65 CHILDREN NEED SPONSORS

For the last three years we've been so blessed to be able to support more than 100 children in our local community outside of Mombasa. Mombasa is a vacation destination for wealthy Europeans, and unfortunately, this has led to a huge rise in prostitution, sexual exploitation, and a spread in HIV/AIDs. But by supporting these children, by sending them to school, and feeding them, we've found that we can help provide a future for the children. Sponsorship also allows us to minister to their parents who are carrying the huge responsibility of providing for their children out of their own poverty. Honestly, the kids are doing amazing. They are happy and healthy and it's really cool to see this program going so well.

This month, we're opening up sponsorship opportunities for 65 new children. The best part about sponsoring one of these amazing kids is that you get to create a real connection with their lives. You can go online to our website, retouchtheworld.com/child-sponsorship, read about each of the children and choose who you'd like to support. The cost is $45 per month, which provides for their physical and spiritual needs, including school fees, uniforms, shoes, two meals per day, textbooks, school supplies, and discipleship programs.

These are amazing kids (they really are), and we want you to meet them. Get to know them here and please consider sponsoring a child (or three)!

RETOUCHTHEWORLD.COM



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Quick question: has God ever asked you to say yes to something, despite your better judgment? Jennifer and I recently got back from Kenya, where we had one of the most surprising experiences of our ministry so far.

One strange thing about being a mzungu (the Kenyan term for Westerners) is that we're often offered what I would call extravagant gifts, things like large plots of land, churches, or even entire schools. Crazy, right? Of course, most of the time, the people offering these things are just looking for a chance to make money off Westerners, and so because of this, we've become very careful about saying yes to things.

However, we believe God recently called us to say yes to something we hadn't expected, something we definitely would have said no to if it weren't for God.

Here's what happened: In October, we were at a leadership retreat a few hours away from our base in Mombasa when Patrick, the sixth grade teacher at the school we support, asked us to visit a nearby village named Mwabila. He said they were desperate to build a church and a school, they had the land to build it, but no one was willing to say yes.

We don't always agree to these sorts of things, but we trust Patrick, and so we went with him to visit the village. When we arrived, we went to a mud hut schoolroom where 35 kids of all ages were learning from one very young teacher. The children didn't have desks. They didn't have seats. They sat on rocks laid in the dirt. This was the best the village could do. They had asked the government for help, they had asked foreign NGOs, they even asked Muslims to come and build a mosque and a madrasa. None of them said yes.

This was shocking to us, especially because Muslims are very well-funded in this area, and they never turn down the chance to build a mosque and a madrasa. "I just wanted to bring you here to Mwabila," said Patrick, "and see if there's anything you feel you are interested in partnering with because this is a huge open door."



THE POWER OF YES

We prayed about it for three weeks. Throughout our time in Kenya, we were offered a lot of opportunities. However, we honestly felt like God was saying yes to Mwabila.

Our sense was that God was saying, "You can partner with this or not. It's up to you. But I'm saying yes to this no matter what." So we agreed to find out more about the chance to partner with the village, and we made an introductory appointment with the chief.

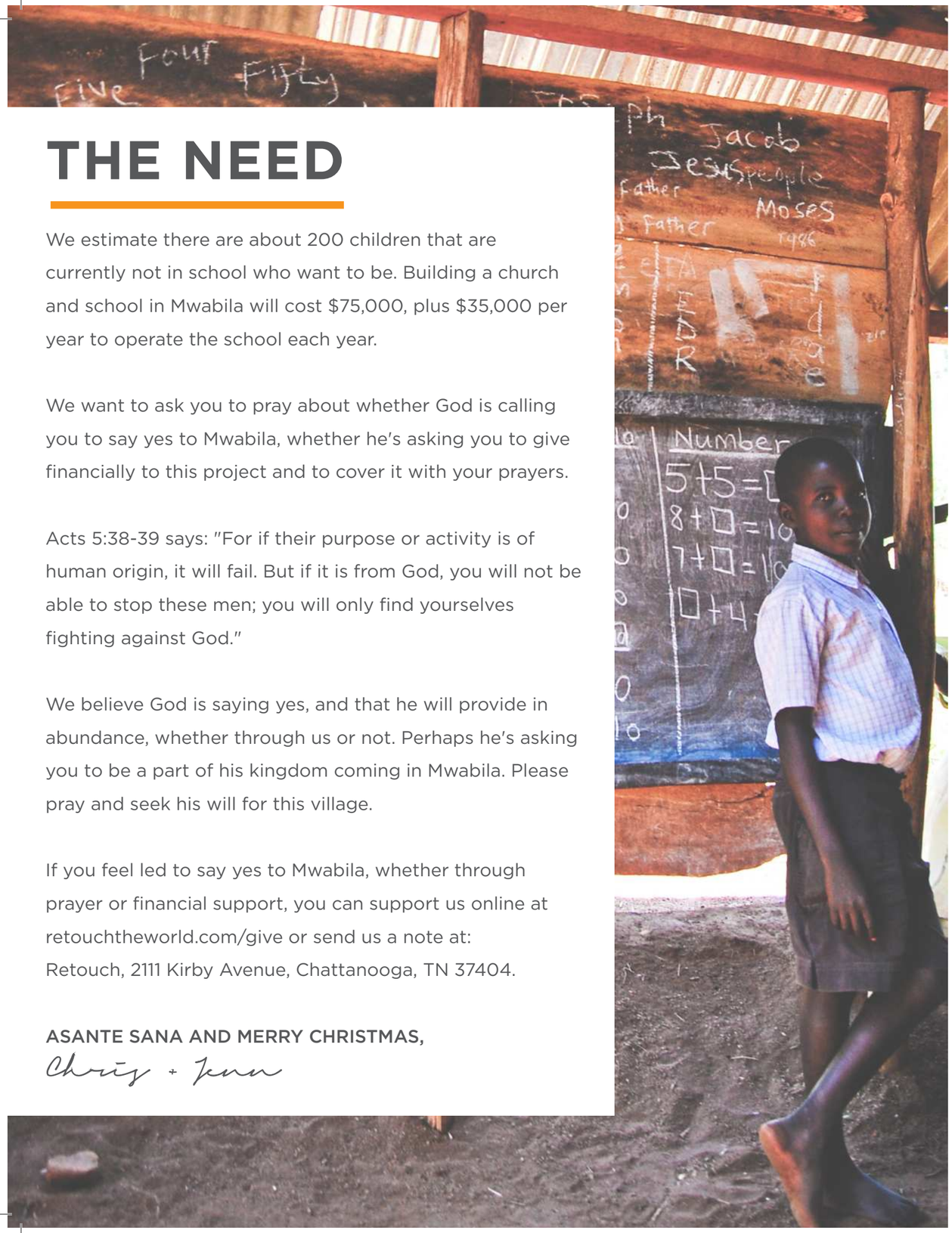
When we arrived at Mwabila for the second time, we realized that this was no longer an introductory meeting. Instead, the chief, the village elders, and the entire village were gathered in front of the little school waiting for us. They welcomed us to the village, and then proceeded to hold a four-hour ceremony where they formally gave us the land, complete with speeches, prayers, and a few tribal dances.

Finally, they took us on a walk around the land they wanted to give us, a total of 12 acres. At one point, we stopped in front of one plot. "We're so excited for the school," they told us, "but we're even more excited for the church. Please build the church here first."

This was a Muslim area, and an area with a heavy influence of witchcraft. Why were they asking for a church? It reminded me of what God said, "I'm saying yes to this. You can either be a part of it or not."

The next week, we went back to Mwabila and interviewed the families to see how many students we would need to prepare for. We originally estimated that there would be about 60 children total in the village. But the first day we were there, we interviewed 157 children. Another 40 children tried to visit but couldn't because of a recent storm.





THE NEED

We estimate there are about 200 children that are currently not in school who want to be. Building a church and school in Mwabila will cost $75,000, plus $35,000 per year to operate the school each year.

We want to ask you to pray about whether God is calling you to say yes to Mwabila, whether he's asking you to give financially to this project and to cover it with your prayers.

Acts 5:38-39 says: "For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail. But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God."

We believe God is saying yes, and that he will provide in abundance, whether through us or not. Perhaps he's asking you to be a part of his kingdom coming in Mwabila. Please pray and seek his will for this village.

If you feel led to say yes to Mwabila, whether through prayer or financial support, you can support us online at retouchtheworld.com/give or send us a note at:
Retouch, 2111 Kirby Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37404.

ASANTE SANA AND MERRY CHRISTMAS,
Chris + Jenn

OTHER NEWS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING HELPS OVER 120 PASTORS

We started our leadership training ministry because we found that pastors in Kenya wanted basic theological training. Kenya is a fairly modern country, with a large percentage of Christians, and very little persecution. However, too often missionaries come in, raise up a church, and then go home, leaving a local pastor behind who doesn't have many resources to fall back on.

Many Kenyan Christians love the Lord but they also visit the witch doctor. They're passionate about their faith, but they have little to no personal devotional life or discipleship. Some pastors don't even have Bibles, and have to travel to a friend's house to borrow a Bible and prepare their Sunday sermon.

In 2014, we held four weekend conferences to help pastors with leadership and discipleship training to give them a foundation in the Gospel that they can spread to their churches, into their homes, and out beyond to their country.

In all, over 120 pastors attended, and in 2015, we plan to continue to grow our leadership training ministry. This is an incredible opportunity for us to help the local body of Christ grow strong. In a staunch Muslim area, if we can help encourage and equip local Christians, we believe the Gospel will spread like wildfire.