**The Challenges of the Maasai Tribe at Kajiado Kenya**

Kajiado, 120 miles South of Nairobi, is home to tribal chief Noah Sampeke and his Maasai tribe. On the way to Kajiado we visited with Maasai herdsmen while their cattle ate grass. They said they were 40 miles from home searching for grass and water. The herdsmen sleep on the ground and often are away from home for weeks at a time.

When we arrived at the village several tribe members spoke about their challenges… water, education, and food. They share their water source with the cattle herds and sometimes are only able to get water every other day. One mother spoke about the desire to see that the children are able to get an education. She said, “Our cattle are our bank. When cows die due to a lack of water and grass that means our children’s opportunity to get an education dies.” She said, “thank you for your coming, for your support, for teaching us drip irrigation, and for bringing food. May God remember you and bless you.” Prior to us distributing pre-packaged “Meals from the Heartland” to 225 men, women, and children, several people spoke including Chief Noah Sampeke. The chief said, “drip irrigation is very useful and it will help people change their livelihood.” Another speaker said, “we need water … a borehole. We are crying that God will remember us. Healing Hands has been generous and helped us so much.” Prior to eating the beef that cooked for us, they poured water on our hands to wash them. As we observed the brown water, we promised to bring them water filters. Our Sawyer Point One water filters remove the solids, 99.9% of the bacteria, and the parasites from the water. We will use the GPS reading of the site to determine by satellite image whether drilling a well is possible. Healing Hands International is seeking partners to help us drill a well. Their current surface water source provides brown colored disease carrying water. First the water, then the living water!

 In the past year HHI African Agriculture Director Ebenezer Udofia conducted two survival gardening workshops for the tribe. To assist the immediate need to alleviate hunger and malnutrition, food aid was distributed. As a result of Tom Opondo and Ebenezer Ufodia’s involvement in the workshops and meal distribution, tribe member Nathan Ole Oloumu started training at Nairobi Great Commission School to learn farming and to prepare to preach.

Through the workshops, meal distribution, and evangelizing of the Nariobi Great Commission School Students relationships were developed. Eventually on September 23rd a church was established with 115 people in attendance. They worship under three trees. Meeting physical needs creates opportunities to meet spiritual needs. First the bread then the bread of life!