

Coding in Kenya

I gnu you'd want to know more

What does it look like for me to serve God with the strength He provides—to use whatever gift I have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms?¹

The country of Kenya is well off by some standards, having a long-standing position as the largest East African economy,² and taking steps of responsible governance with the promulgation of its 2010 constitution. Yet Kenya still faces substantial challenges, not the least of which are adequate healthcare delivery and disease control. An estimated 1.5 million Kenyans are living with the HIV virus, for instance.³

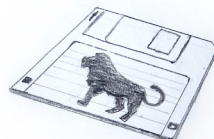
Good medical care and efficient healthcare resource management have a common dependency: good information. And when facing challenges of the scale of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the demands on the employed information system are rigorous. In other words, one can only hope to get good information from a good information system; yet few hospitals in Kenya have the resources needed to purchase and install adequate software.



I have the opportunity to join a team of programmers and health experts for a year in working on a high-quality, affordable hospital information system. The project is being spearheaded by the Christian Health Association of Kenya (CHAK), so the software will be built in Kenya by Kenyans, helping to ensure sustainability. The system will be based on another free software project—OpenMRS, which is led by the Regenstrief Institute, actively developed, and already used across the world—so it will have a good foundation. In addition, CHAK is partnered with Kenya's Ministry of Health and the Millennium Villages Project, so they have a certain amount of support and resources available.

Jesus brings true healing by removing our sin through his blood, but he started by living with us and meeting our physical needs. I hope that by using the abilities and gifts that God has given me that I can bring his healing to people in Kenya and make a lasting impact there.

Would you consider partnering with me in this work? I will need both financial and prayer support. I am going with SIM Canada and need to have my total support pledged before I can leave. Please consider a donation of \$200, \$100, \$50, or whatever God puts on your heart. Alternatively, you could support me on a monthly or quarterly basis; \$20 per month would be a big help. Donations are made through SIM (www.sim.ca) and are tax deductible. Please also let me know if I can count on you as a prayer supporter, as we trust God to change lives.



In Christ,

Daniel Shorten

¹ 1 Peter 4:10-11
² CIA World Factbook
³ WHO HIV/AIDS Fact Sheet for Kenya (2008)

Top 5 Causes of Death in Kenya

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1. HIV/AIDS | 38% |
| 2. Lower respiratory infections | 10% |
| 3. Diarrheal disease | 7% |
| 4. Tuberculosis | 5% |
| 5. Malaria | 5% |

Source: WHO World Health Statistics 2006



At Castleman Orphanage, Kenya in 2008 with A Better World



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