

IMPACT

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Letter from Dr. Chacha on the Mission Field

Dear Friends and Partners,

I am writing this from **The City of Hope** in Western Tanzania where I have been spending time with the workers who are getting ready for the building team from the USA. There is a great excitement and anticipation in the village of Ntagacha. We are now putting on the roof of the children's home.

There is also great attack. In fact, last week as we were leaving The City of Hope, we had a head-on collision with a speeding car that came out of nowhere. Unfortunately, the pastor's car (who was driving us) was totaled. There is no insurance, so it is quite a loss for him. We are thankful that no person was seriously hurt.

Personally, I am also excited about the upcoming conference in Nakuru, Kenya. We have a great international team from America, the Middle East and South Africa. We know that many lives will be touched and changed as team members do their part in sharing what God has given them.

At the end of every third year bring the tithe of all your crops and store it in the nearest town. Give it to . . . the orphans, and the widows in your towns, so they can eat and be satisfied. Then the Lord your God will bless you in all your work.
Deuteronomy 14:28-29 NLT

As we read the Word, we hear over and over of the necessity of providing for those less fortunate. That is what we have been called to do through **The City of Hope**. Right now we urgently need \$85,000 in order to complete the two buildings and move ahead to the next project. Please help us in this endeavor. We have been hard hit by high prices on bricks due to an extended rainy season and high transportation costs, but we are moving forward.

Pray for provision, wisdom and courage as we move forward in this exciting, not just life-changing, but community-changing and, perhaps, world-changing project.

In Christ's Service



Dr. John N. Chacha

A Place of New Beginnings

by Clare Myers

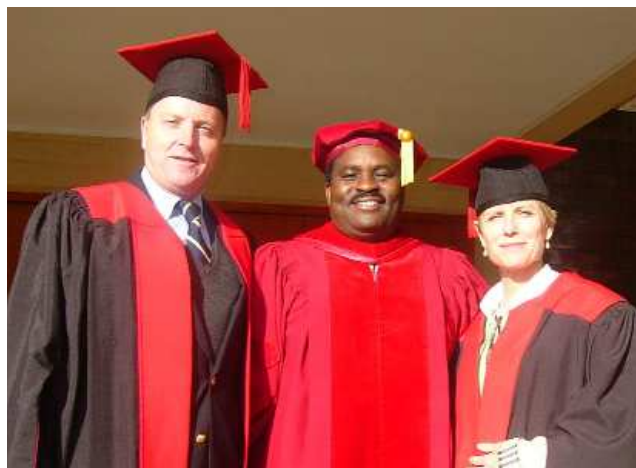
Clare is the daughter-in-law of Teamwork's founding board members, Marian Myers and the late Dr. I. Slaydon Myers. She and her husband Jeff decided to go and see for themselves the work of Teamwork that they are supporting so they can share the vision with others. They live in Darien, CT with their three children.

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now, it springs up; Do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland."

Isaiah 43:18-19

My husband Jeff and I had the privilege of traveling to Africa with Dr. Chacha last month. The purpose of our trip was two-fold: to attend graduation ceremonies for Teamwork Bible Colleges in South Africa and then to visit Teamwork's newest project, **The City of Hope** in Tanzania. A project of broad scope, **The City of Hope** has been a dream of Dr. Chacha's for some time and it encompasses rebuilding an entire village to provide a haven for orphans and members of their surrounding community in an area that has been devastated by poverty and AIDS.

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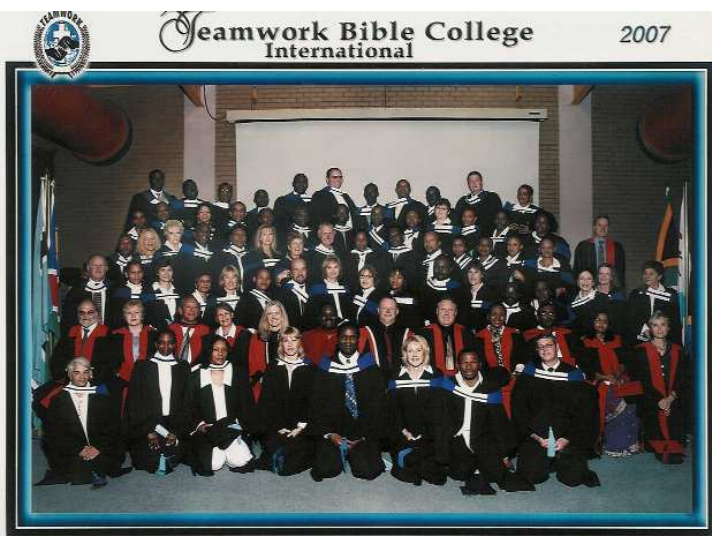


Jeff and Clare Myers with Dr. Chacha at the graduation in Johannesburg

Impressions from Johannesburg

Our journey began in Johannesburg, where we enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. Jeff van Wyk, director of Teamwork Bible College in Johannesburg. Johannesburg is a city of great vitality, energy, and hope in spite of the profound issues still facing the nation. We spent an afternoon in Soweto, a vast community of 3.5 million, rich in the history of South Africa's racial and political struggles and one-time home of many notable leaders, including President Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu. We were struck by the manner in which people from all walks of life revere "Mr. Mandela." Many told us they believed that he was ordained by God for that place at that moment in time to prevent a bloodbath in the country in the aftermath of apartheid. The spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation that Nelson Mandela's leadership fostered permeates contemporary life and provides a fertile atmosphere for Teamwork's mission of equipping local people to serve for the glory of God.

On a beautiful winter's Saturday afternoon, we traveled to Johannesburg's northern suburbs to participate in a graduation ceremony for more than 700 students from the greater Johannesburg region. In fact, there were so many students that it was necessary to hold the ceremony in a rented auditorium, as no local church was large enough to accommodate the crowd. It was a joyous celebration punctuated by wonderful music and worship. Many proud family members were present to honor the graduates.



Graduation in CapeTown

We then flew to CapeTown, where we were whisked from the airport directly to a lively Sunday morning worship service already in progress at the Lighthouse Church. Dr. Chacha spoke. Then he and Dr. Jeff also officiated at another graduation for



150 students in East London. The setting in Cape Town is dramatic with the mountains and the sea coming together. We drove along the sharply curved mountain roads to arrive at a windswept nature preserve. As we turned into the park, an enormous rainbow filled the sky, and we were graced with a keen awareness of God's presence and promise.

Teamwork Goes to Prison

Another highlight was the day we spent at the graduation ceremony at Brandvlei Prison, a maximum-security prison near Worcester, an agricultural area north of Cape Town. Our trek began with an early morning drive through spectacular snow-capped mountains, past waterfalls into a river valley planted with vineyards. As a surprising prelude to our visit, the sign at the prison's gate read, "Brandvlei Prison, a place of new beginnings." That motto served as a guidepost to a remarkable affirmation of faith and trust in the blessings of the Lord and His ability to transform lives. This prison ministry is flourishing. One hundred prisoners graduated in an emotional ceremony that included pure praise and unselfconscious worship from a talented band of musicians from the maximum-security section of the prison, as well as a choir from the medium-security section. Not only were the prisoners and their families celebrating, but the prison guards and the Provincial Commissioner of Prisons and other officials were also celebrating joyously, dancing and singing, and even taking notes during Dr. Chacha's and Dr. Jeff's remarks. Pastor Jeff focused on the Apostle Paul and his identification of himself as a prisoner, a message that clearly resonated with his audience. As each one of the prisoners shook our hands, they offered their thanks to Teamwork and expressed their gratitude for the transformation that the program had offered to them. In spite of lengthy sentences still facing most of them (some, in fact, are "lifers"), the majority of the prisoners appeared incredibly liberated and their countenances were notably different than those of their fellow prisoners who had not participated in the Teamwork program. It was a joy to be present



Clare with one of the inmates who is studying with Teamwork

to honor people who had most likely never before been honored for any achievement in their lives.

Our visit culminated in a tour of the maximum-security prison, whose atmosphere and conditions provided a stark counterpoint to the service in which we had just participated at the administrative center. Even there, however, God's grace

was evident in a prison-within-a-prison called the "Group of Hope." This is a voluntary association of prisoners, many of whom have participated in Teamwork's ministry. The group of 30 or so prisoners takes on "needy" causes both within and without the prison. For example, they "adopt" children from the outside who are either orphaned or ill and provide them with clothes they sew inside the prison. They also bring them to the prison each month for birthday celebrations and other special events. The group also makes beautiful handmade cards and visits any prisoners who may be ill. One of their missions includes AIDS education and awareness, both inside and outside the walls of Brandvlei. Their joy was irrepressible as they showed us the jewelry they make for sale, and our guide, a prison guard, purchased a necklace which he graciously presented to me on their behalf.

City of Hope

Our experiences in South Africa prepared us well for our trip to the village of Ntagacha in northwestern Tanzania. We traveled by way of Nairobi, leaving early in the morning from a small airport in the northern part of the city, the headquarters of MAF, Mission Aviation Fellowship. We climbed into a six-seated prop plane. After our pilot prayed for a safe flight, we took off on a magnificent ride southward toward Tanzania. Our 140-mile flight took us through a land of beautiful contrasts, coming out of the "suburbs" of a city of 4 million people and over the Masai Mara, where giraffes and wildebeests were crossing the plains beneath us. We flew over gorges and plateaus

and pristine rivers with sizeable waterfalls, and came to rest on a gravel landing strip in Migori, on Kenya's southern border with Tanzania.

At Migori we were greeted by two groups of missionaries and two jeeps that would take us nearly two hours up a dusty, windy road past bicycle "taxis" and across the border to our final destination, **The City of Hope**. Bob and Paulette McNeal, originally from British Columbia, have spent 19 years in the bush of southern Kenya, where they operate Bukuria Bible College, which they built from scratch. Another missionary couple had traveled 4 ½ hours from Kenya to see **The City of Hope** and to meet Dr. Chacha. They have recently adopted two African children, a boy and a girl, both of whom are 7 years old. These children were "throwaways", innocent victims of AIDS and poverty. The boy was literally found in a plastic garbage bag, while the girl suffered from HIV as a baby and also was abandoned, but has been miraculously healed. Their restoration under the loving care of these missionaries provided a powerful testimony to God's healing power and the precious nature of each individual.

The excitement of these children as we reached **The City of Hope** was mirrored by the enthusiasm of the villagers who greeted us. In this lush setting of cornfields, coffee, and sweet potatoes, we discovered a bustling hive of activity, the center of Dr. Chacha's vision of a children's home that will provide comprehensive care for the region's orphans. Such care will include housing, education, and medical care in the context of a "family" environment in which the children can learn leadership skills built upon a Christian foundation. In the midst of several groupings of mud huts with thatched roofs was a sophisticated construction site. A large crew of men and boys was working on two handsome structures made of handmade terra cotta-colored brick. One structure, on which a blue tin roof had recently been placed, will house missionary families who will live on-site and train

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Clare with Bob and Paulette McNeal



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locals who will be “parents” to the orphans. The second structure, on which they hope to place a roof by August, is the actual orphanage.

Although no precise numbers are available, according to the local missionaries, estimates for the percentage of local adults who have been infected with HIV run as high as 40%. Since open discussion of this disease is discouraged, many of those who are infected fail to seek medical care until the very late stages of the illness. Consequently, the number of orphans is growing at an alarming rate and, correspondingly, the need to provide care for them.

Once these initial two buildings have been completed, a community center will be built. The center will incorporate a common room for dining and other activities, a kitchen, and training rooms for the local community, including sewing and computers. Nearby will be a farm on which each child will be given his or her own plot as a means of teaching both useful skills and individual responsibility. Across the village will be a medical center to meet the needs of the community at large. There is no available medical care closer than 3 hours away,

and a preliminary survey indicates that perhaps 1000 people will travel to the center each day for some type of medical care. Dr. Chacha hopes that this will become a destination point for medical missionary teams.

We enjoyed a wonderful meal in the home of Dr. Chacha’s mother. His three sisters hosted us, as did his brother Julius, who keeps a close watch on the progress of the building project. Following our meal we retraced our steps back to Migori and then to Nairobi and from there flew home. We carried along with us a heightened awareness of the needs faced by this community, as well as a heightened sense of the urgency of those needs. Moreover, we now have a clearer vision of Dr. Chacha’s dream of providing a means to secure a future for a generation of Africans that has been largely ignored. Together with this, however, is a sense of hope and optimism that our proximity to so many dedicated godly people has imparted to us as a blessing. We ask for your prayers and support for this **City of Hope**.



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