



December 2020

## Evangelizing through Soccer in Rorya, Tanzania

In the Bunganjo-Rorya district in the Mara region of northern Tanzania—which is just across the Kenyan border running along Lake Victoria—FUM Living Letters Nicholas and Dorcas Otieno met Isaiah Omwago, a soccer enthusiast who is interested in church planting and evangelism. He joined with the Otienos on that work starting in 2015.

At that time no Quaker churches had been planted in that region. When Nicholas and Dorcas went to evangelize there, Isaiah accompanied them, since he is a resident of the area. He also noticed that football (also known as soccer) is unarguably the most fancied sport in Tanzania. The passion for the game is immeasurable across all ages. From urban areas to remote villages you will find clusters of children running on every field, fervently kicking around balls made of plastic, leather, or knotted rags.

While Isaiah's passion for evangelism among the youth grew stronger, he recruited two others to help in the work, Michael, a friend, and Ibrahim, who is now the soccer coach. These three men gather the youth, train them in sports, and share the gospel to the young boys who are nursing big dreams of becoming footballers. The team organizes soccer exhibition tournaments which attract crowds, creating a platform for crusade evangelism.

Nicholas Otieno says, "Even though many may never wear football boots, they will still run passionately over the sand and through the grass. From the sermon on the Great Commission we are taught about the disciples' obedience, making disciples everywhere, and that's what we are commanded to do. GO! Do not wait. We are looking forward to bringing up young talented Quakers who respect one another



*Handmade soccer ball*

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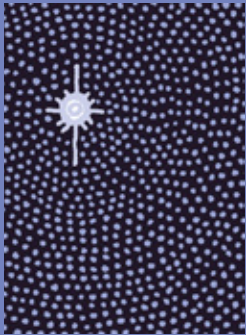
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and are guided by God's command. God assures us that he will be with us in this process until His return. These words give us hope to continue to evangelize across Tanzania and East Africa even in places where no one has ever heard of Quakerism. Through the tournaments we have reached out to new believers. We put them into discipleship classes, mentor them, and prepare them to evangelize to others."

Soccer evangelism is very effective in this area. Osinde, Lwanda, and Agulu Village Meetings have grown up through the influence of the soccer teams. Through soccer exhibitions, the youth and the old gather to create a golden platform for sharing the gospel of love of Christ.



*Nicholas Otieno with soccer club*



The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death, light has blazed forth. (Isaiah 9:2)

2020 has been a tough year throughout the beloved community of FUM. Yet where there is Christ there is hope, and there is light, and many of us feel an especially deep need right now to focus on hope and light in our world and in our lives. How would you express your own deepest longings, your thoughts, your blessings and prayers, to your Friends?

Please, Friends, send us your own expressions for hope and light—however simple or complex—so we can share them with Friends everywhere, in all the ways we communicate with each other. We'll use them without your name, if you wish. E-mail your message to [danielk@fum.org](mailto:danielk@fum.org).

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# FUM Honors the Service of Eden Grace



During the Friends United Meeting General Board Meeting October 30–31, assembled Friends celebrated the ministry and service of FUM Global Ministries Director Eden Grace. This was Eden’s last board meeting as Director of Global Ministries. Since 1992, Eden has served FUM as a board representative, member of our field staff (2004–2013), and as Director of Global Ministries (2013–present). During the Board meeting, Eden expressed her continuing sense of connection to FUM, telling the board, “While I am leaving the staff team, I am not leaving the FUM community. This is my church family.”

FUM General Secretary Kelly Kellum highlighted some of Eden’s most substantial contributions to the work of FUM. As field staff, Eden worked with John Muhanji in opening the Africa Ministries Office. She empowered the leaders of the Samburu and Turkana Friends Missions and established the Girl Child Education program. Following Kenya’s post-election violence in 2007, Eden worked with Kenyan Friends to start the Friends Church Peace Team.

During her time as Director of Global Ministries, she envisioned the Living Letters Program and implemented the ministry plan for Belize Friends Ministries. “Eden’s fingerprints are on nearly every program of FUM,” Kellum told the Board.

Getry Agiza, Friends Church Peace Team Coordinator, spoke about Eden’s legacy of empowering African women. Nikki Holland, Director of Belize Friends Ministries, spoke about Eden’s deep faith and her relentless defense of Belize’s most powerless and marginalized persons. She also spoke of her gratitude for Eden’s support, and for Eden’s continual focus on possibilities.

Kellum concluded that FUM’s Board could not fully express the organization’s gratitude to Eden for her years of service to FUM. He invited the entire FUM community to express their appreciation for Eden and her work in one or both of two ways:

- Send a personal blessing to Eden. The blessing may be a word of thanks, encouragement, scripture, picture, or spiritual promise. Friends may send these blessings to FUM by email to [info@fum.org](mailto:info@fum.org), or by postal mail to our Richmond office, or by delivering them to the Kisumu office. FUM will place each blessing in an individual envelope and send them all to Eden at her home. Eden will be able to decide whether to open them all at once, or to spread them out over time.
- Give to FUM in honor of Eden’s service. Kelly is inviting Friends to give to FUM in Eden’s name. All donations in her honor will be invested in the Global Ministries Endowment Fund. Income from this fund will continue to support the global work that Eden is passionate about. Mail all donations to our Richmond office at 101 Quaker Hill Drive, Richmond, IN 47374. Online donations may be made here: <https://donorbox.org/global-ministries-endowment-fund>.

## FUM Calls Karla Jay as Coordinator of Global Ministries

Friends United Meeting is pleased to announce that we have called Karla Jay to fill the new position of Coordinator of Global Ministries. The coordinator will serve as an active member of FUM's Global Ministries Team, coordinating schedules and communications and providing administrative support for field staff and ministry partners.

Karla is a long-time member of the FUM community. She currently participates in Meetings in both Indiana Yearly Meeting and the New Association of Friends. Her husband, Michael Jay, is the pastor of Raysville Friends Church. She has been on the pastoral team at Iglesia Amigos de Indianapolis, where her father, Carlos Moran, is pastor.

Karla was born in Guatemala and raised in the United States. Karla says, "I have had the privilege to be in a multicultural setting for most of my life. My passion is seeing unity within the Friends Church so that we can be what God has called us to be, to bring the good news of Christ to the poor and oppressed."

Most recently, Karla worked to coordinate programs and events for the non-profit organization Faith in Indiana. She holds a degree in Business Administration from Universidad Galileo Puerto Barrios in Guatemala.

Karla began her service with FUM on December 1, 2020. FUM General Secretary Kelly Kellum says, "FUM is excited about Karla's appointment. She brings many wonderful qualities to the coordinator's position. She has administrative experience, is organized, is a good communicator, and will help FUM close the language divide with our Spanish-speaking members. Please help us make her feel welcome!"

Karla's email is [karlaj@fum.org](mailto:karlaj@fum.org).



## Turkana Mission Board Appoints Associate Director

The Turkana Mission Board recently approved hiring Peter Eman Loten'gan as Associate Director of Turkana Friends Mission. John Losike Moru continues to serve as Director but plans to wind down his role by December 2021, when the Turkana Mission board plans for Peter to take over the role of Director. Until that time Peter will focus on development and direction-setting for the long-term growth and health of the mission. He will also serve as the financial officer. He officially began as Associate Director on November 1, 2020.

Friends United Meeting Programme Officer Shawn McConaughey interviewed Peter to help the FUM community get to know him. Peter is not a stranger to the Turkana Mission but has not been actively involved in some years. Shawn writes that the Africa Ministries Office is glad to have Peter on board.

### **Shawn McConaughey: Peter, can you tell us a bit about your family?**

Peter Eman Loten'gan: I am married to Rebecca, who happens to be a board member of Turkana Friends Mission. We are blessed with two boys, Jared, four, and Jotham, one. This is after the loss of our two daughters one week apart in 2013—Abigael and Gift. There are also two girls we are supporting at school that stay with us.

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**You've worked hard to further your education. Tell us a little about your studies.**

In 2003-2005 I earned a Diploma in Management at Daystar University in Nairobi. I achieved this with the financial support of the Turkana Friends Mission and the John Sarrin scholarship.

In 2016 I began a degree in business administration and management. Of course, I would be done by now were it not for the Covid-19 outbreak.

**Your jobs have given you some really applicable experience for your future with the Turkana Friends Mission. Tell us about some of the work you have done.**

In 2000-2003, I worked with World Vision Kenya as a food monitor in one of the largest emergency food relief operations in Kenya.

I followed that, in 2003-2008, by working with the Turkana Friends Mission as an administrative secretary.

Finally, before returning to school, I worked five years with Oxfam GB as a Field Monitor and later as Assistant Team Leader. We worked on projects on restocking camel herds, small business support, and water projects.

**As you look ahead to the future, what are your hopes and dreams for Turkana Friends Mission?**

That's a good question. I would love to see the creation of assets that would inject cash back to the Mission, for the support of the ministry. This will support us in the future as we are outgrowing the support FUM can provide. The Mission has really grown in the time I have been away from the work. This asset-based approach is a focus of other missions around the region. This effort can take the dimension of a couple of things:

- It seems important to use what we already have by doing major repairs on the old buildings in Kalokol and Lodwar to make them habitable and economically competitive. We have these buildings, including a guesthouse and a former trade school, and they have potential as income-producing structures.
- Creation of new and unique development plans in Lodwar. This is multifaceted and could include many things. The important part is to have a plan that we can begin to implement. The town of Lodwar is growing and provides opportunities for the Mission.
- Administratively, the Mission office needs a long-overdue facelift. I hope it can become a place to welcome visitors and a good workspace for employees and volunteers.

Of course, continued partnership with FUM is key to the achievement of all the above, even as the mission continues to expand in its quest to reach out to remote communities with the holistic message of Christ, meeting the spiritual and physical needs of people.



# Kenyan Friends are Supporting Otienos' Ministry in Tanzania

The faithfulness of African Friends is changing how Friends United Meeting understands, supports, and sends missionaries. Historically, the missionary work of the church was a western activity. Yet our understanding of missions is changing as missionaries are being called into God's service from many different places. Isaiah Bikokwa became a Kenyan missionary to Samburu and Turkana. Kenyan Oscar Mmbali is an FUM missionary to Belize. Robert Wafula returned to Kenya as an FUM missionary to lead Friends Theological College. The Kenyan Friends missionary movement is expanding.

This is also why the General Board of FUM appointed the new African Friends Missions Committee, led by Samson Wekesa. This committee is charged with the responsibility to educate and promote FUM mission work in Africa. Among the committee's tasks are prayerfully discerning new missions, identifying new missionaries, and raising funds to support the work of missions.

Through FUM's Living Letters Program, Nicholas and Dorcas Otieno are serving as Friends missionaries sent by Kenyan Friends to Tanzania. The Otienos are working in collaboration with the leaders of Tanzania Yearly Meeting to strengthen the Yearly Meeting and plant new churches. God has given them a big vision: to establish a Friends church in every major city in the country and every ethnic tribal group. In partnership with Kenyan Friends, the church in Dar es Salaam was established. Many other new churches are being planted. Nicholas and Dorcas travel all over the country, encouraging leaders and helping to "midwife" a new movement of God's Spirit among Friends in Tanzania. Their work is not done.

Two years of start-up funding for the Otienos' ministry has come from Indiana Yearly Meeting, with the intention that African Friends will assume responsibility for funding their ministry. The Friends Missions Committee is working to secure new ways to support their vital mission work. Members of the Missions Committee and FUM's Africa Ministries Office staff are reaching out to both individuals and Yearly Meeting leaders to request support.



*The first meeting of the FUM Missions Committee, in January 2020.*

Please consider how your Yearly Meeting can give generously and pray earnestly to support the Otienos' missionary work in Tanzania. If each Yearly Meeting in Kenya agrees to sponsor the Otienos' ministry for only a half of a month, then the Otienos will be fully funded for one year. Please share this immediate concern with your Monthly Meetings and Village Meetings and with Friends who can give. This is an exciting way for African Friends to partner in what God is doing in Tanzania. Kenyan donors can send support to FUM Mpesa Paybill #514608, Account: "Otieno Support." Or you can use FUM's online donation platform [here](#), and use the pull-down menu under "Select Fund" to choose "Living Letters: Dorcas and Nicholas Otieno."

# No Ordinary Board Meeting

The Friends United Meeting Board met on October 30 and 31, for what was no ordinary board meeting. For the second time in history, representatives and staff members met through the Zoom video conferencing platform for a virtual international meeting. Representatives attended from Jamaica, Belize, the United States, Canada, Palestine, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. During the meeting, the General Board prayerfully considered these questions: Is FUM's mission still relevant to the "new normal" of the Covid era? What is FUM's role as Friends respond to global concerns? How is FUM being called to live out our core ministry priorities at this time?

In preparing for the meeting, Richard Sitati, Assistant Clerk–Africa, reminded us that the General Board of FUM is not meant only to do business, but also to worship and pray. This is an important reminder as FUM responds to the new realities of a global pandemic, racial and political tensions, and increasing economic disparity.

The meeting centered around four strategic conversations about FUM's ministry priorities of Evangelism, Leadership and Resource Development,

Communications, and Global Partnership. FUM staff introduced each conversation by casting a vision, followed by smaller group discussions in video conference "breakout rooms." One board member said about the small group experience, "I was in a small group with two Kenyans and a Canadian. It was energizing hearing how God was working in different places around the world. It reminded me that FUM really is a global community." The results of these strategic conversations are being collected and will be used as FUM develops our ministry plans and priorities for the coming years.

The wider FUM community was invited to join Friday's board session for the monthly International Prayer Gathering. Pastor Paul Kisiangani gave the devotion, and regional reports were provided by Oscar Mmbali, David Abrikian, Scott Wagoner, Adrian Moody, and Robert Wafula. Miriam Were and Katie Ubry-Terrell centered the meeting in intercessory prayer.

While the pandemic is limiting travel, FUM is discovering new ways of meeting, fellowshiping, and working together to respond to the needs of our world during this unique time in history.

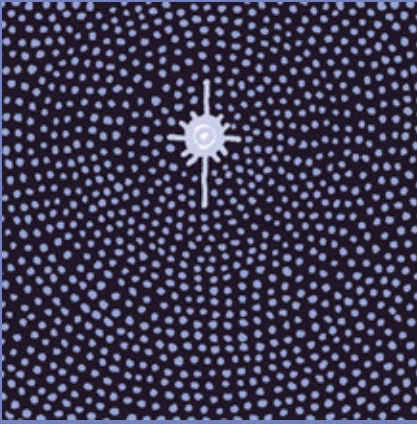
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## FUM Speakers Can Visit You Virtually

Is your Meeting/Church worshiping online these days? Many members of our Global Ministries staff are willing to "visit" your meeting during online worship, for Sunday School, or for a special program. We can either bring the main message or offer a short message of encouragement and connection from the field and let Friends know how they can be praying. Nikki Holland, Shawn and Katrina McConaughy, Getry Agizah, and Kelly Kellum, among others, have recently made visits among North American Friends from sea to shining sea—i.e., from California to New England. If you would be interested in having a field staff member or ministry partner join your worship, please send General Secretary Kelly Kellum an [email](#).







For the past few weeks, we've been asking members of the FUM community to share with us with their hopes for the new year, visions of light, blessings upon one another. Bob Carter sent us this reflection:

*"As we anticipate a rapidly-approaching new year, we have many hopes. We hope that a safe and effective Covid vaccine will impart lasting immunity and allow the world to return to normal. We hope for improvements in treatment strategies and methods for not just Covid but for cancer and other illnesses as well. We hope that civil unrest and racial strife will subside as root issues are constructively addressed in ways that preserve and advance human worth and dignity.*

*"But ultimately, we know that the world will not truly know shalom until the Prince of Shalom returns. Until that time, we prepare as we wait. We prepare ourselves by making our hearts places where the Christ-child may comfortably dwell. And we prepare the world around us by being agents of His hope, peace, justice, love, and joy."*

Send your own expressions for hope and light to [danielk@fum.org](mailto:danielk@fum.org).

Western Yearly Meeting of Friends is excited to announce the search for a new Superintendent. To help you discern your possible interest in this position, we have put together an honest, but bird's eye view, of Western Yearly Meeting of Friends and an Invitation to Leadership which outlines the kind of leader we seek, the kind of work we need, and what you can expect from us. Our hope is that your spirit will be stirred by reading through [this document](#) and that you would be led to join us in this discernment process as a possible candidate for consideration.

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For more information or to let us know you've made this decision, please contact **Mary Comfort Ferrell** at **202-903-2539** or [marycomfort@fcnl.org](mailto:marycomfort@fcnl.org)