

The Living Wage

Laurie Germeraad Kagay

In public policy, a “living wage” is the minimum income necessary for a worker to meet needs considered basic (typically shelter, clothing, and nutrition). In some European nations, the standard covers food, utilities, transport, health care, minimal recreation, one course a year in higher education, and childcare. Living wage is defined as “a wage that can meet the basic needs to maintain a safe, decent standard of living within a community.”^[1] It is connected to a “family wage”—an income sufficient not only to support an individual, but also to raise a family. (This is not to be confused with minimum wage, which deals with a legislated minimum hourly pay of employees. “The primary reason there is a living wage movement is that the federal minimum wage has consistently failed to provide workers with enough to support themselves and their families.”^[2])

Employees of our organization are paid a living wage, but we draw our definition from the bible, not social policy. The wage is something that each employee (and usually, an employee’s family) determines. There is no set income by our organization. Each family, empowered to think for themselves and create their own budget, determines what will reasonably provide for their needs and not cause undue stress as they function in service to God.

As an organization, we have to deal with economics, and the just wages that employers pay their employees for the work that they faithfully produce. As an organization, we are grateful for our employees. We believe that they are some of the best in the world! We also strongly believe that they should be given a proper remuneration for their labor (Rom. 4:4, 13:7, 1 Cor. 3:8, 1 Tim. 5:17). We also value families, and understand the health and development of families to be the foremost objective given to human beings (Gen. 1:26-28). For that reason, the wages that we extend can never be a detriment to this most necessary foundation.

The bible speaks harshly against underpaying people (it is called fraud or oppression), as well as withholding wages that are due (Lev. 19:13, Deut. 24:14-15, Jer. 22:13, Prov. 11:24, Mal. 3:5, James 5:4). We take this warning very seriously. At the same time, the bible speaks against taking too much money (extorting wages). This starts a necessary conversation regarding what wage is just for the employer to extend, and right for the employee to take.



A living wage, defined biblically, is just that—a wage that sustains life. This is a biblical principle that we draw, largely from the Levitical tribe in the wilderness community. The Levites were employed in full-time service to God at the tabernacle, and were not afforded the same ‘freedoms’ as the other tribes (in their society, this was seen in the tribes of the Levites not being given a portion of land, Num. 18:20-24, 26:57-62, Deut. 10:9, 12:12, 14:27-29, Josh. 14:4, 18:7). A land plot would have allowed them to prosper financially through a possible business enterprise. But for the Levites, no portion of land was given, but something much greater—nearness to the LORD. “Therefore Levi has no allotment or inheritance with his kindred; the LORD is his inheritance, as the LORD your God promised him,” (Deut. 10:9). They were

Michelle Madron, left, (wife and mother of two) teaches childbirth education classes to parents in the Nashville area, and handles many other administrative tasks for NOVA Birth Services, one of the G.O.D. Int’l businesses. **Ninfa Parker**, middle top (wife and mother of two) coordinates Community Events for the G.O.D. International community, as well as the Hopewell Neighborhood and SLAM weeks and bible seminars. **Jeff Sherrod**, top right, teaches bible and missiology classes at the Institute for G.O.D. International, and manages the Graduate Program. The Madron, Parker and Sherrod families all receive a living wage that allows them to focus on the work allotted them as well as take care of their families. All extra funds are given to our ministry efforts as an organization. It is this kind of generosity that allows us to function in the capacity we do.



Be satisfied with your wages...

satisfied:
to cause (someone) to be happy or pleased, to fulfill, gratify

able to give full-time service to God, having their needs met by those who participated in the education system, or received the benefits of their facilitation (Num. 18:21-31, Deut. 18:1). Their salaries would not expand based on the success of their business (for they had none). Instead, they would have everything they needed to live, and to provide a safe, enjoyable life to their families, while they focused on serving God (which was in turn, serving people).

Our organization takes a similar approach, understanding that there is no greater freedom than giving one’s life in service to God. Having to determine for ourselves what we consider to be a ‘need’ puts us in constant remembrance of those that we serve abroad. Such remembrance helps us to distance ourselves from the materialism that characterizes our age.

We understand that not every need a human being has is met with a paycheck. There is also a need for meaning, a need for community, a need for depth of relationships, and a need to know the Lord. Our employees aren’t just given a stipend for their monthly expenditures, but also a class at the Institute each semester, meals at our community cafeteria, access to food grown in our garden, quality child care (imbued with biblical values), and a constant challenge for meaning and purpose, alongside a community of people longing to please God.

John the Baptist gave the soldiers of his day practical, ethical instruction on how they could become the children of Abraham. His last words are “be satisfied with your wages” (Luke 3:14). For us, at G.O.D. International, this is not difficult. We have contentment in the righteous wages we are given, for they are full of life (Prov. 10:16)

[1] Gertner, Jon (January 15, 2006). “What Is a Living Wage?”. The New York Times.

[2] Quigley, William P. (August 28, 2006). “The Living Wage and Catholic Teaching.” America: The National Catholic Review.

The Global Voice

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In a slum area built near a drainage canal that runs alongside a city in the Philippines, Breann and Kristin Bennecker, alongside their South East Asia team, distributed hundreds of pounds of food, clothing, and oral hygiene products to the families residing there. These particular parents were extremely grateful for the care our team displayed in having the right size and gendered clothing for their children—a rare concern amongst charities donating items.

THOUGHTS: THE ECONOMICS OF SHARING By Gregg Garner

In the bible, generosity is the key component to Jesus’ vision for economics in the Kingdom of God (KOG). He spends a lot of time teaching on the subject matter, helping his disciples to wrap their minds around what seemed to be a paradoxical paradigm for their generation. There are radical sayings like Luke 12:33: “Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.”³⁴ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Even Paul the Apostle will give us a wisdom saying from Jesus, not recorded anywhere else in the gospels, related to generosity: “It is more blessed to give than receive” (Acts 20:35c).

At a time that could be characterized by economic recession, or great national and personal debt, plus an enhanced, technological awareness of a world of need, our generation needs to hear Jesus teaching regarding the KOG value of “generosity.”

Before Jesus started his public campaign that introduced this radical economic concept, a man proceeded him with a necessary biblical, ethical teaching of which he said, “prepared the way” for what Jesus was to employ and bring about as a paradigm shift in people’s understanding of economics.

John the Baptizer preached in Luke 3:10 *And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”* ¹¹ *In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”* ¹² *Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher,*

what should we do?” ¹³ *He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”* ¹⁴ *Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?”* He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

There’s a lot going on in the above text, but for our study, we should note the economic issues related to John’s direction for the people. To the crowds - generosity in food and clothing; to the employed, including those with the power of force - contentment in their wages and a cessation for the appetite related to gain, particularly with regard to taking from the weak. John would communicate that these were the values that this people were to adopt if they were to be ready for the coming of Jesus.

When Jesus begins the public proclamation of his position, in Luke 4:19 he references the Torah mechanism of “Jubilee” - having everything to do with generosity and the forgiveness of debts and the restoration of opportunity to those who have been disadvantaged for whatever reason.

Luke 6:38: “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

In the above verse Jesus illustrates through a market transaction, that in his new world, his Kingdom, generosity characterizes not just the market in general, but particularly the food market. The good measure is with regard to food.

I have been recently challenged by this reality of the KOG,

as Hurricane Haiyan ripped through my Mother’s hometown of Tacloban City, Leyte, The Philippines and left behind homeless, naked and hungry people - some of which are my aunts, uncles and cousins. It was over a week before I received any word of their survival because of the destruction so completely wiping out the communication systems.

I immediately witnessed the community of believers I share life with, respond in faith by giving money toward the aide that would supply food, clothing and shelter to those to whom we could distribute. Even now, people in our organization are planning together how they are going to strategically respond to this catastrophe, not just in the realm of relief aide, but also in the most crucial activity of rebuilding through sustainable development.

More than ever, we are compelled to respond. Just 2 weeks before the catastrophe, our organization decided that we would focus its efforts in The Philippines, specifically around Tacloban City, Leyte. It seems that this tragedy has revealed to us both a confirmation of our intensified focus and the urgency to press forward in the task that we believe God has given us to see His Kingdom come and will be done.

Please pray for us as we balance both our relief efforts (giving the necessities of food, water, shelter and medical care) and development efforts (building, planting and education). We’re in this for the long haul, may our efforts be characterized by the generosity Jesus proclaimed would be a sign of the presence of his Kingdom - God help us. Thank you for your support - God bless you!

IN RESPONSE: TYPHOON HAIYAN

Written by Brett Logan Madron



An Invitation to Partner with **G.O.D. International**

Global Outreach Developments International educates, equips and empowers individuals to serve the under-privileged both in the US and the third world. The training includes Biblical and missiological studies and practical skills development that prepare us to meet some of the most pressing needs in the third world, particularly, maternal and infant care, health care, food production, sustainable housing, children's education and adult literacy.

Our organization started nearly 17 years ago and today we have over 130 participants—most of whom are committed to serving abroad. In order to do what we do (go to the poor, marginalized and oppressed), we rely on the goodness and support of people who have a heart for God and a genuine concern for a hurting world. Just this past month, the hub of the Southeast Asia team, the island of Leyte in the Philippines, suffered devastation due to Typhoon Haiyan. Members of our team on the ground in the Philippines, temporarily residing just north of the area, were able to see the ruins of that city, hear the stories of survivors, pray with them, and offer the benefit of their training. We do not consider it a coincidence that our team chose this area as the headquarters of our organization in South East Asia, just weeks before the storm hit. We understand that God is preparing us for this work and also allowing us to meet needs—real, immediate, desperate needs.

Often, when people ask me what we do, I explain about our education, training, and commitment to 'go' and serve God, and in turn, serve others. "Not everyone is called to do that," is a response I hear often. While I understand that not everyone can go, everyone is able to help, and together, we can accomplish more. Therefore, this is my unashamed request: Please help us, the people of G.O.D., Intl. as we prepare to go to South East Asia, East Africa, India, and Latin America. Not every area experiences an overnight storm that results in a flattened city, thousands of deaths, an unknown number of orphans, destroyed food sources, and other unimaginable consequences. But every place we go, the people suf-

fer and have been suffering for a long time—and they are praying that God uses us to respond.

Enclosed is a giving receipt in which you can participate with us in your support of our non-profit. I know that we are not the only charitable organization knocking at your door this time of year, but you can be assured that your donation will not be used as a band-aid to cover gaping sores, but will be directed toward real health. Your gift will not just be sent "over there" but will be accompanied by people who are committed to "go" to the world's poor and hurting.

In this newsletter you will find articles, stories, and testimonies of our "economics of sharing"—the ways in which we live what we teach, and generously share what we have been given. Francis Lubega, East African cooperative of G.O.D. International, recently wrote a letter to us in which he said: "I have learned that working together is more powerful than money." We believe that. We have been able to do a lot with a little. But in believing that God wants us to do even more, we ask for your support and help.

If you desire to get involved with our organization, this summer is a great time. SLAM will be facilitating mission opportunities to El Salvador, East Africa and the Philippines. If you, your church, or youth or adult group is interested, please contact us. The Philippines trip will focus on relief efforts to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Trips to El Salvador and Uganda will allow participants to aid in the continual development work happening in these regions.

Thank you for reading, and for your support.


Michael Davis
Director of Resource Management
Global Outreach Developments Int'l

In light of the recent tragic disaster in the Philippines, many are searching for ways to be of some assistance to those in need after the effects of Typhoon Haiyan. As many of you know, our organization has been formally doing development work in the Philippines since 2006.

The situation at the moment is very desperate for thousands of people, particularly on the island of Leyte where the storm hit hardest. The United Nations estimates that 1.9 million people are in 1,100 evacuation centers, multitudes are without food, and looting and violence are now prevalent in response to despair. In addition, experts claim that power for many will not be accessible for at least two months. These are the objective realities.

Only two weeks prior to the typhoon hitting the island of Leyte, our team made a decision to set up a hub on this island to work from in the coming years. And now, after tragic disaster, we recognize the needs we face in this area are far greater and more urgent. We believe there is no better place for us to carry out the responsibilities to serve the poor than in Leyte. With the Lord's guidance, we are ready to take on the task.

As an organization, we want to play what part we can in beginning to rebuild the lives of our Filipino brothers and sisters. In the next few months, we will be organizing relief efforts to send teams to the island of Leyte where we will work with other NGOs and churches to provide the relief people need.

We have family members and long-time friends who live in and around Tacloban City, where the storm made the most powerful impact. Rina Miller, our Filipino cooperative and

member of our development team, is originally from Tacloban City, but was on the northern island of Luzon when the storm hit. Her mother and siblings, however, suffered through the storm in Tacloban. Gregg Garner, the founder of G.O.D. Int'l, whose mother is Filipina, lived in Tacloban during his parents' missionary service. Much of his extended family still lives in and around Tacloban.



In 2006, G.O.D. Int'l took a group of summer interns to the Philippines where they visited Zion Bible College in Palo, Leyte. Palo, a neighboring town of Tacloban, was one of the harder hit areas by Typhoon Haiyan. These photos show the campus before and after the storm.

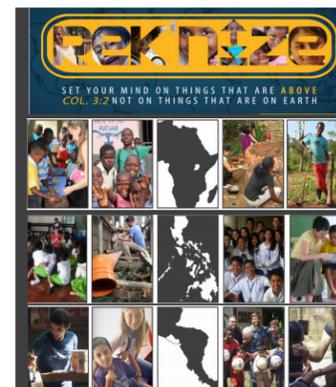
As we still await word from a few, we are grateful to have received word from most of these individuals. While they survived, life in the coming months will be very difficult for them and hundreds of thousands of others. Because of this connection, we understand our responsibility to be actively involved in the relief efforts both now and in the months and years to come.

Initially, our plan is to support our friend Pastor Jaime Balista and his team who will travel from the neighboring island of Cebu with food and other essentials and begin basic relief efforts. In addition to food, you can imagine there will be much need for shelter, medical assistance and other basic clothing and hygienic items.

G.O.D. Int'l is sending disaster relief teams to help rebuild homes and communities this summer. We are currently partnered with individuals on the ground offering relief. Thank you for your support.



If you are looking for a way to help in the Philippines and other areas, please read our invitation to partner with us on the following page.



SUMMER INTERNSHIP 2014

EL SALVADOR • EAST AFRICA • THE PHILIPPINES

If you would like to be involved in our work, this summer is a great time to start! SLAM (the student service arm of G.O.D. International) will be facilitating international mission experiences for groups in El Salvador, East Africa, and the Philippines. In addition, individuals interested in a more intensive experience, and desire to learn more about the call of God on their lives can apply for the Summer Internship. **SI2014** will include service opportunities in Nashville, El Salvador, and the choice between the Philippines and East Africa. Contact us now for more information at slamweb.org.

SLAM
STUDENTS LIVING A MISSION

SHARING FOOD

By: Rosemary Sherrod



When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field, or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. (Lev. 19:9-10)

About forty years ago, the community of Hopewell (home of G.O.D. Intl. headquarters) was dotted with gardens. In those days, not a few men and women worked tirelessly planting, cultivating and harvesting fresh vegetables to use at their dinner table and to be shared with their neighbors. In talking to some of the old-time residents in the neighborhood, I learned that sharing was a common practice in Hopewell. However, as people grew older, the garden culture failed to pass to the younger generation. As a result, Hopewell's time-honored means of 'sharing' was almost lost.

When G.O.D.'s "Hopewell Gardens" were planted, its purpose was three-fold: to educate a younger generation in the area of horticulture, to supplement our organization's kitchen, and to share the harvest with our neighbors. Following the biblical paradigm in Lev. 19:9-10, we have intentionally planted enough to feed our community and to provide for others, especially the many widows in our neighborhood.

Recently, the children at G.O.D. Elementary School picked vegetables from the garden and delivered them to seven elderly widows. For the elderly residents, this moment reminded them of times when 'neighbor' was not just the person who lived next door, but one who demonstrated neighborly love through sharing. The children also benefited from this experience. They learned that God desires that people not consume everything they produce ("reap to the very edges of the field, strip the vineyard bare, or gather the fallen grapes of the vineyard.") but share their bounty with those in need. The children also received the blessing associated with sharing as relationships



Cameron Kagay delivers produce from Hopewell Gardens to our Community Kitchen "Nyumba Cafe." This year, Hopewell Gardens has cultivated more than 5,000 pounds of produce, and has greatly offset the cost of food for our cafeteria.

were initiated and God's word was exemplified in their actions.

The garden is only one way that we share with our neighbors. Since the time that our organization has worked and lived in this neighborhood, we have also shared our time and abilities with those in need through things such as tutoring, carpentry, auto repair, plumbing, and more. In Lev. 19, God gives the rationale for why we are to share with others: [because] *I am the LORD your God.* If we want to accurately represent God to the world, it will be evidenced in the way we treat one another, especially those that are the most vulnerable in society.

THE ECONOMICS OF SHARING

TESTIMONIES: SHARING CLOTHES

"We don't even have a line for kids clothing in our family's budget. My oldest is five and my youngest is one -- I can count on my two hands the pieces of clothing I have ever bought them! Socks, underwear and a couple pairs of shoes per year are about it. Hand-me-downs are an exciting occasion in our house.

My daughter is always giddy with smiles as she opens each bag and thinks about which of her friends it came from. "Fiona wore this dress? Oh it's so pretty! That was nice of her to share with me." Each season, I ask my daughter what we should do with the clothes she has outgrown: keep them or give them to one of her younger friends. She always says we should share. Freely we have received and freely we should also give. Sharing also encourages my daughter to take care of that which she has received. She is aware that if she stains her clothes or tears them, they won't be suitable to pass on to others. Hand-me-downs are full of lessons."

-- ANNA REYES



"HAND-ME-DOWNS ARE FULL OF LESSONS."

"As a new mom with very limited financial capacity to purchase baby supplies, I was hesitant to make our needs known, as many families near us are not much better financially situated than we are. Yet, even before my son was born, mothers from our community shared what they had, filled my home with necessities, and empowered me with education for newborn care. Now my son is 1, and I haven't had to purchase any clothing, and have only had to buy diapers. The first year of motherhood is such a vulnerable time-- mine was filled with the generosity, kindness and thoughtfulness of other mothers.

-- KATIE DUNNING



Luke 3:10-14 And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must **share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.**" ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "**Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.**" ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "**Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.**"

LOW TUITION COSTS

By: Stephanie Bartlett

The average U.S. college graduate leaves their collegiate institution with more than a college degree. They will also have an average \$27,000 of debt wrapped up in student loans.¹ This \$27,000 quickly multiplies with just a few late payments, interest, and associated fees, leaving many students drowning in debt accrued from one's pursuit of higher education. Often, these loans leave students indebted for decades. According to a recent poll, about 7% of 2013 college graduates do not plan on ever being able to entirely pay off their student loans.² The financial burden put on college graduates is often an extremely heavy one to bear.

The words of John the Baptist in Luke 3 should strike a loud chord when evaluating the financial consequences of ed-

COLLEGE SENIORS GRADUATED WITH AN AVERAGE OF \$27,000 IN STUDENT LOAN DEBT LAST YEAR.

ucation in our modern day. Here at the Institute of Global Outreach Developments, we take seriously this Biblical value of providing affordable education for our students, by not extorting their financial resources. We believe that individuals who desire a quality biblical education in a collegiate setting can do so without being taken captive through exorbitant financial obligations. In fact, the cost of our programs have been designed so that a student can work a part-time job and manage the costs of tuition, housing, and general living expenses while staying debt-free.

We have in-house financial counselors available to help students maintain budgets that would hold them accountable and responsible to their personal finances. In the future, students are free to minister overseas without carrying the unnecessary burden of financial debt that would prohibit such activity. In a world where students have been financially extorted in their pursuit of education, we work hard to keep tuition costs low so that our graduates are free to manifest the education they have received, benefiting others who are in need throughout the world.



Many college students are trying manage their personal finances for the first time. Michael Davis, Director of Resource Management, offers his financial counseling to many of our Institute students, helping them to devise a budget, secure good employment, and avoid the lure of easy credit.

1. Ellis, Blake. "Class of 2013 grads average \$35,200 in total debt." CNN Money, May 17, 2013, <http://money.cnn.com/2013/05/17/pf/college/student-debt/>.
2. Kantrowitz, Mark and Mark Schneider. "Stop Fighting Over Interest Rates -- There's a Better Way For Congress To Fix the Student Debt Crisis." Time: Business & Money (TIME.com), May 08, 2012. TIME.com <http://business.time.com/2012/05/08/stop-fighting-over-interest-rates-theres-a-better-way-for-congress-to-fix-the-student-debt-crisis/>

"One night, our water heater just stopped working. My husband didn't have any experience with this type of work and neither of us knew how we were going to afford a replacement. It was 9pm so we knew that no one would be available at that hour to assist us. Remembering that our good friend Matthew Parker was experienced in this realm, we gave him a call. Within the hour, he and Cameron Kagay were at our house with a brand new water heater, ready to install it for us! They were in and out in about an hour. We paid them for the water heater and labor, thinking that the requested amount seemed awfully low. After they were gone, we did some price comparisons and discovered they had charged us about 25% of the typical cost for such a job. We were, and still are, so incredibly grateful to have competent, loving friends who would make themselves available at such an hour."

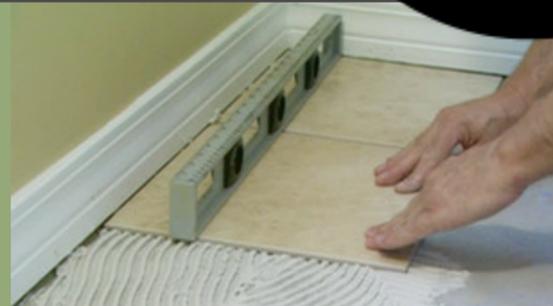
TESTIMONIES: SHARING SKILLS

--EMILY GALFORD

"AROUND THE CLOCK, MY FRIENDS WERE HELPING ME RESTORE MY HOME."

"This past April, our washing machine flooded our home, ruining half of the flooring in our house. Not so conveniently, this happened on the eve of Finals Week at the Institute and 2 weeks before I was going to depart to Uganda to assist in a building project. Though the cleanup and repairs were arduous, I was blessed with the help of my friends, particularly others who know about home renovation, flooring, and water extraction. Around the clock, friends were helping me to restore my home. In addition, other friends opened up their home to my family. My wife and children were able to stay out of the way of the project, without incurring the expense of a hotel. The stress of the situation was quickly eased by the help of our friends."

--CAMERON KAGAY



Sharing LIFE-SAVING STOVES with neighbors

Laurie Germeraad Kagay

Nearly half the world cooks their food with solid fuels, like wood and charcoal, over an open flame (whether outside, or in an enclosed kitchen). Relatedly, 1.5 million people die of smoke-related diseases each year. For those without much space, and even less income, mothers cook food for their children over an open fire. This way of cooking emits a harmful smoke that causes a range of deadly chronic and acute health effects such as child pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease, and low birth weight.¹ On a societal level, cooking methods like these contribute to air pollution, deforestation, and global warming.

Upon visiting the third world, it does not take one long to notice the incessant coughs and red eyes in the mothers preparing meals, and the children who dwell near them. In working with our East African cooperatives in Kenya and Uganda, G.O.D. Int'l representatives made many observations about the ill-health of those utilizing such kitchens—myself unable to breathe (much less see) in the smoke-filled kitchens for more than a few minutes at a time. In 2007, our East Africa team was planning to build a playground for the children where we worked in Uganda. As we talked through the plans with cooperative Peter Kimbugwe, a strong storm came and collapsed his wife's kitchen before our eyes. Thus, the need for children's play was replaced by the need for children's food, and we began (re)building our first African kitchen. We dialogued about the need for air ventilation, and installed a chimney ventilation system, as well as rising the stove area from floor to waist level to help prevent back pain.

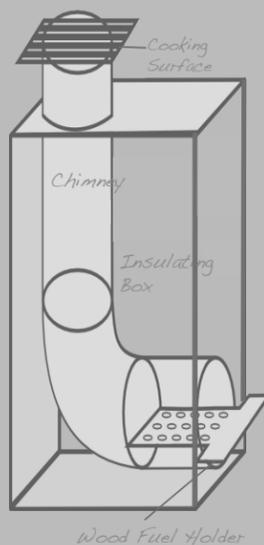
A few years later, cooperative Francis Lubega and G.O.D. Int'l representative Josh Kurtz built the Lubega family's kitchen. Lubega took our advice on raising the food preparation from the floor to waist level (saving a woman's back, and keeping it out of reach of children). In addition, Lubega and Kurtz designed our first "clean stove." Kurtz explains the stove design,

"Once a fire is made, it is contained inside a protected chamber. The high temperature heat from the fire can heat three different pots at once. The smoke from the fire is completely vented out of the kitchen. The outside of the stove remains warm (or even cool) to touch, so that everyone is protected from burns. The stove can stay warm for one to two hours after the fire goes out to keep food warm."

Francis' wife, Annette, loves the stove. Many of her friends now want one like hers.

Throughout this process, our Kenyan cooperatives witnessed the benefits of the improved stoves. Reuben Ndwiga, John Gatanga, and Simon Njeru, friends of G.O.D. Int'l for the last 15 years, learned how to create stoves from local materials in cen-

tral Kenya. Through the help of G.O.D. Int'l, these three men can complete a "rocket stove" within 3 hours time, and have done so now **two hundred** times over.



A "rocket stove" is comprised of an insulated L-shape chamber where the wood is inserted and tunneled up to the cooking area. The narrow channel directs the flow of heat to the object being cooked, while the insulation keeps it cool on the outside.

This design emits far less gas and smoke, when compared to stone fires. Rocket stoves can be made commercially or locally, with sheet metal, recycled steel cans, or bricks. (Our stoves in Kenya and Uganda have been made with mud bricks.)



This was our first clean energy stove in the Lubega kitchen. The stove is cool to the touch, and enables Annette to not lean over to cook. Food stays warm for one to two hours after cooking. With the ventilation pipe on the left, all smoke is channeled out of the kitchen.

In Kenya, our cooperatives have become proficient in building rocket stoves. **Simon Njeru, of Central Kenya, reports:**

"We learned [of the need for rocket stoves] after noticing so many trees being cut, and seeing women spend such a long time in the kitchen. The women would be sneezing and coughing very much in the kitchen because of all the smoke. Even children would get burned because of the open flame, and them wanting to be near their mothers.

Overall, [the stoves] much improve the health of women and children. The stoves are smokeless, so they are not inhaling the smoke. Even more, it prevents children from burns when compared to the normal stoves. It also saves time for the women, for [the stove] does not need [someone] to keep adding firewood, like you would have to do with a fire. They [emit far less smoke] and they keep the kitchen clean.

Economy wise, [it reduced] the way the recipients [of our stoves] used to use their funds in buying firewood. So now, one can save for other needs. These stoves save firewood by 60 percent, compared by standard stoves. [In regards to the] ecosystem, they help a great deal, for people used to cut down trees at high rates.

From the time we started until now, we have built around 200 stoves. We build them specifically for widows and single mothers, and others who do not have funds to pay for them, but still need the benefits. It takes a little over three hours for three of us to finish a rocket stove. We love building these stoves because it helps us to be able to communicate with so many people, sharing a lot in every aspect of life, and helping them to know that God cares for them, and that includes their health.

The recipients have been so excited such that they spread news to others [the stoves] advantages and our kindness making [others] to call on us to make them."

In David Maranz' book, "African Friends and Money Matters," he writes of a principle difference between Africans and Westerners. "Westerners readily share their knowledge but are possessive of things and space." On the contrary, "Africans readily share space and things but are possessive of knowledge." He contrasts Westerners who will publish scientific research on the World Wide Web, with the African who expects to be paid to give you directions to where you are going. Though Africans don't have the luxury of private space, they maintain privacy by keeping their ideas and knowledge private, and expecting to charge those who want access.²

What is remarkable in our work with our African cooperatives is not only their competency to design and build low-cost energy efficient reduced-smoke stoves (something that mechanical engineers are trying to figure out on our side of the world³), but also that they share that knowledge with others. This requires that they abandon their former cultural paradigm of keeping private what knowledge they acquire, and coming into a new cultural paradigm—not necessarily Western, but biblical (which is above and beyond what 'sharing' we do in the West).



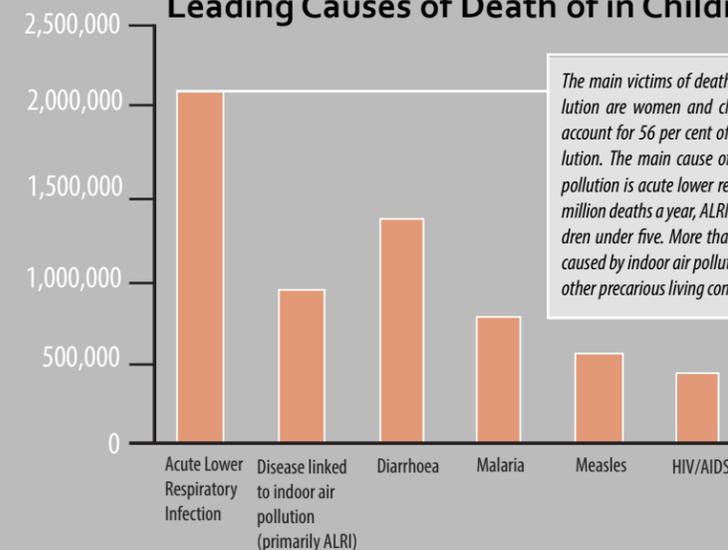
Our Kenyan cooperatives who have become proficient in building rocket stoves have been sharing their knowledge with others. This picture was taken in the largest slum in Kampala. Our cooperatives were able to educate a grassroots organization within the slum (Action for Fundamental Change and Development, AFFCAD) on the benefits of rocket stove. This stove serves as a template for others who wanted to have a healthier, more cost and resource efficient cooktop. From left to right: Erastus Kanjogo, Brian Baya (of AFFCAD), John Gatanga, Simon Njeru, (spectator) and Jaffar Mwavutakwana (of AFFCAD).

In Matthew 10, Jesus tells the twelve whom he is sending out to proclaim the good news, "Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment, give without payment," (v.8-9). The health, life, and sustenance that Jesus' followers had received from his teaching was now expected to be extended with the same liberal generosity that they had been given. These stoves are more than stoves, they are a testament of the goodness of God, to transform poor and uneducated men into engineers of life-saving knowledge for

their neighbors. They have not only gained knowledge, but character enough to give generously of that knowledge, to those that need it.

[1] "COOKSTOVE TECHNOLOGY." Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. <http://www.cleancookstoves.org/our-work/the-solutions/cookstove-technology.html>
 [2] Maranz, David. "African Friends and Money Matters," page 31-33.
 [3] Kaste, Martin. "Engineers Hone Clean-Energy Stoves for the World." NPR: All Things Considered. February 08, 2011. <http://www.npr.org/2011/02/09/133598036/engineers-hone-clean-energy-stoves-for-the-world>

Leading Causes of Death of in Children Under 5



The main victims of death from exposure to indoor air pollution are women and children. Children aged under five account for 56 per cent of total deaths from indoor air pollution. The main cause of children's death from indoor air pollution is acute lower respiratory infections (ALRI). At 2.1 million deaths a year, ALRI is the world's leading killer of children under five. More than 50 per cent of these deaths are caused by indoor air pollution, lack of adequate heating and other precarious living conditions.

SOURCE: "chapter 1 - the killer in the kitchen | Practical Action," chapter 1 - the killer in the kitchen | Practical Action. N.p., n.d. Web. 7 Dec. 2013. <http://practicalaction.org/smoke_report_1>.

"It takes us three hours between three men to build a rocket stove for a family. We love talking with the family and helping them to see the benefits. We feel that we are loving our neighbors with these stoves."

--Reuben Ndwiga, Kenya