



AGRICULTURAL AGENTS WORKING WITH FARMING SYSTEMS OF KENYA introduced the participants on a recent LWR study tour to Grace Nyambura (left) and the women of the Matuiku Zero Grazing Group (far right), and explained the details of Teresia Wanjiku's poultry operation (center above and below).

LWR partners help small farmers in Kenya

In Africa, the majority of people are farmers, so strengthening agriculture in Africa is a vital means of combating hunger. Farming Systems of Kenya (FSK) is a Lutheran World Relief partner agency headquartered in Nakuru, a midsized city about 100 miles north of Nairobi. Since 1981 FSK has worked to improve food security and self-reliance among small scale farmers in the Lake Nakuru region.

In the lush, rolling countryside west of Nakuru, FSK helped organize the Matuiku Zero Grazing Group in 1997. Its members include 31 needy farmers (all women) who depend on their one to two acre farms for all their family's food and income.

One of their first projects was to provide donated seeds so the women could establish kitchen gardens full of fresh vegetables. Four years later FSK, in partnership with Heifer Project International, is providing livestock and teaching zero grazing techniques

to the women. One member, Grace Nyambura, received her first cow in August 2000. By practicing zero grazing (keeping the cow confined to a specific area of her farm) she has maximized productivity on her two acre farm. She is also generating a steady income for her family of 11 by selling her cow's milk.

Nearer to Nakuru the farms are even smaller and supporting a family is more challenging. Teresia Wanjiku's farm covers just a half an acre of land and is the sole source of sustenance for her family of seven. In 1997 Teresia joined FSK's Mamwinjoe Self Help Group and learned how to raise chickens. Then to get her started, FSK provided a low interest loan for her to buy her first flock of broilers. During the next several months FSK agricultural agents visited Teresia and provided free veterinary

advice to ensure that she could successfully market her chickens. Four years later Teresia's poultry operation is thriving as she sells her broilers to hotels in Nakuru. With a positive cash flow, she paid off her loans, covers her ongoing costs of production, and makes a small, but significant profit that makes life better for the whole family.

ECSW Supplement editor Paul Heykes visited FSK in Nakuru last February. Call him at 920-846-3453 or email to revpheykes@msn.com to schedule a slide presentation about LWR's work in Kenya and Tanzania



The Bishop's "Stand with Africa" challenge 102,000 ECSW Lutherans sharing \$102,000 (at least!)

According to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Bishop James Justman, "It is time for the people of the East Central Synod to stand with our sisters and brothers in Africa. So I am issuing a challenge to the 102,000 baptized members of our Synod to share at least \$1.00 per person for a special Stand with Africa offering at our next Synod Assembly."

Over the next nine months, every child, youth and adult who belongs to one of our Synod congregations is asked to take a step forward in their Hunger Appeal giving and include a extra dollar, or more, for the people of Africa.

Then needs are great. Millions of people in Africa do not enjoy basic food security. As a result they frequently do not know where their next meal will come from. Thousands of Africans are living as refugees due to civil war and political unrest. Drought has rendered vast expanses of land unsuitable for farming and grazing. Clean drinking water is in short supply in many communities.

Landmines hidden in the ground during times of war continue to maim and kill hundreds of innocent civilians as they attempt to replant their farms and gardens.

And then there is HIV/AIDs. Of the 36.1 million HIV/AIDs victims world wide, 25.3 live in Africa. And of the 13.2 HIV/AIDs victims who are children, 12.3 million are Africans.

What can you do? Bishop Justman has offered these four suggestions. . .

- Encourage every member of your family to immediately set aside \$1.00 for this special effort.
- Encourage your congregation to budget an extra gift to this cause.
- Encourage your family and friends to set aside ten percent of what they might expend on personal gifts for this worthy effort.
- Encourage your Sunday school

students to share extra dimes and quarters to help the children in Africa. Says Justman, "Here is our goal—102,000 Lutherans giving \$102,000. Can we do it? Yes. Yes we can!"

