

News from – Kenya



KENYA BOYS' SCHOOL

Submitted from the field

Dr. Buconyori Free Methodist Boys' High School is a church-based boys' boarding institution in Kenya. The Free Methodist Church of Kenya purchased the land in 2013. Construction began in 2014 through the support of donors and ICCM. The school was named after the first Bishop of the Free Methodist Church of Kenya, of Burundi origin, Dr. Rev. Elly Buconyori because of his love for education and to honor him for his instrumental role in education in the entire Free Methodist Church of Kenya.



- **SCHOOL MOTTO:** Quest for holistic excellence
- **VISION:** To be a centre for excellence in offering a holistic education
- **MISSION:** To use our God-given opportunities and resources to mold and equip learners holistically with world class training, knowledge and skills to be self-reliant.
- **CORE VALUES:** Love for God and Mankind / Integrity / Transparency / Accountability / Teamwork / Honesty / Humility

Current status of the school: COVID-19 has been a challenge. The school closed for a few months last year. The closure affected their financial status. Most of the students in the school are sponsored through ICCM. A church in Montana is sending small monthly contributions.

This year students are back in school. It is much better financially, but the budget is still very tight. The senior class performed well in their end of year exams. This is a big boost for the school, because more parents will want to send their sons to the school. The school currently has 80 students: Freshmen - 24, Sophomores - 21, Juniors - 14, Seniors - 21. The head teacher is expecting more students to transfer in this coming school year.

The school has an ambitious list of priorities which include enrolling more students, recruiting, and retaining good teachers and non-teaching staff, and purchasing more adequate learning/teaching materials and books. Their list of construction projects will expand and improve the present facility. They would like to put in place pitches and fields of games such as football, volleyball, basketball, handball, rugby, hockey, badminton and acquiring related sports equipment. An additional goal includes the purchase of a school bus that will facilitate educational trips for the students. Pray for the students and teachers as they pursue holistic excellence together.

Thank you for making a difference in the life of the child(ren) you sponsor.



by Laura Fitzpatrick ICCM writer

ICCM focuses on advocating for the spiritual, physical, cognitive, and social development of children around the world. A crucial part of this advocacy is identifying and addressing barriers to holistic development. Poverty is one of the most obvious hindrances to a child's development – a state in which families have little or no income, few resources and limited relational network. There is a specific, lesser known type of poverty that has an extreme direct impact on females, and indirect, yet deeply detrimental impact, on whole communities: period poverty.

Period poverty refers to inadequate access to menstrual products and health education for girls and women. It is estimated that 50% of school-age girls do not have access to sanitary pads. In Kenya alone, 65% of girls and women are unable to afford period products.

The hope for **wunders** came about in 2018 as SEED began conducting fabric and design research with partners that would be appropriate according to the women's cultural context. This year marks the official launch of the Wunders project, in Kenya. The goal is to supply every sixth and seventh grade girl in the ten ICCM schools (and their female teachers) with a **wunders** kit and accompanying education. This is being accomplished alongside Thrive (a group fighting gender-based violence) and Tumaini Women (a savings and loan network reaching communities throughout Kenya). Missionary Vickie Reynen is involved with both of these initiatives. Each kit contains twelve locally made, sustainably sourced, reusable menstrual products. Research indicates these kits will have a BIG, life-changing impact on each recipient.

ICCM, SEED, and the Set Free Movement bring their own network of connections and channels through which to make this project successful. One of ICCM's major roles in **wunders** is equipping effective, local leaders who have natural connections to the sponsored girls in ICCM schools to ensure culturally appropriate education can be provided.

There is a second facet to the **wunders** project that makes it even more beautiful. As **wunders** aims to establish locally made products, the project seeks to develop a sustainable business model of selling kits to other NGOs (for even broader distribution) and to individuals who can afford them. In addition, other personal care items are being handmade for sale.

The heart behind **wunders** is not just to meet physical needs, it is to empower girls and women with dignity and a firm foundation in their identities. And the main point of emphasis beneath it all is that **each and every girl and woman is created in the image of God**. As they are supplied with the resources they need to continue in educational and career pursuits, they are **empowered to thrive in their God-given womanhood**.

