



Be Kingdom Builders, not just Wealth Builders

The Power of the Lord

By Cody Huisken

In January, I was blessed with an opportunity to spend a month in Africa, volunteering my time to both Adams Thermal Foundation (ATF) in Ethiopia and Heritage of Faith in Kenya. I spent my days working with leaders and faculty of orphanages and schools, visiting entrepreneurship programs benefiting from microloans, and getting to know people within the communities impacted by ATF and Heritage. The impacted people and the power of their testimonies will not soon be forgotten. While their stories are too numerous to tell them all, I would like to share with you the story of a family who has been blessed by the ATF school and their child sponsorship program.

Abreham is a ten-year-old student at Adams Thermal Academy in Hosanna, Ethiopia. I met him for the first time at the Academy, where he gladly jumped in the Land Rover and proceeded to give the driver turn-by-turn directions to his home. As the destination approached, the boy grew silent, giving his final direction without words by simply pointing his small finger in the direction of his humble home. We had arrived. Together, we exited the vehicle and entered the dwelling.

Once inside, Abreham disappeared for a moment into a second room, which gave me a minute to keenly observe the makeup of the house. The home had two small, simple rooms. The walls were made of mud with branches acting as trusses

A dramatic, heart-wrenching story of a woman kidnapped, raped, abused, and redeemed.

supporting a roof of sheet metal. The house was dark and empty. A single lightbulb hung from the doorway connecting the two rooms, providing

Those eyes had seen much pain, yet the look of pain was coupled with a glimmer of hope.

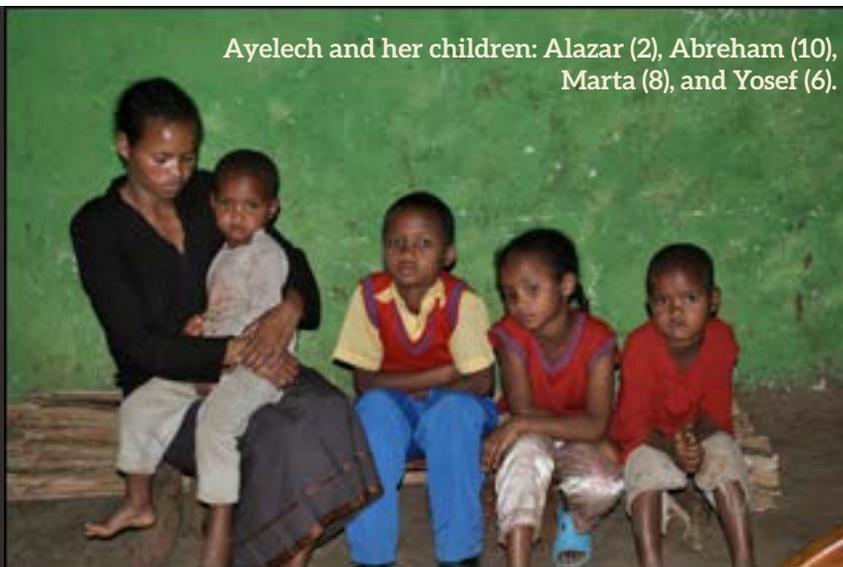
just enough light to observe a few pieces of furniture in the house: a small wooden bench, a few wooden stumps being used as chairs, and a 4x8 piece of plywood covered by a few blankets, which they call a bed. All the furniture rested on a dirt floor without carpet or rugs. **Plumbing of any kind was nonexistent. Any water in the house was stored in jars of clay. As far as the waste facilities go, I believe that's what the tree next to the house was for.**

Abreham returned from the other room with his family in tow. He lives with his mother and three younger siblings, ages 8, 6, and 2. The mother introduced her children first: Alazar, her youngest, was not yet in school. Yosef, Marta, and Abreham were her three oldest, all attending the Adams Thermal Academy because of their sponsors. The children were in first, third, and fifth grade, respectively. After speaking about her children, the mother finally introduced herself: Ayelech Haydebo. Ayelech was a beautiful woman, likely only in her upper twenties. Her beauty came from her eyes, which she kept hidden as much as possible. However, the moments when she would glance up from the floor, it was evident that those eyes had seen much pain, yet the look of pain was coupled with a glimmer of hope and strength. As she finished introductions, I proceeded with my own, explaining who I was and what I was doing there. Then, I opened up the floor, inviting her to share her story.

My invitation was met with silence. I watched intensely as the mother's facial expressions attempted to hide the pain of her memories as she recalled the episodes of her past. Minutes passed. With each passing second her pain became increasingly evident, until finally, the silence was broken. Ayelech's trembling voice was barely audible as she asked her children leave the room.

(Continued on page 2.)

How does one respond to such a devastating story?



Ayelech and her children: Alazar (2), Abreham (10), Marta (8), and Yosef (6).

Because of the work of God through our partner, Adams Thermal Foundation, Ayelech and her family came to know Jesus!

The Power of the Lord (continued)

Giving me a glimpse of her personal history was hard enough, but to do so with her children in earshot would have been unbearable.

As a young teenager, Ayelach had many responsibilities to her family. Helping her mother with cooking and laundry, assisting her father with the crops in the garden, and gathering water for her siblings all constituted normal chores for a child growing up in rural Ethiopia. It was a typical morning, tasked with gathering water from the mountain stream, located just over an hour's walk away, when her life changed forever. As she was approaching the water, a group of men approached. Fearful, she released her canteens used for carrying water, and began to run from the men. Fleeing proved to be futile as the men followed and captured her, carrying her away. Ayelach's head was spinning, dreading whatever the men had planned for her. What was their plan? Was she to be raped? Tortured? Sacrificed in a pagan worship ritual? Would she ever see her family again? Overwhelmed, she fainted.

Ayelach was awakened when the men had reached their destination: a remote village, nearly a day's walk from her home town. A crowd was gathered in the public square for what appeared to be a wedding ceremony, although she wasn't completely sure because the bridal party was not in sight. Soon after, all the questions running through her head disappeared because she knew the answer. It was a wedding ceremony outside, her wedding ceremony. **Running away wasn't an option; she'd already tried that. To resist or refuse was equally useless, as she would be overcome, punished, or worse. With no way out, and unimaginable consequences if she fought back, she was hopelessly trapped.** Her only choice was survival, which meant surrendering and submitting herself to her husband, who she hadn't even met yet. Only a few short hours after she had gotten her bridal clothes on, it was time to take them off for the stranger she now called her husband. When the deed was done and she thought the day was finally over, things got worse. Her husband forced himself on her once more, this time with a knife in his hand. Her husband proceeded to cut her vagina, leaving permanent cuts, damage, and pain to her genitals. This female genital mutilation was an act of power for her husband, controlling Ayelach through pain to ensure that she never slept with another man. She was at her husband's mercy, who could force himself upon her at will, leaving her writhing in pain.

Ayelech was trapped inside her own life, which was now owned and controlled by her husband. There was no escape. If she divorced him, the community would disown her for dishonoring her husband. If she physically assaulted him, she would be found guilty in a court of law and her punishment would be worse than her current situation.

If she fled to her parents, she would be returned. Her husband had sent well-respected elders of the community to pay a bridewealth, or bride price, to her parents. This payment validated the marriage in her family's eyes, leaving her with only one choice: submission.

Not long after the wedding, Ayelech became pregnant and gave birth to her firstborn, Abreham. As her family began to grow in size, her husband made the choice to relocate to the city of Hosanna, where he became a general laborer. As her husband would pick up job contracts for the day, Ayelech would balance her motherly duties with an attempt to earn wages by cooking or cleaning laundry for anybody who would pay her. The work was enough for the growing family, even as Ayelech's ability to work decreased as her family grew coupled with other circumstances. When Ayelech was pregnant with her fourth child, her husband got hired for the day as a construction laborer. While working on a ladder, her husband fell, severely injuring himself to the point of bedrest. Weeks of bedrest hurt the family's financial situation, but the knockout blow came when her husband failed to get better and admitted himself to the hospital, where he died soon after. Within days of her husband's death, Ayelech gave birth to her youngest child, Alazar.

Ayelech, left to raise four fatherless children, was broke. Hope seemed obscure as her husband still managed to place limitations on her as he infected her with the H.I.V. virus before he died. The virus puts Ayelech on bedrest for weeks at a time. Her symptoms include fever, chills, night sweats, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chronic fatigue, rashes, breathing problems, and more.

Ayelech continues to struggle to earn wages due to her physical incapacity coupled with the community avoiding HIV victims like Biblical lepers. Occasionally, she lands a job doing a neighbor's laundry. Other times, a family will have compassion on her and donate loose change or a loaf of bread. When her symptoms are severe, weeks can pass before she is able to put food on the table for her family again. Her children survive because of their child sponsors and ATF. The sponsorship pays for her children to attend Adams Thermal Academy, which provides daily lunches to their students.

Often, these are the only meals her older children will get. She continues to nourish her youngest child with breastmilk.

As Ayelech finished telling her story, there was another time of silence. I was speechless. How does one respond to such a devastating story? Then, I noticed her facial complexion change once more. Her face seemed to exude hope, as if the pain was no longer being suppressed and hidden, but rather was melting away before

my very eyes. It was Ayelech who broke the silence, expressing her newfound joy. Because of the work of ATF, **Ayelech has come to know Jesus Christ and has an active relationship with Him.** When she reflects on her life, she recalls how, despite her hardships, God was there with her, keeping her alive. She often wondered what her purpose was in life. Now, Ayelech dedicates her energy to encouraging her children to grow in the faith and is at peace knowing that they have a bright future ahead. She praises God for His provision and holds tight to His promises, especially the promise of Jeremiah 29:11-13. She is eternally grateful not only for her own salvation, but that she can now rest knowing that her children have an everlasting Father guiding them who is far greater than any earthly father could ever be.

Unfortunately, Ayelech isn't the only woman with a story of this sort. Female genital mutilation (FGM) and telefa, the practice of marriage through kidnapping, are both common practices in many rural areas across Africa.

Efforts are being made to end these abusive practices, which are both currently illegal in Ethiopia. Thankfully, God is alive and active in our fallen and sinful world. He loves all His children, and has a special place in His heart for the poor and "the least of these." ATF exists to be used by God, responding to His call to serve the poor and oppressed. ATF desires to be His hands and His feet, with a primary mission to bring glory to Jesus by fulfilling the Great Commission through actions and in truth. To Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, be the glory both now and forever! Amen!

Raped? Tortured? Sacrificed in a pagan worship ritual? Would she ever see her family again? Overwhelmed, she fainted.

They have a bright future ahead. She praises God for His provision and holds tight to His promises.

So, how does one respond to Ayelech's story?

You can partner with Kingdom Capital by Turning Dirt into Dollars!



Your Gift Multiplies by Turning Dirt into Dollars



Free Farm Land Use + Gifts of Seeds & Fertilizer + Your Gift = \$130,000 for Africa!

A farmer has given Kingdom Capital Fund the use of 260 acres of highly productive, irrigated farm land, which at today's corn and bean prices, should yield a gross dollar amount of about \$130,000.

In December letters were sent to Monsanto for a seed donation, Dow Chemical for all of the herbicide and insecticide, and CHS for fertilizer, as well as other inputs needed to produce this crop. To date we have received donations to cover all of the seed, chemical, grain storage, and marketing services, totaling \$45,000.

We still have other input costs that need to be covered in order to maximize the gift of this land, and we are seeking cash contributions of \$55,000. **If you are willing to help Kingdom Capital Fund maximize the profit on this project, please contact Todd Knutson at tknutson@midconetwork.com or by calling him at 605.201.5809. Time is running out, and we could sure use your help!**

"Indeed, the Lord will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce."

Help us raise \$130,000 for a new school in Ethiopia where Christ's love shines!

Stewardship of the Believer

"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven."
Matthew 5:16

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."
James 1:27

"If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,' but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?"
James 2:15-17

"So the people asked Him, saying, 'What shall we do then? He answered and said to them, 'he who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, Let him do likewise.'"
Luke 3:10, 11

"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."
Matthew 10:8

"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use it will be measured back to you."
Luke 6:38

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President/CEO of Click Rain

We are excited and honored to welcome Nik Aamlid to Kingdom Capital Fund!

Nik joins KCF as the Director of Development and will work alongside of Todd to build relationships with individuals and businesses that want to invest in Kingdom work. In this role, Nik's main responsibilities include securing capital for our funding projects, expanding our reach, and planning numerous events that will not only bring more resources into the fund, but will also serve to build a more intimate connection between those who invest in Kingdom Capital and the ministries we support.

The Wells of the World

By Todd Knutson

*"Glory be to God! By His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope."
Ephesians 3:20*

One of my favorite stories from the Bible is that of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:13). Jesus knew that the woman at the well had searched her whole life for satisfaction and had come up short. He knew her heart was empty, without meaning or fulfillment or joy. I don't know about you, but I can relate. There was a period in my life where I looked to draw satisfaction and fulfillment from the wells of the world – possessions, career, popularity, money, pleasure, etc. Each time the world's well would provide me with only temporary satisfaction and fulfillment. I was left to ponder.... "Is this all there is?"

Jesus gently pointed out to the woman that the only way to "quench her thirst" was to drink of the "Living Water"... Jesus. Years ago I made a conscious decision to remove myself from the noise of the world, and seek Him through quiet rest, reflection, and time in His Word. I soon realized that the only well that would quench my thirst was that of Jesus.

Without the financial support of Kingdom Capital and the trusting of the "call" God placed on my life, I would not be here today. I am forever grateful for the support of Kingdom Capital, and their vision to see ministry work carried out in our community. Reaching lost people for Jesus is what I'm all about, and it is so great to partner with an organization that supports and encourages that vision as well.

Charia Anderson, FCA Women's Ministry Director

*"Draw near to God and
He will draw near to you."
James 4:8*

As I've grown in my faith, I've also come to a greater understanding of my role as a follower of Jesus Christ. I was not put here to simply indulge myself with all that I have been blessed with. If God owns it all, and I believe He does, then I am called to a higher standard. As a follower of Christ I have accepted the "call" to reach out to those in need. God has graciously given each of us Time, Talent, and Treasure. How we use it is up to us.

Kingdom Capital has embraced the responsibility that comes with being a follower of Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to see the Kingdom of God expanded in the hearts and lives of people through the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in words and deeds in this region and throughout the world. It is an incredible responsibility, but also a wonderful joy to be able to bring "Living Water" to a thirsty world.

We welcome you to lock arms with us, as we change the world for Christ one life at a time.

*"Lord, remind me how brief
my time on earth will be."
Psalm 39:4*

Meet Nik Aamlid, Director of Development

When I was first introduced to Kingdom Capital a few years back, I was floored at the generosity of those involved, the vision of how this group could impact the WORLD for Christ, and the laser focus they had on accomplishing that vision. Two years later, I am humbled to be able to serve as a small piece to the future of this great organization!

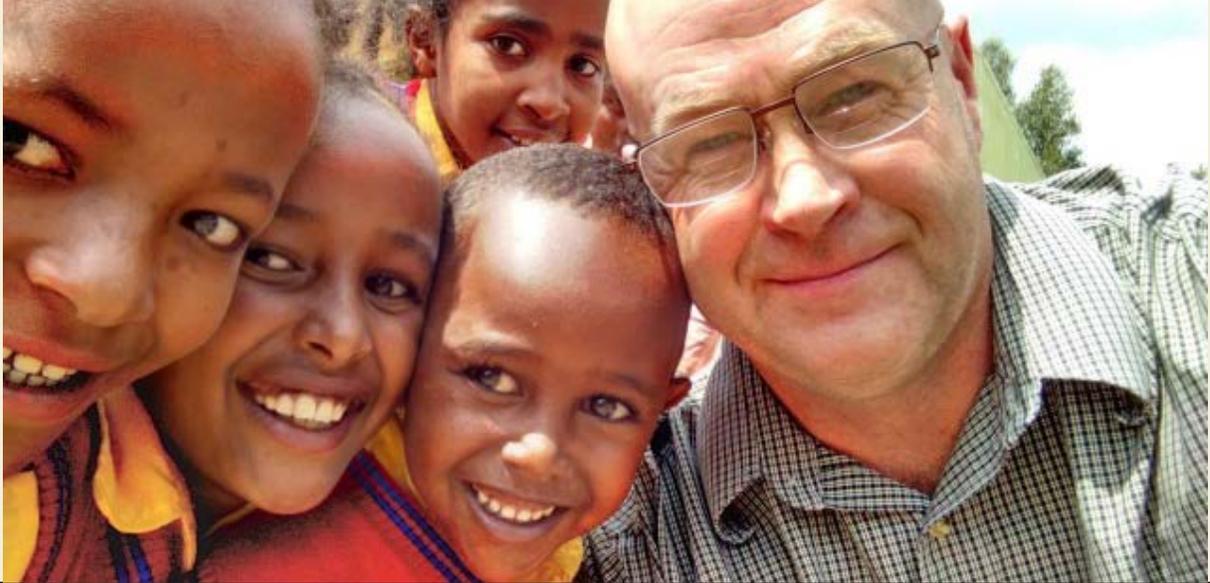
Growing up in Sioux Falls, I was always a sports-driven guy, so I thought I had reached the pinnacle when I received a scholarship offer to play football at SDSU. However, my career was cut very short due to injuries and I was left searching for what life was truly about. God proved ever-so-faithful and brought me to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where I met three amazing men in Todd Knutson, Brian Hansen and Gordie Fosness. These mentors helped me to understand my worth had nothing to do with sports, but everything to do with Christ and that God had big plans for my life outside of football. I am amazed at how the Lord has now allowed me to re-connect with all of them on a professional level.

After graduating from SDSU, I married my gorgeous bride, Stacie, and we moved to Nashville, TN, where I received my Master's in Sport Administration from Belmont University. After grad school, God opened a door back in South Dakota and I took a job as the Assistant Athletic Director for Annual giving at SDSU. In January of 2014, I was called to join the South Dakota FCA staff as the Director of Development and was able to see God do amazing things through that ministry.

This January, God began to align my path with Kingdom Capital and on February 1st, I was blessed to become the newest member of the team! I can't wait to see what God has in store and am grateful to be a part of it.

Stacie and I live in Brandon with our three kids: Ansley (4), Ben (2) and Sadie (6 months). We can't wait to meet all of you!





From the Desk of the Chairman

By Kurt Huisken

How is Kingdom Capital Fund different from other foundations? First of all, the name: Kingdom Capital. The definition of capital is, *"Wealth in the form of money or other assets owned by an individual or company, available or contributed for a specific purpose, such as starting or investing in a company, finances, wealth, wherewithal, means, resources, capital."*

I've heard it said wealth is like an iceberg: some of what you see is above the water, but the vast majority of one's estate lies beneath the water. Most of the time what is above the water are the liquid assets of one's estate; i.e., stocks, bonds, savings, checking, and wages, just to name a few. This is the area where most people do their philanthropic giving while they are alive. The wealth that lies below the surface is considered to be complex assets, such as ownership in limited partnerships and LLCs, real estate, cabins, homes, farm land, rental property, and insurance policies, just to name a few. The wealth below the waterline may be included in ones "at death" giving plan.

At death, the attorneys and your children will have the privilege of distributing your life's hard work to charities spelled out by your trust or wills. What a shame that you will not be around to see the impact that your gifts have on so many!

But, what if there is a way for you to maximize your giving to ministry while you are alive, a way for you to enjoy the blessing of giving and seeing your wealth used to accomplish Kingdom goals? This is

just one of the ways KCF is helping donors accomplish Kingdom goals while they are alive. We have partnered with a group of Christian attorneys to help provide you, our donors, with ways to maximize your philanthropic goals while you are alive.

Below is a list of ways that we have worked with our donors to accomplish more efficient methods of using the wealth below the waterline to accomplish Kingdom projects.

There are multiple ways Kingdom Capital Fund can help you leverage the wealth below the waterline so that you can enjoy the blessing of giving while you are still alive.

A land owner was doing a timber harvest on a property he owned. Rather than sell all the timber to the sawmill, pay the taxes on the income, and then write a check to a ministry, the landowner told the saw mill to take "X" amount of timber and make the check payable to Kingdom Capital Fund. This act lowered the adjusted gross income on his tax return, he paid no tax on the timber given to Kingdom Capital, and Kingdom Capital sold the timber and collected the proceeds.

In another similar scenario, a landowner delivered "X" number of bushels of corn to the elevator and placed it in an account set up for Kingdom Capital

Fund. Kingdom Capital sold the grain and received the income. Once again the farmer lowered his adjusted gross income and paid no tax to the IRS on that gift.

For 2016 a land owner has donated 265 acres of land to KCF (details of this project outlined in the section titled "Turning Dirt into Dollars" on page 1).

Since inception, Kingdom Capital has received the following capital donations: Trusses, concrete, building materials, sheetrock, construction labor, floor coverings, corn, timber, stock shares in companies, a home (yes - someone gave us a home and we moved it off the land and sold it). These building materials were used to build lake front homes on Lake Madison, turning hard capital into profit for the Kingdom -- multiplication of a donor's gift!

So you see, there are multiple ways Kingdom Capital Fund can help you leverage the wealth below the waterline so that you can enjoy the blessing of giving while you are still alive. **If you would like to discuss your options, we would be happy to sit down over a cup of coffee and see what this may look like for you. Feel free to contact Todd Knutson or Nik Aamlid for more details.**

(Full contact information on page 2.)



KINGDOM

↔ Capital Fund ↔

3208 E. 26th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57103

Partner with Us! Let's Change the World!



Schools & Water in Ethiopia
\$1.1 million project
Our goal: \$230,000

*More information about these projects
will be featured in future newsletters!*



New faculty lead gift
Our goal: \$100,000



Reaching 3.5 million teens
Our goal: \$1.2 million



Expand into women's ministry
\$300,000 project
Our goal: \$150,000



Train pastors in China & Russia
Our goal: \$82,000

What makes Kingdom Capital different? Our ability to use individual support to invest in entrepreneurial projects, thus multiplying many times over the donor's gift to the fund. Simply put, Kingdom Capital Fund will change the world for Christ by making significant, strategic, and accountable gifts in Christian organizations that have a proven track record of Christian evangelism outreach.