



Hello Family, Friends, Clients, and Colleagues:

October 2006

It is with great excitement that we are writing to you to share some exciting news! From January 20 through February 4, 2007, we will be traveling to Nairobi, Kenya Africa for a two-week missions trip. We will be part of a short-term missions team with First Love International continuing work on several projects on a newly purchased five-acre piece of property in an area named "Karen." First Love International is well established in this area with children's feeding programs in Mituma and Kibera—these are some of the most impoverished slums in Africa. This new property will provide a tremendous opportunity for First Love to minister to the people of this region. The overall plan for the property is to construct a home for 100 orphans, a kindergarten through 8th grade school, and a trade training center.

Here are some things we will be helping the team do on this trip:

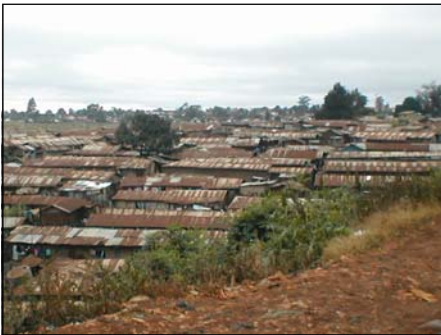
- Finishing the interior of a remodeled, existing structure which will be home to a new missionary family also traveling there in January with us...the Dellamater's—Brian & Heather and their sons, Noah and Gabriel. Brian and Heather are friends of ours that we met through our Sunday school class at First Evangelical Free Church. The Dellamater's have made a two-year commitment to the work being done in Kenya.
- Getting the foundation put in for the first dormitory on the property.
- Beginning construction on the trade training center. This training center will be a classroom which will house woodworking and other tools which will be used initially in the construction of the furniture needed for the two dorms that will eventually be constructed. Later on, this classroom will be used to train young people in the trades—carpentry, plumbing, electrical, masonry, and even auto mechanics. This type of training is much needed for children growing up in the slums as it will give them a chance to break the cycle of unemployment and poverty.
- Working with the children of the area.
- Of course, we will be bringing some photography equipment as well to document the work happening through First Love so that they can use the images to continue to encourage others in the U.S. to donate time and finances for this important work.



View of the property, future home to the Dellamater's



The children of Nairobi, Kenya



Overlooking the Kibera slum, the largest slum in the world

In order to join this team for the wonderful work God has planned for us, we need to raise the necessary funds. The trip will cost \$3,100.00 per person (a total of \$6,200.00 for both of us) to go. This includes travel expenses, water, food, lodging, and some funds for materials needed for construction at the children's home. If we are able to raise an additional \$650.00 each, we also have an opportunity to go on a safari into the Masai Mara for two days—a breathtaking experience! Because of the quick turnaround time of this trip, we need to raise half the amount within about a month's time frame—that is around Thanksgiving. We know it sounds like a monumental task to do, but we have seen God do amazing things in our lives and those of our friends. We have faith that the Lord will provide if He wishes for us to go.

We are looking forward to being used by God to help the people of this area. This is our first missions trip and we know whatever we think we are going to experience, it will be something that we could never have fathomed. We are not quite sure how or when our gifts will be able to be used, but we are going on faith that we will be able to use those gifts to benefit this community to help them build foundations both physically and spiritually.

If you would like to support us, any amount of donation can be sent payable to "First Love International" at the address provided to the right. Please designate your gift in our name, Chad & Deb Smits, for the Kenya 2007 trip. All donations are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt of your donation. If you have any questions for us, please call (815) 703-7294 or E-mail Deb at deb@smitsphotography.com.

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Thank you for your support and God Bless,

Kenya photos compliments of Heather Dellamater