



Empowering Lives
INTERNATIONAL

VILLAGE TO VILLAGE MINDILILWO AND CAMPUS BIBLE CHURCH



1st Year Impact Report



Community Background—Lead by Team of Change Leader, Grace, with the support of ELI key staff member Dennis Kiprop (Women of Change Coordinator)

A significant advantage of success in spreading the gospel is the providential guidance that leads to changed lives. In September 2013, through a radio broadcast and testimonials from Metkei Women of Change, Mindililwo was introduced to Empowering Lives International. The first contacts were Dennis Kiprop and Samuel Teimuge, who found the community prepared for positive change. The Team of Change is comprised of 10 members which include Women of Change, farmers, pastors, and the village chief.

February 2023—Mindililwo team leader Grace had previously been invited by the Baraza (neighboring village of Mindililwo) chief, Mrs. Koima, to visit and give testimony about the life transformation she has experienced. Mrs. Koima encouraged their local brewers and alcoholics to attend due to Grace's passionate impact on other communities, which was replicated in Baraza as Grace convinced four ladies (Agness, Emily, Lilian, and Monica) to reform by leaving their life of brewing.

Grace's testimony is powerful because she was known as a wholesale supplier of Changa'a (often deadly and illegal alcohol), and all four of these ladies were her retailers. As of the meeting in February, Emily shared that she is now harvesting plenty of maize and can donate a 90 kg bag as a love offering! Adding to the enthusiastic celebration of success, the chief shared about the reduction of brewing as a direct result of the alternative life skills and training provided by Empowering Lives and the grace shown by the Lord in their lives. This is beyond encouraging! **Thank you, Campus Bible Church, for all the prayers and support given to help transform these communities.**



Working with the local police:



The police have a tough job, and much change is needed, both in the community and among their staff, as many are afflicted by alcohol themselves. The picture below is from a recent meeting with the Elgeyo Marakwet County Police Commander, Mr. Mulinge (far left), who reported on their last training.

He reported that Officer Mwema, who once struggled with addiction, was transformed and is now a regular church attendee! We also ask for prayer for Daniel, the police inspector (standing between Dennis and Robert). He has challenges with alcohol but refused to attend rehab. However, with Mr. Mulinge's encouragement, he has agreed to attend training with ELI in a week.

It is a praise that we have the opportunity to work with these local police to transform their lives through the power of the Lord and build relationships with individuals, groups, and even the government! Mr. Mulinge declared that he depends on ELI for addressing drug and alcohol abuse due to our specific and compassionate approach. Please pray for this continued partnership.

Police of Change—Illegal brewing of deadly alcohol is a serious community issue, and the police are both trying to curtail it and, in many cases, are victims of it. Police Commander Kola contacted ELI from Kabarnet, Kenya, to address this issue. Today, the term used is ***“Marehemu waterajiwa”*** translated as ***“the dead in waiting.”***





Officer Kola has taken a proactive reconciliatory approach to engaging with those in addiction and has seen firsthand the urgent need for a solution. It would take a strong team to make a difference in transforming the community positively. After several strategic meetings, the ELI team and Commander Kola have embraced the ELI community engagement and transformation strategy. Step one is to reach out to alcoholics in a unique and Spirit-led manner, for each to sense God's fingerprints guiding them to something truly meaningful. Can you imagine the excitement for these people in alcoholic chains discovering hope to not only remove the chains but to engage in meaningful life, work, relationships, and love?

The Lord is empowering the work, and now this community is becoming a champion village, with the Police of Change now engaged in active transformation.

Successful engagement—Resulting from this positive approach, the first meeting was with 35 people with an addiction. They had begun the journey by agreeing to meet once a month at the Police Chapel in Kabarnet, kicking off the Village Rehab program.

You can imagine the illegal brewers' fright and disdain for the police over the years due to arrests, harassment, and raids. Now picture that next month, inspired by two Police of Change members, **32 brewers will attend the Ilula Training Center and Children's Home looking for life change and transformation!**



Police of Change Awareness Meeting:



Internal meetings—Over the last two months, we have been meeting to uncover the root issues creating the reliance on alcohol with members of the police – with 29 addicted officers now working to transform their lives. To dig into the drive of addiction, we have been asking, “Have any succumbed to the temptation of alcohol since the last meeting?” and, “What are the underlying factors that lead you to drink?” Not surprisingly, peer pressure, negative influences, and even a lack of awareness are common factors. We are excited to continue helping these individuals overcome their challenges and make positive changes in their lives.

External meetings—The ELI Kenya team’s continuous engagement with the Police of Change has led to training with 100 varying officers:

- Local police officers
- Assistant Police Commissioner
- County Commanders
- Kenya Wildlife Service officials, Prison Officers from Tambach prison
- Iten Officers
- OCPD from Baringo and DCC Maiyo



Throughout the meeting, the “ELI approach” to brewers and alcoholics was discussed. This training aimed to create awareness and emphasize concerted efforts to bring the national government and ELI together to combat the problems with local alcoholism.

We each have our roles—the police are the “law enforcers,” ELI aims to be “love enforcers,” bringing together our respective abilities and roles to better the entire community.

The response was one of embrace—many officers were looking forward to the new approach and were hopeful for additional training. This partnership truly aims to improve the community and the transformation of addicted individuals.

Campus Bible Church - September 2023—Mindililwo was excited to receive a visit from a 5-member team from Campus Bible Church. The team included Pastor Matt, Nick, Rob, Richard, and Jack. It shows the love of Christ to travel across oceans and donate time, emotions, and energy to share with others. *They will know that we are Christians by our love!*

The team was valuable in establishing sweet relationships and stratified a 5-year partnership between Campus Bible Church and Mindililwo.

Family Hope – Iten Community Follow-up—ELI visited Kapkessum village in Iten, Kenya, to meet with the Team of Change and hear about the transformation God has been doing. In attendance were:

- Local Nurse
- Public Health Officer
- 2 Village Elders
- Area Chief

One of the initial needs identified was substance abuse (drugs and alcohol). Since then, the Mindililwo Team of Change has held two major meetings, reaching **149 people!** In these meetings, there were many shared testimonies of changed lives, but we know the work is far from over.

Mr. Teimuge (ELI co-founder) encouraged the local leaders to continue contacting local brewers and alcoholics to organize additional meetings in collaboration with ELI. Please keep these meetings and all who will attend in your daily prayers.



The Team of Change also collaborated with the local agriculture department to ascertain pyrethrum seedlings for a community purchase. This involved Community Health Volunteers equipping people with medical and healthcare knowledge.

Two more meetings are planned to discuss idleness, school dropouts, and strategies to encourage youth to avoid these dangerous paths and pursue a God-fearing life and devotion to family.

We are filled with gratitude for the remarkable journey we've shared. We extend our most profound appreciation for your partnership, generosity, and unwavering faith. Your commitment to caring for people experiencing poverty and seeing the transformation of Mindililow, Kenya, has been nothing short of inspiring!





In Matthew 6:10, Jesus taught us to pray, "On earth as it is in heaven." This profound verse echoes in the sacred texts and resonates throughout our shared mission. Your efforts have brought us closer to realizing this divine vision in both Fresno, California, and Mindililow, Kenya. Through your partnership, we have seen glimpses of heaven's beauty manifesting in earthly reality.

As we reflect on the impact of our collective endeavors, we are reminded of the profound connections forged across continents and cultures. The bonds we've nurtured since fall of 2023 have transcended boundary lines and seas, uniting us in a shared pursuit of justice, compassion, and love.

We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to welcome another team from Campus Bible Church to Kenya. We invite you to witness firsthand the transformative work of God unfolding before our eyes. Together, let us continue cultivating relationships, sowing seeds of hope, and building bridges of understanding across oceans and generations. May our continued journey together be a testament to the boundless power of God's love in action, and may it inspire others to join us in the sacred work of reconciliation, justice, and making earth more like heaven.

