindi, all 150 of them in three buses and several cars! Talk about Christian Men's day out!



## The Jesus Film, Training and Equipment. July

Michael travelled to Kilifi town on Monday, 3rd of July to attend a 4-day Jesus Film Seminar sponsored by Life Ministry, Kenya. Life Ministry is part of Campus Crusade for Christ Intl. Michael joined a group of other Missionaries working in Kwale, Mombasa, Kilifi, Tana River, Lamu and Garissa Counties, all the areas having the most unreached and undisciplined people groups in Kenya, with the challenge of Islam. At the end of the training, Charitos entered into a partnership with Life Ministry to use the Jesus Film and other films like Walking with Jesus, Mary Magdalene, as tools for Evangelism. Michael received the Jesus Film Equipment from Life Ministry on behalf of Charitos. He travelled back and gathered some of the pastors together and shared the good news with them. Since then, he has screened the film after numerous invitations in many Churches and Open Air crusades in the region with many being exposed and hearing the Gospel using this powerful tool.





## Mentorship of Young Couples

A few young couples in Hindi approached the Michaels' with a desire to be mentored in their marriage journeys. They agreed to be meeting in the afternoon of every second Sunday of the month on Michael and Alice's compound in Hindi. The first meeting took place on 9th July and eight couples were in attendance. We have covered two topics so far, The Purpose of Marriage, and Communication in Marriage. It has been exciting listening to the challenges these young couples are going through and especially the one year old in marriage. One of the recurring challenge mentioned is the use and misuse of mobile phones. Michael and Alice never went through this challenge because there were no mobile phones when they were getting married, no WhatsApp and no internet connections as it is today!



## A Time of Refreshing- 1st – 4th August

Four colleagues in the Charitos Transformation Africa Ministry, Dr. Silas and his wife Rahab, and Rev. Gateru and his wife Nancy, flew from Nairobi to Lamu to just spend some time with Michael and Alice despite their busy schedule. It was a wonderful time of catching up and just being around each other as they shared with, prayed for, and encouraged Michael and Alice. The Michaels' have gone through a difficult period this year with the death of Michael's father, death of Alice mother and a Sister in the same year. Michael has had health challenges too due to his spine injury as shared earlier. They are grateful to all the other prayer partners and colleagues in the ministry for standing with them.

## Seminars at Chakamba – 10th -13th October

The Chakamba Pastors fellowship invited the three ladies in the Charitos Training team. Pastor Nancy, Rahab and Alice held a seminar with different groups for four days. These were:

1. The Pastors ---- Tuesday
2. The Pastor's wives---Wednesday
3. The Pastor's wives and women leaders-----Thursday
4. The Pastors and their Wives -----Friday

### The Topics Covered

- The Pastor and Family
- Managing Family Resources
- Intimacy with God
- The Pastor's Spouse and the Church, Balancing Roles
- Women in Ministry
- Prayer
- Spiritual Identity
- Establishing a Family Altar

The facilitators noted with concern the need for more teachings on basic Christian doctrines for the Pastors.

There was also a challenge of over-reliance on sponsorship for the seminars. This was reflected by some of the pastors who refused to contribute towards the seminars insinuating that Charitos has always sponsored their trainings. (The above seminar was not sponsored by Charitos.) There is need to train the Pastors to make some contributions for their own trainings instead of every time relying wholly on sponsorships, despite the poverty and economic hardships many of them are going through.

The Chakamba Pastors Fellowship requested Charitos trainers to prepare a seminar for all the couples in their Churches. It's our prayer that this will materialize.

## Sunday School Children's Bibles Distribution

As earlier mentioned, our partners VOM donated 2,000 copies of children's Bibles, both in English and Swahili. Charitos has been able to distribute all of them to many Churches which needed them across Lamu County, (with some going as far away as Kwale County). These are Churches in Mokowe, Hindi, Mpeketoni, Chakamba and Kipini regions. It was a great joy to see the children enjoy reading the Bible Stories and answering the questions at the end of each story. The Bibles have become a rich resource to hundreds of Churches that didn't have a single material for the Sunday school children.





## Other Donated Bibles

Michael also took other donated study Bibles, The Expositor's Study Bibles, to Hindi GK Prison both for the soldiers and the prisoners. He also distributed the Bibles to the General Service Unit (GSU) garrison in Mokowe, enjoying a Sunday service with the gallant soldiers!

TheoVision Kenya, an organization dedicated to producing audio Bibles in local languages, had also donated some 16 audio Bibles which were distributed to the remote Islands of Pate and Faza and to Kiunga our border town with Somalia, with a few going to Witu region where they are being used among non-literate believers. The Bibles are in English, Kiswahili and Somali Languages. More are needed as there are quite many believers with very low literacy levels in a majority of the communities here, especially among the elderly.

## The Gideon's Bibles Distribution to Schools

Michael and Alice are also members of the local chapter of the Gideon's International. They helped distribute hundreds of Bibles to the Primary and Secondary schools in the Sub-County, the Hindi GK Prison, the National Youth Service camp and the medical training school in Mokowe.

## Youth Seminar: 9th December

This was held at the Gospel Revival Centre in Hindi where Michael and Alice regularly attend Church and teach the youths and the teens. Rose Mranda from Mpeketoni was the main teacher for the day, with Michael and Alice helping to facilitate. The topics taught included the following:

1. God's purpose and plan for youths and teens
2. Sexual Purity

## Conclusion

It has been an honour to serve God in many different ways this year. We trust God for more opportunities of Ministry in whichever way He wants Charitos to serve Him. Thank you all for your prayers, support and encouragement. We look forward to your continued partnership in the coming year.

You too can be a part of this great Ministry! We invite you to participate in any of the following:

1. Become a Prayer Partner
2. Give financially to support Charitos Ministry on a regular basis.
3. Volunteer your gifts and skills in Health, Education, Agriculture, IT, or any other, on short-term or long-term basis.
4. Volunteer to help during medical camps, Discipleship and Pastoral Trainings, etc.
5. Sponsor a needy student. This is really critical. There are many needy and vulnerable families in the County.
6. Donate clothes, food, farm tools, children's books and other items to help the needy in the rural villages.
7. Regularly visit the Mission field and take time to pray with and encourage Michael and Alice and the others working with them. Send them financial support to meet their needs.

For more information, kindly contact Michael Mbugua, Charitos National Director [charitostafrica@gmail.org](mailto:charitostafrica@gmail.org)



# Praise and prayer items

1. Thank God for the open doors of Ministry that God has continued to provide for Charitos. Pray for more opportunities and resources in 2024.
2. Thank God for the good health God has continued to give the Charitos team.
3. Thank God for the partnerships that are developing with Walmer Methodist Church and Harvest Christian Church, both in South Africa, and with CCI, Wellsprings Chapel in Thika.
4. Pray for the VOM financial situation. They have faithfully supported CTA trainings among the Pastors and the youths over the years but the organization seems to be struggling to raise funds for their global outreach.
5. Thank God for healing Michael and strengthening his back. Pray for his continued health.
6. Continue to Pray for the security situation in Lamu and that the government will take the initiative to do land adjudication, which has partly been the cause of terrorism and a major cause of conflict between farmers and pastoralists.
7. Pray that God may give Charitos more partners in the Ministry and that the current ones may revive their prayers and giving towards this noble work.
8. Pray for the other Churches and organizations that have been giving towards Charitos Ministry, that God will provide for them and touch them to continue giving for His work at Charitos.
9. Pray for yourself that God may make it clear on how you can partner with Charitos in terms of giving and /or availing yourself to actively participate in some of the activities. Remember nothing is small when given from a generous and a cheerful heart!

Compiled by Michael & Alice Mbugua  
Charitos Transformation Africa (CTA).  
13th December 2023.



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