Kenya was a British colony prior to gaining independence in 1963. Located in East Africa, it is home to Lake Victoria, the world’s second-largest freshwater lake, as well as lions and rare butterflies. Known for their “African hospitality,” Kenyan culture considers it unacceptable to chase away visitors from one’s home—which means Christians are welcome to share their faith with neighbors.

Agriculture remains the backbone of Kenya’s economy. With a population of 48 million, more than 40% of Kenyans are younger than 15 years old. Kenya also faces an HIV epidemic, with the fifth-largest number of people living with HIV in the world.

Although 83% of Kenyans align themselves with Christianity, much of that is nominal. During the country’s colonial period, the government gave priority to people with Christian names. That brought an influx of Kenyans to the church for political reasons, but few were interested in the Christian faith.

Lutheran Hour Ministries began work in Kenya in 1997. Lutheran Hour Ministries conducts outreach in Kenya through mass media, performance art, and interpersonal channels.

**Ministry Response**

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Kenya. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Kenya) responds to the spiritual hunger across this African country through a variety of strategies:

**RADIO.** Unlike the other Christian radio programs in Kenya, which center around preaching, our radio broadcasts combine drama and humor to provide biblical solutions and insight for social issues listeners might face. The programs air in the early evening, when families can listen together during or after dinner.

**LIVE EVENTS.** Working with congregations and local authorities, we show films about Bible stories—especially on Jesus—in marketplaces, schools and prisons. We conduct biannual choir performances. Finally, our drama ministry combines song, poetry and storytelling to present the Gospel in public venues. We also train local congregations to develop their own drama teams, which multiplies the impact of this effective ministry.
YOUTH MINISTRY. As adolescents struggle with conflicting moral and social choices, our Project JOEL program tackles tough topics—from relationships to sex to drugs—in an honest, relevant manner, rooted in God’s love for them. Meanwhile, in the Nairobi area, we provide basic school supplies to equip children in poverty who would otherwise be at risk of leaving school.

HOLISTIC OUTREACH. With the nation’s high rate of HIV infection, LHM–Kenya meets a significant need by providing HIV testing and counseling programs. We help women trying to raise young children while in prison. Our Reaching Rahab program helps young, impoverished women avoid prostitution by training them in sewing, typing, hairstyling and other vocational skills. Ministering to practical needs opens the door for Bible studies and conversations about Christ’s love and salvation.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES. LHM–Kenya offers Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) to introduce the Gospel to people who don’t know Jesus, and to reinforce a biblical understanding for people who do. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Kenya will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are offered in English and Swahili.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. Equipping the Saints (ETS) workshops provide Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities. After attending the workshops, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

Impact

STARTING OVER: How God Delivered a Woman from Prostitution and into His Arms

Angalia is 24 years old. She lives in Nairobi, Kenya, where she makes her living selling secondhand clothes. But her former way of life was much different.

Like too many young Kenyan women, Angalia turned to prostitution to survive. Not only did that career prove insufficient to pay her monthly bills, it left her feeling guilty. She distanced herself from attending church as she had during childhood. Now she felt unworthy of returning.

One day, during a chance encounter, someone invited Angalia to a monthly fellowship activity hosted by LHM–Kenya. She continued to attend. After several visits, she felt the Lord nudging her to separate herself from prostitution.

Angalia participated in Reaching Rahab, an LHM program that helps young women escape prostitution through vocational training. Soon she had the skills she needed to run her own small secondhand clothing business, her current endeavor. She also completed our Bible Correspondence Courses, which helped her mature in her rediscovered faith.

“I am happy that God by His grace has saved and transformed my life,” Angalia says. “My family has accepted me back, and now I have a sense of acceptance and belonging.”

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