

# Educational Care Field Testing

East Africa

May 2010 Update



*Educational Care: Caring For God's Children*, is a learning program for Christian School Teachers. The Educational Care program has the following primary characteristics: module formatted, on-the-job-learning, peer-learning oriented, inductive learning focused, practically based, Action Plan required, adaptable to local situations, world-view driven, Bible referenced and community oriented.

The Educational Care Program consists of six modules:

1. The Biblical Worldview
2. How Students Learn
3. Developing Student Gifts
4. Preventive and Corrective Discipline
5. Leadership in School
6. The Purpose and Value of Your School

The first two modules are currently being tested in East Africa. They should be available online for use by Fall, 2010. The remaining four modules are in draft form and will be developed and tested in stages following the publication of the first two modules.

## Trainers

Annah M. Kitavi  
Dr. Mwaya Kitavi  
Pete Bruinsma  
Mary Bruinsma

## Date

April 26 - May 30, 2010

## Venue

St. James Academy  
Kiambu, Kenya

## Participants

40, including support staff

## Goal

To test the *Educational Care* materials, a Christian educators learning program.



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## Educational Care Pilot Training

In addition to following up with Rev Muruphus and sharing about the training with different educators, time was spent communicating with the St James Ed. Care coordinator, Cannon Muturi. Continued communication ensured that the scheduled dates were kept open per our initial agreement.

This was the second and the final Ed. Care Pilot training in a series of two in April.2020. Canon Muturi a TLT master trainer and the provost was the coordinator for the training. The morning before we started, he requested to have the school's support staff participates in the training together with the teachers. It caught us by surprise. He was convinced that the support staff will equally benefit from the training. "They too interact with students on a daily basis" Muturi said.

As a TLT master Cannon Muturi knew what he was talking about. We decided to have them remain with the teachers during the whole group discussions. We would then have them work together in small group discussions. This was especially good when they started preparing their action plans. They tailored their action plans to their specific responsibilities; it was the most interesting thing to listen to.

We had drivers, cleaners and dormitory workers and it was fun to hear action plans that affected the student's lives coming from individuals who in the first place were not expected to participate. The school has 745 children, which consists of early childhood and primary classes. We had 40 participants.

## Samples of Kingdom Change Goals

- Preserving nature: By the end of three months (May to July), my 3rd grade students will appreciate Gods beauty in flowers by displaying flowers on the teachers desk every day.
- God image bearers: By the end of three months each of my five struggling students will score a 50% in mathematics. As a result they will feel good about themselves and start making friends with the rest of the students
- Peace: By the end of July 50% of my students' will develop a culture of respect Words like please, excuse me and thank you will become part of the daily vocabulary.
- God image bearers: By the end of the three months my 5 weak students will score 50% in English and Kiswahili.
- Preserving Nature: By the end of the three months my class will have planted 7 trees in the school compound.
- Training/responsibility: By the end of the three months 95% of the boarding students will be doing their own laundry.
- Time and talent: By the end of the three months 95% of the bus riders will be at the bus top on time.





A Participant Writing an Action Plan

## Accomplishments

1. Worked with Cannon Muturi to come with an affordable plan in order for the training to take place. We met at the school and meals were prepared on sight.
2. The school provided a venue, meals, and the training manuals to participants. Everything was on time. We even got presents.
3. Planned for Pete and Mary (*Ed training volunteers*) and Sheila Dykstra's (*Christian Ed. Consultant in West Africa*) travel plans and accommodation while in the country. We stayed with them and travelled together to Kiambu every morning).
4. The training went on as planned. Participants prepared a three month action plan to implement in the coming term (May, June and July). Dates for the next training in August to be confirmed.

## Comments from Participants on the Last Day

- I can't wait for the schools to open to start implementation.
- This training has enlightened me beyond what I knew.
- The trainers have a calling and they did the task very well.
- I can't wait for the students to come back to school.
- This training has helped me to see students quite differently. I have become more sensitive and I now have more respect for creation than ever before.
- I am glad I can bring a kingdom change to my school. I now plan to walk the talk and implement my plan in my classroom.
- From now on the cleaning procedures will change for the better. This training has made me view things in a biblical way. I will now be more patient with my students.
- I have come to realize that everything in the world is God's property. I now see God in every child and each person. I will be able to handle them with care knowing that they belong to God.
- It has enlightened me to take care of time by spending every minute of my time wisely. As a teacher I should teach like I will never teach again.
- It is an eye opener to see God in what I do as a teacher. This training has created a change of attitude in my approach to taking care of God's children.
- This training has helped me to visualize different ways of teaching my students. It has affected me in the way handle my students.
- In order to really make use of this training and cause change, the trainers should come back regularly.
- This training is excellent but its fruits will be realized if only all the action plans are implemented.
- I have learned that all children are equal before God's eyes. Teaching methodology and discipline in my class is going to change. I appreciate the trainers who were always willing to help us when needed. The training has made me brighter than before.





Small Group Discussions about Christian Education Action Plans

## Annah Kitavi on the Training

Compared to the previous training, this group was much quieter and more reserved. With time they warmed up to the materials. We noticed that the group was much younger in age and also spiritually. The previous group had a number of retired staff members who had been hired back. They were more theologically attuned and that made it easier for them to engage with the material. There is no doubt that like the Timothy Leadership training (TLT), the first manual is always tough as it is an introduction to a new way of thinking. Many were able to see what it means to look at the world through a biblical world view and how that world view affects who they are as teachers. Though like any other participants they expressed eagerness to go back and implement their action plans, they will never understand how powerful what they learned is until next August when they report their results.

This is the beauty of the inductive method of training though. It allows the students to interact with the new materials according to their previous knowledge. This allows the facilitators to have a better idea on how to help

the students and this is exactly what happened here. Facilitators were more intentional in asking the right questions that prompted participants to react to them and at the end of the day they got the idea. Many were especially moved to the idea that,

“Students, fellow teachers and all the people they come in contact with are God image bearers. That the world and all that is in it belongs to God and is to be respected.”

As participants discovered how to look at the world through the eyes of the bible they were compelled to start approaching their profession quite differently from before. They realized that their profession is not limited to the classroom, that what happens outside the classroom affects the learning child. They understand that biblical world view will affect what goes on in the dorms, classrooms, outside the classroom, and in the community.

It was amazing to see how participants got fired up after the training and their desire to start implementing. One teacher said to me, “I can’t wait for schools to open.” I look forward to the reports.



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