



EDEN

Educational Development in Emerging Nations

January 2023

The first thoughts of EDEN were born out of a trip to South Sudan made by 6 members of Shandon Baptist Church in February of 2015. All of us on the team saw needs on the ground that we felt we could help meet. EDEN was formed in early 2016 to raise money for agricultural and health training in South Sudan, at South Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda, and also in Kenya. We have more recently expanded into Tanzania as well.

Our efforts include agricultural projects, women's health and empowerment, and application of appropriate technologies. We teach conservation agriculture principles and drip irrigation. We have set up sewing centers at several refugee camps. These centers provide training that empowers the attendees and gives them a means of supporting themselves. We have helped with rainwater harvesting in several areas to increase available water resources. We have also helped several locations with improved cooking stoves to reduce costs and pollution.

We have helped orchestrate a ladies' sewing project through Shandon Baptist Church that has blessed many African women with reusable feminine hygiene pads, called Luopads. The kits we supply help restore dignity and improve the health of these women. They are a useful tool to help show the African women that they are loved and cared for. Our partners also share the Gospel as they distribute the kits.

At EDEN, we feel that God is directing our efforts along two main lines: with pastor groups and with orphanages and schools. The indigenous pastor groups we have connected with through CRU and Open Eyes are on the ground doing the work of reaching people with the Gospel. We feel that it would not be the best use of our efforts to do a lot of direct evangelization. The mzungu (white man) is too much of an oddity in Africa. We feel we are better equipped to support these pastors and their families in the work they are already doing. We see our role as being like that of Aaron and Hur with Moses during the battle against the Amalekites in Exodus 17:12. When Moses grew tired, these men raised his arms up and the Children of Israel prevailed. EDEN is here to help hold up the arms of these pastors through agricultural education, health training, school support, and application of appropriate technology.

As we said, our first trip was to South Sudan and that country remains deep in our hearts. However, with the current conflict going on, we cannot do much work there on the ground. We do have indigenous partners in a couple of locations who are doing some training and work in our absence.

In response to the South Sudanese refugees, we have connected with personnel at several refugee camps in Uganda. God has the attention of many of these South Sudanese like no other time before. We feel that He has used this displacement to bring them to a point of openness. We consider it urgent to do as much as we can in the short term while these people are displaced to support the pastors who are ministering in these areas. At this time, many refugees have returned to South Sudan, but there are also others who are now seeking refuge as new fighting erupts.

EDEN is also partnering with several groups in Kenya ministering in Muslim communities and to the Maasai people. Our agricultural and sewing training are being used to make inroads to both of these communities.

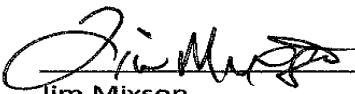
We are also working with several orphanages and schools. The training and supplies that EDEN can provide in the areas of agriculture and sewing alone can be of great benefit in a school setting. Many of these organizations struggle to keep their students fed. Improved agriculture can directly benefit that need as well as provide additional income through the sales of excess crops. Sewing can be used as a microenterprise as well as a hub for making Luopads. Both offer great vocational training opportunities not only for students, but for the community as a whole. Both can also be used in evangelistic outreach within the community.

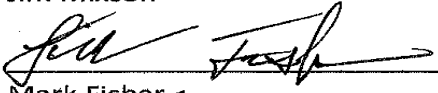
The needs can quite frankly be overwhelming. But we feel God has orchestrated our steps to this place. The story is told of a little boy walking on a beach littered with hundreds and hundreds of starfish after a storm. As he walks along, he picks those up in his path and throws them back into the surf. A passerby chides him, saying, 'Why are you wasting your time? There are too many! You can't possibly make a difference!' As he throws another one back in the water, he says, 'I made a difference to this one!' And he returns to his task. EDEN is going to be about meeting those needs set before us.

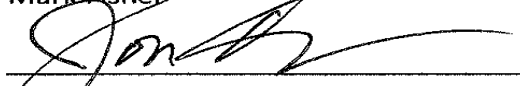
We would welcome you to join in our efforts! Whether it be through praying for us, a financial contribution, or possibly making a trip to help on the ground, your involvement is welcome. We are expectantly looking forward, knowing that great things are ahead of us.

Thanking you for your consideration, we remain,

Very Truly Yours,


Jim Mixson


Mark Fisher


Jon Ozmint


Maggie Bell
EDEN, Board of Directors

EDEN is fully registered as a 501(c)3 charity. Contributions can be sent to:

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