



Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K.

Registered Charity No:1129983

Drilling For Water ... Caring For Life Newsletter - December 2018

Les's recent visit to Kenya

Les has now returned to the U.K. after a 6 week, very full visit to Kenya. There were many significant objectives to be worked through during his time out there, concerning the equipment, the compound, the drilling team, the working relationships with various local government officials and others' support, and making plans for future drillings in the area.

The drilling and support vehicles having been moved back from their temporary storage they were in the Kitale compound for some major work to be carried out – sadly much as a result of abuse through previous poor local repairs, tampering and the weather.

Les was joined by his son David for a week which started inauspiciously – there was no electricity to power the welding machinery! However, once available, David really got stuck into the necessary and serious work, involving major repairs to the drilling rig lorry and support lorry.



The support truck had failed to start, requiring a replacement starter relay / solenoid. In addition, the 25hp diesel motor for the welder was found to be running at about 50% required power which also explained the struggles for the crane and mini compressor to function efficiently. After servicing the injectors and replacing the leaking primer pump, it was still smoking badly and requires new piston rings from the UK.

On the main rig vehicle, the mud pump was stripped, serviced and refitted. With the hydraulics awaiting repair, this delayed moving the rig (with its mast still raised could have damaged power lines!) as a failed valve on the parking brake was jammed on and thus immobilised. The hydraulic system was subsequently refilled and fitted with a new hose. Partway through stripping the rotary head and swivel, all the seals were found to be failed or failing and have had to be ordered for later refitting, along with some brake parts for both trucks.

The main compressor was disconnected from the rig and all 5.5 tonnes of it lifted from

the truck. The tachometer was removed and the cable dismantled, the corrosion cleaned out and refitted correctly. Once the cover plate on the governor had been removed, only half a gasket was found, fitted with two incorrect bolts. They and the gasket were replaced by Les' handcrafted replacement gasket, complete with refitted injector pipes, pressure regulating valve, two-way valves and the like. In future, all servicing and repairs will be carried out under Les' direct supervision.

All of this work was carried out by Les, David and Wahungu, a local mechanic recommended by Rick Strickland. Wahungu turned out to be a conscientious and hard worker; he now has a good working knowledge of compressors and mud pump, rotary head workings and will be a real asset to the team in the future.

Les has also been dealing with the future lease of the secure compound at Kitale which, on behalf of Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K., he has been leasing for a number of years. This property has been sold on and the new owner offered a new contract at double the previous rent. This has been renewed for an initial 6 months and Les is now considering with the owner' agents, some aspects of necessary repairs and other renovations under the terms of the new contract. The location, facilities and size of this compound continues to be invaluable for Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K.

There will be a new drilling team, although we are still very much in touch with Zeddys Sampson who has been the foreman of the team in the past. Les is confident that he will be able to recruit and with Zeddys, train up new suitable team members on his next visit - once he has obtained the necessary parts.

Les took the opportunity to meet with a long-standing friend Rick Strickland, who is our chief local contact in the area, to discuss developments of possible arrangements for Nehemiah Construction Ministries U.K. future well drilling in the Pokot / Turkana on behalf of the local governor and Members of the County Authority (MPs). This matter is still ongoing and awaiting Rick's return. To facilitate this in advance, on his way back through Nairobi, Les met with government departments officials regarding the necessary updated paperwork for future work including vehicle administration matters, work and tax registration, permits and similar official matters.

This update is simply all about GOD's wonderful timing.

