

VOICES *of* COMPASSION



Spring 2011

LESSONS LEARNED:



Missioners who share teaching skills
in Kenya receive as much as they give.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The power of God is capable of finding hope where hope no longer exists, and a way where the way is impossible.

– St. Gregory of Nyssa

Dear friends and partners in mission,

The missionary's vocation is to give witness to the hope-revealing power of God, and as an instrument of that power, to blaze a trail through oppression and despair.

Speaking of the missionary's vocation as witness to hope, I can think of no better way to introduce you to our new Director of Missions, Margo Cambier. In her two decades as a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, Margo has served in Tanzania, Venezuela, El

Salvador, and the United States. Into areas of grinding poverty, social unrest, and entrenched injustice, Margo has brought hope with her skills in fields as



Margo Cambier, Director of Missions, and Sam Stanton, Executive Director.

On the Cover:

Two students study for Cindy Korb's English class at St. Monica's Girls High School in Kenya.

diverse as pastoral care, sustainable development, and education. Margo invites lay Catholics to consider embarking on “faith-filled, life changing, overseas mission experience” themselves.

In the pages that follow, you will read about the “faith-filled, life-giving” journey of Maryknoll Lay Missioners John and Cindy Korb as educators in Kenya. They are paving a way for young people to pursue their dreams against seemingly impossible odds. With this issue of Voices of Compassion, we welcome you, wherever you are and however you can, to join us on the trail-blazing journey that is mission, in the power of God who lights our paths with hope.

In gratitude,



Sam Stanton
Executive Director

MKLM Mission Statement

Maryknoll Lay Missioners is a Catholic organization inspired by the mission of Jesus to live and work in poor communities in Africa, Asia, and the Americas, responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.

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- To learn more about becoming a Maryknoll Lay Missioner, visit:
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- To support our work, visit:
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MKLM Sends Teachers



John Korb, MKLM missionary, teaches math at St. Anthony's Boys School in Kenya.

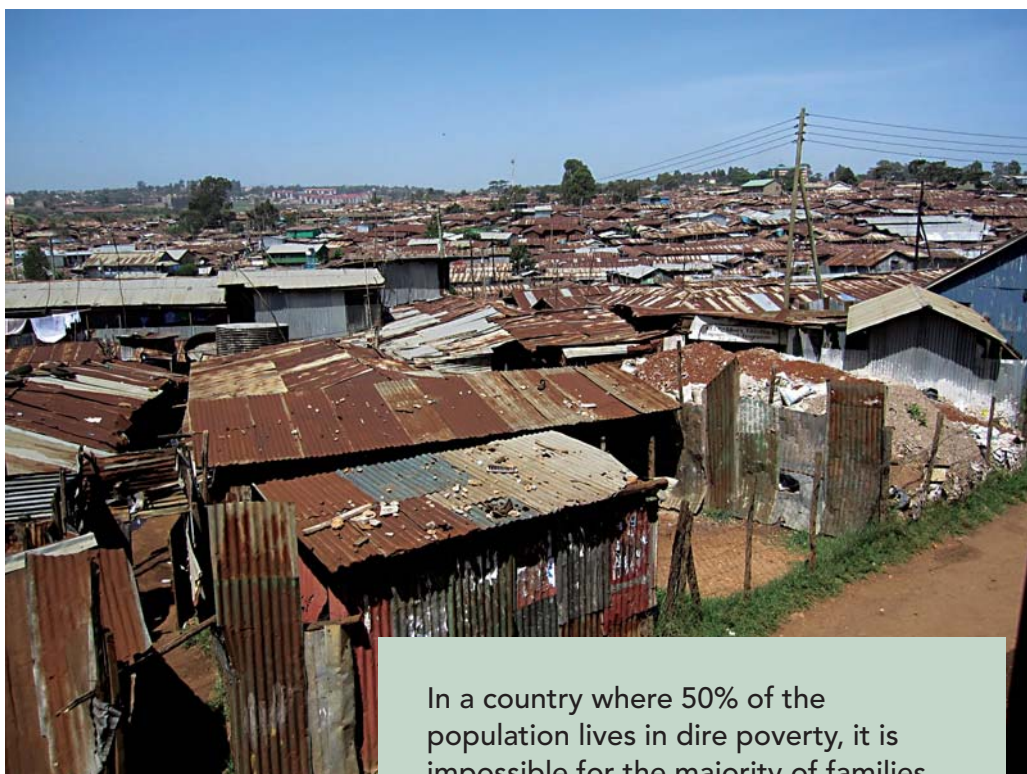
The students are grateful to MKLM donors who help to sustain John in mission.

to Kenya



After Kenya declared its independence in 1963, a newly-created body - the Ominde Commission - was established to restructure the system of education that had been introduced by British colonists. In order to help build national identity and unity, changes in the subject content of history and geography were made. Between 1964 and 1985, the 7-4-2-3 system was adopted – seven years of primary, four years of lower secondary, two years of upper secondary, three years of university.





In a country where 50% of the population lives in dire poverty, it is impossible for the majority of families to pay the fees required for tuition, uniforms, books, and supplies.

In 1985, Kenya launched an 8-4-4 system (eight years in primary, four years in secondary, and four years in university education. In January of 2003, Kenya introduced a system of

free primary education. The result was a 70% rise in school enrollment in primary schools; within the first



Join Us at Your Local Parish!

Maryknoll Lay Missioners will be speaking in parishes throughout the United States in 2011! Go to www.mklm.org/ChurchTalks to find out when a Maryknoll Lay Missioner will be speaking at a church in your area, or to learn how to schedule a talk for your parish!

Based on Uwezo's 2010 Kenya National Learning Assessment report:

- 1.** Literacy levels are lower in public schools than private schools.
- 2.** Literacy levels are low, and are substantially lower in certain regions.
- 3.** There is a severe shortage of teachers, estimated at 4 teachers per school.
- 4.** Five percent of children are not enrolled in school, but the problem is far worse in particular regions.
- 5.** About 50% of children are enrolled in pre-school.
- 6.** North Eastern Province and arid districts in Rift Valley and Eastern Provinces have particularly low performance; many older children, especially girls, are not attending school.
- 7.** Many families pay for extra tutoring, which focuses heavily on drilling and exam preparation.
- 8.** Schools struggle to plan their budgets because they receive funds at unpredictable times.
- 9.** Children whose mothers are educated, particularly beyond primary school, tend to have much higher rates of literacy and numeracy.
- 10.** About 15% of students are absent on a given day, with much higher absenteeism in certain districts.

In addition to a lack of school buildings and funding, the Kenyan educational system suffers from a shortage of teachers. Thanks to our donors, MKLM has been able to address this critical shortfall.

week, more than 1.3 million new students were registered, and many more streamed in each day. There are approximately 20,000 primary schools in Kenya.



After completing 8 years of studies and passing rigorous national exams, the majority of students become eligible for secondary school. Yet because of

the cost, only 1 in 3 will be able to attend, and most of those will be male. There are only 7,000 secondary schools in Kenya, most



MKLM is a BBB Accredited Charity and a proud member of the BBB Charity Seal Program, which indicates a commitment to the 20 Standards for Charity Accountability. MKLM meets all the Standards, which assess our organization's finances, governance and oversight, effectiveness measures, and fundraising and informational materials.

of which are boarding schools.

Private boarding schools consistently score higher in assessments. For this reason, enrollment in a private boarding school is coveted, but for most, unattainable. In a country where 50% of the population lives in dire poverty, it is impossible for the majority of families to pay the fees required for tuition, uniforms, books, and supplies.

Uwezo, meaning “capability” in Kiswahili, is a four year initiative launched in 2009 to improve competencies in literacy and numeracy among children aged 5-16 years old in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The initiative aims to create social change using “an innovative, civic-driven and public accountability approach.”

In addition to a lack of school buildings and funding, the Kenyan educational system suffers from a shortage of teachers: For an adequate



Some of Cindy's student at St. Monica's Girls High School wait for class to begin.

student/teacher ratio, primary schools require 43,000 additional teachers, and secondary schools 23,000 teachers.

Thanks to our donors, MKLM has been able to address this critical shortfall. This issue of Voices of Compassion highlights the work of John and Cindy Korb, a married couple from Tonganoxie, Kansas. Trained educators, John and Cindy became MKLM missionaries in 2009 and have brought their teaching skills to two secondary schools in Kenya.

Not Your Typical

John and Cindy Korb joined MKLM in 2009 from Tonganoxie's Sacred Heart Church in the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas. Married since 1976, the couple has two daughters, Katrina and Andrea.



"MKLM's mission statement summarized what we [knew we] would like to do in our retirement years."

—Cindy Korb

In 1976, both John and Cindy graduated from Emporia State University in Kansas. Each with a BSE in elementary education; they then went on to earn their master's degrees in

1979. The couple's teaching careers spanned 33 years.

Prior to joining MKLM, John and Cindy worked as volunteers in many community and church initiatives.

Retirement

John was a church building committee member, a Good Shepherd Thriftshop volunteer, and a senior citizen services volunteer. Cindy's volunteer work included positions as a church organist, a Pastoral Council member, Altar Society treasurer, Kaw Valley Quilters Guild Miniature Quilt Auction chair, Project Graduation treasurer, Performing Arts Booster Club board director, and a 4-H leader. In the summers of 2005 and again in 2007, the couple traveled as volunteer teachers with Homeless Children International – Kenya.

by the mission of Jesus to live and work with poor communities... responding to basic needs and helping to create a more just and compassionate world.



In the summer of 2009, John and Cindy began to explore an idea they had a few years earlier. “We started seriously thinking about taking early retirement so we could teach overseas,” says Cindy of her call to mission. “MKLM’s mission statement summarized what we [knew we] would like to do in our retirement years: inspired

“We also liked that the organization has a long history of serving overseas, that there are well-developed training opportunities to help ensure a successful and rewarding experience, and that we would be living in community with other MKLM missionaries.”

Nabungolo S. Cosmas, St. Anthony's Principal, Sends a Message to MKLM Donors:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you people for caring because you've given us a strong teacher. This has helped us to excel in the performance of mathematics...

[John] has also been a strong inspiration. He has let us know that education can be realized through partnership, through working together, diversity and oneness.

He has been a strong moral pillar for the child and to ourselves.

We keep sharing. We attend church. He comes with his wife. And he has given us a strong uplift in terms of our religious commitment, and has grown the child very strongly.

So we are grateful for this consideration.

And you know, with him, we are stronger.



To watch an interview with Principal Cosmas and John Korb, visit www.facebook.com/MaryknollLayMissioners

A Catholic Presence



His Excellency, The Most Reverend Maurice Anthony Crowley, bishop of Kitale, Kenya was guest celebrant at the Catholic Education Day festivities.

Sixty percent of the hospitals and forty percent of the schools in Kenya are run by the Catholic Church. There are over 3,600 primary and over 900 secondary Catholic-sponsored schools. Although the Church doesn't help fund the schools, the local dioceses oversee management and administration, and appoint principals and school board members.

The results have been promising. Catholic sponsored schools rank among the highest in Kenya. In 2010, 2 of the top 10 academically excellent schools in the Rift Valley City of Kitale were St. Anthony's Boys Secondary School and St.

Monica's Girls High School. In a ranking of 300 schools, they took first and fifth place respectively.



MKLM missionaries Cindy and John Korb teach at these schools. Upon their arrival in Kenya, they began to

work with the Diocese of Kitale and its bishop to determine how their skills and experience could be best utilized. Bishop Crowley asked John to teach mathematics at St. Anthony's and Cindy to teach English at St. Monica's.

Companions in Mission



Meet Jurencio, a ten-year-old boy living in East Timor. Gifts from

Companions in Mission sponsors enabled MKLM to send a missionary to build a specialized wheelchair for Jurencio and countless others like him. Now, Jurencio can finally travel to school.



This little boy is just one of the thousands of reasons why you should join MKLM's Companions in Mission sponsorship program.

To learn more, go to www.mkmlm.org, or call 1-800-867-2980.

In September 2010, the diocese celebrated Catholic Education Day. The event was hosted by St. Anthony's and began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Crowley. More than 3000 people took part in the event, and liturgical dancers from all local Catholic schools led the entrance procession. The bishop, local government officials, and a member of parliament all addressed the crowd. The keynote speaker was a former teacher, now government official, best known for his anticorruption efforts. Each spoke of the excellent educational reputation of the Catholic schools.

Word has spread about John and Cindy's presence in Kitale, especially among the youth. Students who have spent years in boarding schools, rarely seeing their families, or who come from communities for whom

marriage is a matter of economic expediency or tribal alliances, hunger for guidance in the areas of marriage, parenting, and family life as they ponder their futures. John and Cindy



The students of St. Monica's Girls High School help celebrate Catholic Education Day.

offer guidance on these issues, and help them explore Catholic values and perspectives. Recently, when they spoke at a four-day Young Catholic Student convention, they fielded many questions on these topics.

No Ordinary School Day

St. Anthony's Secondary Boys School and St. Monica's Girls High School both offer high school students an excellent education, Catholic teachings, and a healthy and productive living environment.

But, in order to meet the high standards they set for themselves, students adhere to stringent study

schedules. A typical school day begins at 5:00 a.m. and lasts until 9:30 p.m., with only two hours allotted for meal and snack times.

Although both schools have been applauded for the high caliber of their students, at times, student stress levels can get very high.

Because they often hail from places

A Stand-in Mom...

MKLM missionary Cindy Korb teaches sophomore-level English to approximately 100 St. Monica students. But her job doesn't end there. In order to help students through their two most stressful and difficult years of secondary school, St. Monica's organizes Academic



Cindy's Academic Family meets to discuss the stresses of a rigorous academic setting. From left, Macklyn wants to be a human resource manager, Winnie a plant geneticist, Veronica a pilot, Katherine a surgeon, and Millie a journalist.

Because MKLM donors support Cindy in mission, these girls have a better chance of achieving their goals.



far from the schools, they lack the support of family. Because of the sacrifices their families make to

afford the schools, the students also feel great pressure to perform exceptionally well.

...and Dad

Families. Cindy meets once every two weeks with five girls. This surrogate family talks about issues that are affecting them, such as the demands of constant study, what skills they'd like to acquire, goals they are setting for themselves, and anything that else that may be on their minds.



Michael, left, has shown improvement in his behavior since John started mentoring him.

MKLM missionary John Korb teaches mathematics to approximately 100 high school boys at St. Anthony's. One student, Michael, was becoming more than a handful when the principal asked John to take Michael under his wing.

Michael was an excellent student. But he was homesick and thought that misbehaving might get him expelled. Michael didn't understand how education would help him or his family in their business. Michael is from the Samburu tribe, which has an animal-centric economy in which one's wealth is measured by the number of livestock one owns.

The boy was convinced that his time would be better spent helping his father herd livestock. Though Michael has seven older siblings, and

three younger, only one brother has a high school education.

John has been mentoring Michael and spends time counseling him several times a week. Michael's behavior has improved as John has worked with him to communicate the value of education and how he, by applying what he learns in school, might be able to help his father run the family business.

YOUR WILL, YOUR LEGACY

"The one who is generous will be blessed."

— Proverbs 22:9

YOU can be generous today and for generations to come.

Help SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS and work for peace and justice by including MKLM in your WILL.

To receive a FREE INFORMATION package that answers questions regarding the preparation of a WILL, call 1.800.867.2980.



Friends Across Borders



Friends Across Borders is Maryknoll Lay Missioners's mission awareness program. We invite you to deepen and enrich your understanding of mission by joining us on an exciting mission trip.

You will have the opportunity to experience what you could never discover in travel brochures, films, or books. You will experience what life is really like in communities where MKLM missionaries are living out their faith, and working for, and with, the local people.

We look forward to hearing from you and accompanying you on an experience that will change and enrich your life.

Upcoming Mission Awareness Trips

- **KENYA**
June 11 - 24, 2011
- **EL SALVADOR**
June 17 - 26, 2011
- **CAMBODIA**
October 9 - 21, 2011
- **TANZANIA**
March 16 - 31, 2012
- **BOLIVIA**
May 25 - June 9, 2012
- **BRAZIL**
March 30 - April 14, 2012

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Did You Know?



The three branches of Maryknoll –

- Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers,
 - Maryknoll Sisters,
 - and us, Maryknoll Lay Missioners –
- are each separately funded and operated.



Although we often join together to serve in mission, each entity depends on its donors for support.

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