

On July 16-17 our youth ministry will be doing our annual Big Give along with a 30 Hour Famine. The goal is for us to fast and seek God in behalf of the needs of the world around us. We will combine this time with ways in which we can help feed and clothe the world and learn about the needs of our world. Here is the need. ***Every day 25,000 children under the age of 5 die...most of them because of hunger, poverty and disease. 13,000 of those kids will die just from causes related to hunger. That's one child every seven seconds.*** We are hoping to change these numbers for some of the children in our world!

Here are our goals and how you can help us meet these goals.

- 1000 Pairs of New/Used shoes (1000 people with feet protected from disease)
- \$1000 from water sales (at least 25 families with fresh clean drinking water)
- \$1000 from Car Wash/Rice Bowl Change (Will feed 33 children for a month)

We are looking to change our world in three ways. We are looking to provide 1000 pairs of shoes for people in Kenya. Please bring your shoes to the church by July 16. We will be selling water at the Downtown Sidewalk Sales on July 17 and at the Car Wash at Advance Auto. The proceeds from the water sold will go to purchase water purification filters for the Dominican Republic. We will be doing a Car Wash at Advance Auto at 2800 Vine from 9am – Noon on July 17 and the proceeds from this event will go to World Vision to help with famine relief. We will also be collecting the Rice Bowls that many individuals and families in our church have taken over this past semester and the money will go to the Rice Bowl Foundation to feed children in seven orphanages around the world. As you can see, if we meet our goals we will have a dramatic impact on the lives of people around the world! Please stop by the Car Wash or Downtown at our water bottle booth to help support these efforts.

## Shoes take first step to Kenya



Robert Nguitui, a member of Brookwood Covenant Church, inspects a bag of donated shoes that will be shipped to Kenya. Nguitui, a Kenyan native now living in Topeka, wants to collect 40,000 pairs of shoes for people in Kenya.

PHIL ANDERSON/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## **Brookwood church active in helping campaign by native Kenyan** BY [PHIL ANDERSON](#)

Robert Nguitui still remembers the first time he got a pair of shoes. The native of Kenya says he was 12 years old. His sister gave him his shoes — "blue canvas," he recalls. "It was in August 1988," said Nguitui, who now lives in Topeka and attends Brookwood Covenant Church, 3601 S.W. 33rd. "I still remember that day. It was a good gift."

In October, Nguitui and his wife, Zapporah, were getting ready to move out of their home in Topeka. The inevitable task of packing clothes had to be tackled. Nguitui said he was thinking of taking some of his clothes to the Goodwill store. Then he began thinking of his first pair of shoes. Knowing many people — both children and adults — in Kenya could use a pair of shoes, something clicked.

Nguitui determined he would begin collecting shoes to send to Kenya. He checked on a large container and learned it would hold 40,000 pairs of shoes. In December, he began to collect the shoes in earnest. Soon, word began to spread. Shoes began to come in — everything from Nikes to cowboy boots to high heels.

The shoes at first were stored in the Nguituis' bedroom. That space was quickly overtaken. Brookwood church members then located a storage facility for the shoes to be held until they are shipped to Kenya. Many area churches and organizations have heard about the project and are collecting shoes. So far, Nguitui said, 20,000 pairs of shoes have been donated, so "we're halfway there."

At first, Nguitui was going to second-hand stores around town and was purchasing shoes with his own money. But when the Brookwood church heard of his initiative, members jumped on board. The shoes are sorted and packaged by church members, who have been able to go through about 3,000 pair in a little more than an hour. Nguitui said volunteers appreciate having the shoes tied together when they are dropped off at a container located outside the Brookwood church. He also will pick up shoes from churches or other organizations.

Though he is taking donations of shoes, Nguitui has been adamant in not wanting to take any monetary donations to help cover the cost of shipping the shoes to Kenya, which he said will be about \$6,000. "I've been in the states for 10 years," he said. "It's about time I give back to my own country."

Nguitui said once the shoes are collected, they will be shipped by rail to Texas, where they will then be placed on a ship and taken to Kenya. He said he plans to be in Kenya when the shoes arrive to oversee their distribution. He said he is planning for the shoes to go first to schools where children have no shoes.

The Rev. Joan Porter, of Brookwood Covenant Church, said Nguitui's efforts in large part have been spurred by health concerns in Kenya, brought about by people not wearing shoes. "He knows the desperate need for shoes in Kenya," Porter said. "It's a health issue, because so many infections come through cuts in the feet."

Porter said Brookwood church members are thrilled to see the response to Nguitui's project. She said she hadn't heard of anyone collecting so many shoes to be shipped overseas before this effort. "It's been exciting," Porter said. "We've seen the shoes start to pile up. Lots of different people have gotten involved."