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# PROGRAM COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE



## The Kingdom of God is at Hand

**T**he effects of the fall of mankind cannot be overestimated. It continues to ravage our society in the form of complex and multifaceted poverty. Physical or sexual violence is being perpetrated by close family members. Illiteracy continues to expose people to all kinds of manipulation, and opportunities to flourish are becoming more elusive and scarcer to the illiterate and physically challenged individuals. The masterpiece creation of God (the human being) meant to rule, reign, and tend to the rest of God's creation has become the victim. The picture looks blurry and fuzzy, but there is hope. The good news is that God is restoring this brokenness in the world.

The stories in this newsletter are stories of God's restorative work in the lives of people in

Kilifi County of Kenya. They are stories about people who have begun to experience the kingdom of God through the work of Caris Foundation. They are stories of real people learning to be better men, by discussing how to make sure women enjoy human rights and participate in economic activities. They are stories about people who previously missed opportunities to participate fully in society and the workforce because of illiteracy but now doors are opening for them. They are stories of a people in the community taking up their roles of ruling, reigning, and tending over God's creation as responsible stewards. They are stories about the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God is at hand, it is near to the many women in Kilifi who were being discriminated just because of their gender. The kingdom of God is at hand to Mishi Kazungu the tailor from Mongotini whose doors of opportunities began opening after learning literacy skills. The kingdom of God is at hand to Amani Barofa from Fundisa who can now walk again after 3 years of immobility.

**Duncan Ziro**  
Program Coordinator



# GENDER EQUALITY CAMPAIGN TARGETS MEN



**Karisa Samuel, Gender Program Officer, talks to men in Hademu, Kaloleni sub - County on human rights and Gender Based Violence (GBV)**

Photo © Emma Kinda/Caris Foundation Kenya

**BY EMMA KINDA & KARISA SAMUEL**

**G**ender-based violence (GBV) is a problem of global proportions. Even though gender equality is a human right enshrined in the Constitution of Kenya, women and adolescent girls are the most vulnerable group whose rights are withheld by tradition and cultural norms. According to the most recent Kenyan data which was published in 2014, about 41 per cent of women reported having experienced physical or sexual violence from intimate partners in their lifetime. In addition, a 2022 report published by UN Women and the UN Department of Economic

and Social Affairs (UN DESA) reveals that gender disparities are worsening. Moreover it indicates that, if the current rate of progress continues, then it could take up to 300 years to achieve full gender equality.

It is against this backdrop that Caris Foundation Kenya is working to prevent gender-based violence, teenage pregnancies, childhood marriages, and other harmful practices. The Gender Program at Caris Foundation Kenya has taken a different approach to advance gender equality.

In March 2022, it launched a forum to engage men to assist them to understand their role as important gatekeepers in preventing GBV.

“Gender inequality affects both men and women. Progress in gender equality necessitates both men’s and women’s participation. These forums are geared towards transforming the masculinity concept and to promote sexual and reproductive health for themselves and their partners,” said Karisa Samuel, a Gender Program Officer at Caris Foundation Kenya.

At the forum, topics included discussion on unequal gender power relations and the root causes of inequalities. Participants were made aware of human rights that each individual should enjoy without discrimination based on gender.

In September 2022, the Caris team took its campaign to Kaloleni sub-county. Shadrach Thuva, a father of six children and a resident of Hademu village in Kaloleni attended the meeting. He said such forums are vital in eradicating gender-based violence. “I am happy that we’ve been allowed to talk about issues that we normally wouldn’t. Gender-based violence is a sensitive subject, rarely talked about but wrecking families. I have understood how we uphold harmful traditions and dictate to women how they should live their lives, what to wear, say, and do. I support letting go of traditions or habits that make life hard for our women and girls. We are continually learning how to be better men and I am willing to embrace this.”

In addition, Thuva said he will apply lessons learned from the forum to make his family better. “If we individually apply these lessons, then our community will be transformed. Today’s meeting has provided an opportunity to exchange ideas and correct each other as men on issues we deem right or wrong,” he said.

Kitsao Kadoe, a father of five who hails from Bin

Ngalla village in Kaloleni was eager to attend the meeting. The last time he received almost similar advise was 15 years ago, when his grandfather was still alive. “I’ve learned about human rights and that they are the same rights my spouse and girl children should enjoy. As a father and a husband, I should fight for them to enjoy these rights, within the home and beyond,” he said.

The men’s forum initiative reached 281 men, which is 71 percent of the targeted attendance, in communities where women have already benefitted from the Caris Microfinance program, commonly referred to as Tuajalie Tujisaidie Groups (TTG). By adopting more comprehensive approaches, we can ensure that women fully enjoy human rights and that their participation in economic life is strengthened.

Genesis 1: 27 “So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them.”

**“... I support letting go of traditions or habits that make life hard for our women & girls ,”**

**- Shadrach Thuva**



# LITERACY PROVIDES ACCESS TO VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY



**Mishi Kazungu at the tailoring centre which she joined upon completion of the Caris Literacy training. (Cover Photo)**

Photo © Jane Mwaniki/Caris Foundation Kenya

**BY EMMA KINDA**

**T**hree years ago Mishi Kazungu joined the Caris Adult Literacy program to achieve one goal and that was to learn how to read, and write. The mother of one hadn't attended school. She believed that illiteracy resulted in losses in her businesses.

Prior she had owned a fish

business and later a palm wine-selling one. Both businesses collapsed due to incurring losses. "I couldn't keep records of my business and I believe that led to failure," she said.

Today Mishi explains that joining Adult literacy was the best decision she ever made.

The 30-year-old is a tailor, which

would have been impossible without the skills received from Caris Foundation Kenya.

The Adult literacy program at Caris offers free tutoring for reading, writing in Kiswahili, and numeracy. Learners meet weekly with trainers for up to two hours and sessions are available in the morning and afternoon.

Jane Mwaniki, a Caris Adult Trainer taught Mishi's class. "Mishi connected well with other learners and they assisted each other. She believed that literacy would help her earn a living," said Jane.

Mishi explained that fellow learners and the trainer were important in achieving her literacy goal. "Jane helped me a lot because she was very patient and was always willing to repeat words when I struggled to pronounce them correctly," she remembers. "Before lessons, we would repeat the last week's work with fellow learners and that helped with memorizing words," she added.

The two-year adult literacy course had its challenges. One of the biggest challenge was taunts from community members. "On my way home after classes, some older men would make snide comments, about learning as an older person," Mishi remembers. With the trainers' encouragement and support from family, she decided to forge on. This made a difference. "I don't think I would have moved on in my learning if it wasn't for them," she stated.

On the other hand, a tailoring initiative launched by a community-based Muslim association in Mongotini served as an inspiration.

**"The Caris Literacy provided access to a valuable opportunity and I will forever be grateful."**

**- Mishi Kazungu**

The association established a tailoring center to provide free six months tailoring lessons to 18 community members. Priority was given to the Caris Adult learners because they had witnessed them join classes and a year later they were still committed to learning. Proficiency in reading, writing, and simple arithmetic was one of the requirements. Learners were to use the sewing machines to earn a living at no extra cost. Mishi secured a spot at the tailoring center, which she could take up after excelling in literacy. "The thought of learning how to sew made me more determined to work hard," she said.

After a lot of hard work, in March 2022, Mishi earned her certificate of completion in literacy. In the same month,

she joined the tailoring center. Six months later, she has completed the learning course in tailoring and is earning an income. "Without literacy skills, I wouldn't have been able to gain tailoring skills. The Caris Literacy provided access to a valuable opportunity and I will forever be grateful," she said

The Caris literacy program has 994 learners in varying stages of learning. These are individuals with different goals that can only be achieved through gaining skills in reading, writing, and numeracy. We believe that literacy will create opportunities for our learners to develop skills that will help them provide for themselves and their families.

Proverbs 4:13 "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for sure it is your life."



# RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION



Amani Barofa (Center) at home in Sorogosa with his mother Margaret (right) and brother (left) when he received crutches on November 1, 2022.

Photo ©Emma Kinda/Caris Foundation Kenya

BY EMMA KINDA

Amani Barofa, 8 years old from Sorogosa village in Magarini sub-County was born a normal healthy baby. In August 2019, while

playing with other boys, he got injured. A kick to his backside, resulted in extreme pain to his lower limbs. His parents, Joshua and Margaret

Barofa, thought it was a normal injury and that he would recover, but things took a turn. For a month and a half, he was admitted at Malindi sub - County hospital. As time lapsed, Amani's parents discovered that he couldn't move one of his legs. The doctors advised physiotherapy and also referred him to the Coast General and Referral teaching hospital for further tests. "We were devastated. He had been a healthy baby and we never thought that the injury would leave serious complications," said Joshua.

Upon discharge, Amani was taken back home. Following on the medical practitioners' advice, each week he was taken to the nearest health facility for physiotherapy. The family faced a difficult time as they came to terms with their son's new way of life. Since Joshua is a pastor, this impacted his faith. "It was a difficult period. When praying for my son, I had to refrain from asking God why this was happening. Still, I had to be strong for my family. God is merciful. He saw us through, and slowly we came to terms with our son's condition," he said.

Amani could move short distances by dragging one of his legs. Going to school became a challenge. His parents contracted the services of a motorcycle rider to carry him to and from school. Most times his parents carried him from one area of the house to another to meet his various needs. "I realized that dragging himself makes his hands and backside sore so I would carry him to any part of the home he needed to be," said his father. Later they opted to let him stay home, due to transport expenses.

When Caris Foundation Kenya's Spiritual program launched its services in Magarini, Joshua was one of the pastors' who showed up for training. Together with other pastors and church leaders in Fundisa sub-location, on October

27, 2022 they formed a Pastors' fellowship committee which meets on a regular basis.

At one of their meetings, Jonathan Kambi the chairman of the committee raised the issue of purchasing crutches for Amani. "We sympathize with Joshua and as Christian leaders, we have to be at the forefront in taking care of the children in our community, more so the disabled. We need these children to access opportunities such as education and providing the crutches will assist Amani with mobility to attend school," he said.

All 24 members agreed to donate towards the purchase of crutches worth Kshs. 3500 (\$35.00). On the same day, they donated Kshs. 1200 (\$12.00). Thereafter, at every meeting, they continued to donate towards the crutches. "I am humbled by the love they have shown me. With crutches Amani will no longer be stuck at home but can go back to school and even feel included in something fun," said Joshua.

On November 1, 2022 Amani received crutches. Every week, he visits the nearest health facility for physiotherapy.

"It gives me joy to see the pastors come together and solve a problem that affects one of them. This means they will not hesitate to solve problems arising in their community," said Moses Gona a Spiritual Facilitator at Caris Foundation Kenya.

The Fundisa committee is a representation of 20 similar Pastors Fellowship committees that received training on servant leadership, sound doctrines, and discipleship. Independently, the committees have become change agents, who lead their communities in applying Godly principles.

Luke 7: 22 "...the blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor."



# PICTORIALS

## Right: Literacy

Hannington Samini, an Adult Literacy Trainer, guides learners in Magarini sub - County. The literacy program has 994 learners.

Photo Emma Kinda/  
Caris Foundation Kenya



## Below: Agriculture

Sarah Ziro, an Agriculture Program Officer talks to poultry farmers who attended marketing training sessions. 167 farmers attended

Photo Edward Nyiro/Caris Foundation Kenya







**Above: Head and Neck Surgery Camp**

Dr. James Netterville (left), an Otolaryngologist surgeon and professor from the Vanderbilt University, explains to the Governor of Kilifi County, Gideon Mungaro (third from right) how the patient (third from left) was treated. Netterville led a team of 23 surgeons from the US and 25 Kenyan surgeons to conduct free surgeries on patients with head and neck tumors. 80 major surgeries were performed while over 300 patients were screened.

Photo© Emma Kinda/Caris Foundation Kenya

**Below:** Tuajalie Tujisaidie Group (TTG) participants receive knowledge on how they can ensure security of their funds and access higher loans, through sacco enrollment. 4,209 were reached and the activity is still ongoing.

Photo© Michael Kilumo/Caris Foundation Kenya.







**Above: Medical Outreach (cover photo)**

Caris staff check blood pressure of attendants at a medical outreach in Kaloleni. Other services provided include blood sugar testing, urinalysis, breast and cervical cancer screening. Medical outreaches are still ongoing in Kilifi North sub - County.

**Below:** Kilifi County Laboratory personnel testing blood sugar of an attendee at the medical outreach in Kaloleni. Photos© Emma Kinda/Caris Foundation Kenya





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INTERNATIONAL

**Grace To All**