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The Fruits of a Theological Education Sammy Mbote's Story of Transformation

Anthony Sytsma met Sammy Mbote at Berea Theological College in Kenya. A World Renew Global Associate, Reverend Sytsma serves in Kenya with World Renew's local partner and founder of the college, the Anglican Church of Kenya. Sammy Mbote was in his final year of studies at the college and enrolled in two of Anthony's classes — Missions and Evangelism and Theology of Development. The two men formed a good relationship and Anthony enjoyed teaching Sammy. **Sammy's accomplishments after his graduation reflect the learning he did with Reverend Sytsma at Berea Theological College.**

After completing his studies, Sammy went back to St. Augustine Parish, his home church in Nairobi. **And although not yet ordained, he has had a large impact there.** Sammy took what he learned about church planting at Berea and is spearheading an effort to plant a church in a nearby community that has no church at all. To do so, he is helping St. Augustine Parish form an evangelism team and, using a suggestion from Anthony's class, has started a community football ministry to engage with youth. Soon Sammy's church will ordain him as an evangelist.

At Berea, Sammy also came to a new understanding about the role of the *church* in community development. Anthony had given an

assignment in development class that asked each student to write up policies to guide their home church's benevolence, using principles from the class. Sammy was quite touched by this and told Anthony he was really sad that his church did *not even have* a benevolence ministry. Sammy said that he used to think of development as a money issue alone and something to be accomplished by NGOs. **But, in Anthony's classes, he learned about the crucial role of the church in development and began to view development more holistically, having to do with people's relationship to God, self, others, and the environment.** He now believes that people need to use their own resources for development, rather than depending on the government and Western donors to take care of materially poor people.

With this new belief, Sammy suggested that his home church start a benevolence ministry — and the leadership listened! St. Augustine Parish has now started a ministry to reach out to orphans connected to the church. To start, they have focused on helping to pay for the school fees of these orphans with Sammy suggesting good written policies to guide the ministry.

Anthony calls it a privilege to teach Sammy and to see him put into practical effect what he has learned. They ask you to pray for Sammy and his church. Sammy says, "Please pray for God's provision of finances to support this ministry and my further education. Pray for the church to support these ministries. And pray for my heart, because this is not easy work. Thank you."



Conservation Agriculture Takes Hold

A Story of Transformation

submitted by Wangui Gitau, manager of the CFGB CA-upscaling program

Ruth Ikaru is a progressive farmer in Kenya. She is passionate about farming and has, over time, tried many agricultural practices on her farm in Gikindu division, Muranga County. Ruth works closely with the Kenyan Ministry of Agriculture extension services and part of her farmland is under experimentation and research by Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO).

Since her husband passed away, Ruth has practiced conventional farming on her own for many years and knows that the land preparation and weeding involved in conventional farming mean high labor costs. She is an eager adopter of methods that promise to reduce those costs. During a conservation agriculture training with World Renew partner, Anglican Development Services Mt. Kenya, Ruth was introduced to the use of mulch and cover crops as a means of soil restoration, water conservation, and crop variation. Since she had lots of mulch material available from leftover livestock feed, Ruth started mulching a quarter-acre of her land last year. In that season, this quarter-acre provided Ruth her only harvest and this was her “CA turning point.”

“With CA, My crop is healthy even the colour dark green and I expect to harvest despite the erratic nature of rainfall this season. In the coming season I intend to expand my whole farm under mulch”

After that harvest, Ruth increased her land devoted to conservation agriculture practices to two acres, which again yielded much more than the other part of her farm. Ruth’s success led to her inclusion in a visit-

ing tour with the Canadian High Commission, Head of Cooperation, Kenya in June of this year. Her story was captured in the Kenyan national newspaper, the Daily Nation, in a feature on “climate smart” farming.



PHOTO BY LEOPOLD OBI / NATION MEDIA GROUP

Ruth showing her crops to representatives of the Canadian High Commission and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



Ruth's previous maize crop grown without using conservation agriculture methods.



Pray for Kenya

We give thanks to God for:

- relatively peaceful elections in Kenya this month
- a year of great favor from different stakeholders — we are excited about the new financial year and the opportunities it promises for World Renew and its local partners

We appreciate your prayers for:

- calm, perspective, and peace to prevail in Kenya
- wisdom for all the World Renew Kenya staff as work on plans for this new financial year, that our plans may be strategic, realistic, and have impact