



# The East Africa Connection

*"Teach these great truths to trustworthy men who will, in turn, pass them on to others"*

2 Timothy 2:2 (Amplified).

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## BUSINESSES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

It has been a few months since I updated you on the businesses we are working with in Kenya. George Wafula has been helping me while I have been stranded here in Tulsa recovering from medical problems. On a side note, last week George told me that he had to drive to Uganda to teach, but his tires were very thin. (Thin in Kenya means the rubber left was about the thickness of a cardboard cereal box) Here is his thank you for our help:

"Thank you so much for the much needed gift that has enabled me to replace my car tires today and do a lot of repair on it. The planting season (everyone grows their own food if possible) had chewed all the money from our pockets this time of year. Now it is safe to drive to Uganda for class."

A new business has a community-wide impact. Kenyans are very family oriented so if a son starts a business the whole family prospers. The trickle-down theory works in Kenya, at least in families. **Many of your gifts have helped us fund these ventures, and I wanted you to see the positive results that three of the businesses have had in the lives of the people.** George continues:

"I am attaching a picture of Evans Wanaka and his mother standing outside their small business house (bicycle and motor bike repair—see picture at top right). The family is so proud of Evans who has worked very hard to support his family. (His father is no longer able to work due to age-related problems.) Last month he helped send his sister to high school. She is the first of 10 siblings to attend high school. Due to poverty, no one in the family history has gone beyond 8th grade. **Now with the small business, the family is seeing great hope.** They are now selling other products: drinks (Cokes), rope, and vegetables to add income. The family assured me that they pray for those that helped them in America every day.

"I have also sent a picture of the tailoring shop (see picture middle right) where Roselyn is in charge. The business is doing well and the ladies working there (from three different families) are extremely happy. **Roselyn supports: the three ladies and their families that work at the shop, her three children (she is a widow), and her parents that are 83 and 79 years old.** She was able to send her oldest daughter to high school this year for the first time. She said to tell you that she is very thankful for the sewing machine and supplies that helped her



*Bike repair whop*



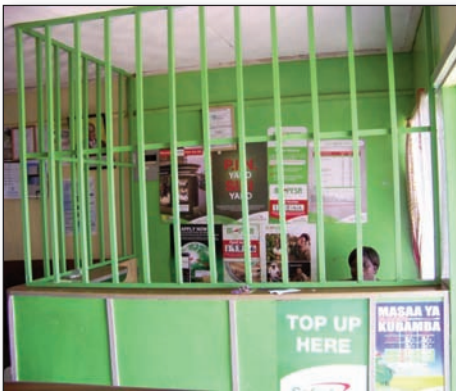
*Tailor shop*



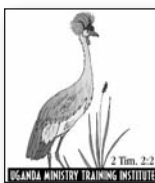
*Bricks*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- 1) New Safraicom business
- 2) Larry's knee replacement success
- 3) Bob's immune system
- 4) Sponsors for the new students



*Inside typical M-Pesa shop*



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*For tax deductible contributions, mail a check to I.O.M. at the following address and please add a note that the contribution is for Bob Vande Brake*

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start the business. **Bob, I want you to know that your investment has produced much fruit and benefited many lives."**

Patrick Busolo's brick making machine has been in operation making a cross between a cement block and a brick. The picture of the bricks (on the previous page) says it all. These bricks were for a new church just outside Kitale. Patrick and three other men work on the brick manufacturing. Patrick suffers from polio and has been a great witness for the Kingdom of God in his region as he plants churches from the profits of the brick machine.

## NEW BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY KNOCKING ON OUR DOOR

More than 90% of the 35 million people in Kenya do not have a bank account. (Banks are not trusted.) A mattress or a cookie jar becomes their bank. This cash system keeps the cycle of poverty in place because the families never build up capital (savings) or have money for an emergency. Robbery and theft remain rampant because the thieves know that their money is in their house. Safaricom (the major cell phone company) is one of the few companies that have the people's trust. With IBM's help they have set up a money transfer system using Safaricom phones. From this small start the money transfer division of Safaricom has



*Outside typical M-Pesa shop*

morphed into a giant national mobile bank named M-Pesa (M for mobile and pesa (Swahili for money)). Safaricom uses small local branches owned by independent owners to transact the transfers and other financial products that are being added to M-Pesa. Many of these services have never been available to Kenyans in remote areas. **The small M-Pesa shops offer: Safaricom Visa debit cards, a package of insurance products (health insurance, life insurance, disability insurance at very cheap rates), saving accounts, telephone minutes, and soon access to all Western Unions world-wide locations.** George has three faithful men with families who want to open one of these branch offices in an area that has just received electricity. It will be able to support all three men and their extended families. It will take about \$1,500 to open the branch office. It will take less than \$75 per person to provide for these three extended families. We had to say yes to this open door from the Lord!

## A FINAL WORD

Dee and I thank you for your continued prayers for my health and the work in Kenya and Uganda. I am enclosing a new brochure that explains our pastor's institutes in Kenya and Uganda. While the schools are our primary ministry, I just love seeing people prosper by applying biblical economic concepts. **We do have many new pastors in school this year and ask you to consider sponsoring one so he can attend class.** (The fee is \$600 for two years of Bible and Kingdom living training and can be paid in monthly installments.) Let Dee and I know if we can stand with you in prayer or if you have an interest in visiting East Africa on one of our trips later this year.

God's richest blessings,

*—Bob and Dee Vande Brake*