

**Faith Kwa Nziku Working Group, Kenya**  
**Partnered with First Rowlett UMC and FUMC Perryton, 2014-2016**



**Head of Household:** Purity, 20 **Sisters:** Beth, 19; Olimpia, 11; Sarah, 10

**Challenges:** Purity has been the main caregiver of her family since her mother died ten years ago. Because of her father's inability or unwillingness to provide for his daughters, the family has had to find their own way to support themselves. By growing food they were usually able to eat one meal a day, but there were many times they had to rely on support from their local church or resort to begging. Additionally, they faced stigmatization in their community which meant no one would visit them, not even relatives.

Their future held no promise of improvement until ZOE invited Purity to join the Faith Kwa Nziku Working Group and the family began their journey out of extreme poverty. The first step they took was to learn to dream.

**Focus on: The Dream**

Most orphans and vulnerable children entering the ZOE empowerment program face a daily struggle to survive. With their energy consumed by the need to find food for themselves and their siblings, there is neither time to think about the future nor reason to hope for something better. But through ZOE and your partnership, the children learn to imagine a new life and prepare to make it a reality.

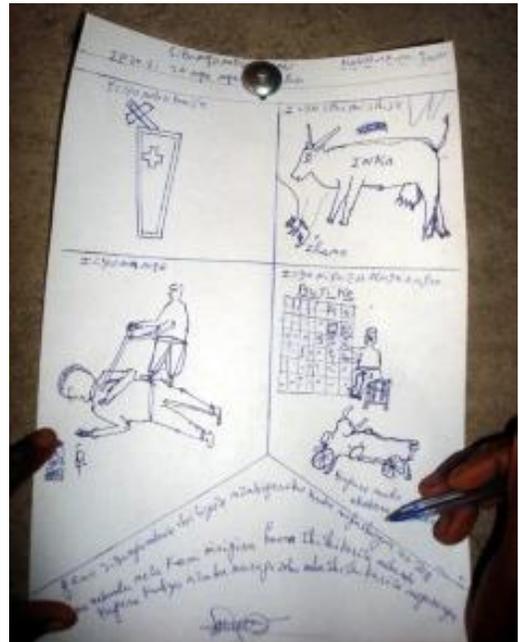
During one of the early working group meetings, the ZOE social worker leads members through an exercise called the Dream process where they explore their current situation and then consider what they want and how to get

it. After discussing hopes and goals with their siblings, the family leader creates a poster of responses to a standard set of questions from the social worker.

The head of each family presents their Dream to the rest of the working group members who express support and give feedback. These Dream documents help the social worker better understand the conditions of the children's lives so they can address specific needs or traumas suffered. The family keeps a copy of their Dream, often displaying it in their home to provide daily motivation as they strive to create their new life.

The following are the responses Purity provided to the Dream questions after she had discussed it with the other family members:

1. What makes you feel sad? *Death of my mother*
2. What makes you happy? *Church*
3. What do you not like in your community? *Fighting*
4. What is your dream for the future? *A good house*
5. What will be your guiding principles to achieve your dream? *Working hard*



This is an example of the Dream document.

### **Family specific achievements because of your partnership:**

In the first three months of participation in the ZOE empowerment program, Purity took many steps towards helping her family become self-sufficient. The first thing her working group learned about was business management so they could quickly begin income generating activities. At the same time, ZOE staff taught the young family leaders what rights they had both as children and citizens. Too often the kids who enter the empowerment program have suffered unfair treatment, especially as regards wages and child labor. ZOE makes sure the members know when they have a legal right to better treatment and how they can protect themselves.

After training, the working group discussed potential businesses they could start. Purity had an interest, and perhaps some background knowledge or experience, in tailoring which she shared with the group. After discussing this business plan with her group, they approved her request of a grant to purchase the equipment and materials she need to begin.

During this same time period, the working group was trained in food security, including the best agricultural methods for their area and what kinds of fruits and vegetables they should grow and eat to avoid malnutrition. After training, Purity and the others were given high quality seeds for their gardens.

Being stigmatized by their community leaves many of the children who join ZOE deeply wounded. A ZOE social worker visited Purity at her home and provided counseling to the family to help them regain confidence and self-worth. But what truly makes these young people like Purity feel better about themselves is being able to use their own abilities to improve their lives and having a group of friends to support them. Purity is already well on her way to a better future thanks to your partnership.

## Faith Kwa Nziku Working Group, Kenya



### Focus On: Working Group Formation

Poverty often means a life lived in isolation, unconnected even from those who share the same struggles and challenges. A ZOE working group provides orphans and vulnerable children a community where they experience understanding, compassion and acceptance. Together, they begin their journey towards a better life.

To form a working group, ZOE social workers first contact community leaders and local officials to educate them about the empowerment approach and to ask for their help in identifying children. During the first meeting, the children and their young caregivers learn how they will change and improve their lives within three years. Then ZOE takes a step back.

Working group members elect their own leadership, make rules to guide their meetings, choose a group name and decide where to hold weekly gatherings. These once-marginalized children learn from ZOE staff that their community and their Hope Companion partner have faith in their ability to succeed.

The eldest child from each family attends weekly meetings to discuss their activities, both achievements and challenges, and to share in prayer and reflection with each other. Additionally, ZOE's staff and selected community members host regional training sessions covering food security, health and disease prevention, business management and child rights.

One of the first actions the group takes is to select a project, such as a group farm, which they undertake together to quickly secure food and generate income. Because of your support, ZOE is then able to provide the basic training and resources they need to begin.

## Faith Kwa Nziku Working Group

Below is the list of names recorded by our ZOE social worker during group formation; **there are 26 households and a total of 98 members.** The names in bold are heads of household, followed by their siblings and dependents. ZOE works with orphaned and vulnerable children ages infant through college age. Occasionally, an older person lives with the family, but is unable to provide for them due to age or illness. Although ZOE obtains name lists with both first and last names, ZOE uses first names only in public lists to preserve the privacy of children in the program.

Please note, children joining the ZOE program are living in extreme poverty situations. Often they have no parents or birth documentation and have suffered multiple traumas in their young lives. Occasionally the children give conflicting information on their names and ages. Additional orphans are frequently adopted by the group, and a small percentage of children will leave the group due to family reunification or other reasons. ZOE strives to keep the list as up-to-date as possible. All the names on this list represent real children in need of your prayers.

### **Alice, 19**

Pauline, 18  
John, 16  
Sholit, 6  
Desmond, 1

### **Rachael, 20**

Hosea, 17  
Beatrice, 8

### **Lucy, 19**

Josphine, 14  
Jedidah, 8

### **Francis, 21**

Jennifer, 16  
Lisper, 14  
Aroon, 10

### **Lydia, 19**

John, 16  
Josphat, 14

### **Lucy, 19**

Eunice, 16  
Agnes, 14  
Paul, 11  
Alex, 8

### **Penninah, 20**

Mercy, 19  
Dangrous, 7  
Martin, 4

### **Fridah, 18**

Jerricah, 12  
Dominic, 14  
Doris, 10  
Joegias, 8  
Wickliff, 1

### **Beatrice, 19**

Purity, 14  
Thairy, 4  
Cecilia, 2

### **Eunice, 18**

Nathan, 20  
Purity, 14  
Vincent, 2  
Caroline, 9  
Millicent, 6

### **Jane, 18**

Glory, 2

### **Japhet, 20**

Peter, 18  
Zipporah, 16

### **Purity, 20**

Beth, 19  
Sarah, 10  
Olimpia, 11

### **Salvaster, 18**

Jonathan, 12  
Jospat, 16  
Catherine, 1992

### **John, 19**

Faith, 17  
Fridah, 15

### **Lucy, 17**

Florah, 22  
Rael, 9  
Sarah, 11  
Naomi, 19

### **Zakayo, 19**

Naomi, 15  
Agnes, 13  
Elosy, 4

### **John, 20**

Mary, 18  
Sophia, 16  
Lucy, 14  
Moris, 12

### **Kabete, 17**

Brian, 14  
Joel, 12

### **Grace, 19**

Phineas, 16  
Justa, 14

### **Agnes, 20**

Robert, 18  
Celina, 16  
Rebecca, 12

### **Stephen, 20**

Abraham, 16  
Celina, 14

### **John, 20**

Edward, 16  
Patrick, 14

### **Lucy, 19**

Doris, 18  
Faith, 16

### **Mercy, 19**

John, 19  
Jeremy, 16

### **Faith, 18**

Lucy, 16  
Martin, 11

### **Lucy, 28 (Mentor)**

Joanah, 32  
Maxwell, 8  
Alvin, 4  
Derick, infant