

## **COSMAS MAINA**

### **Report #K04**

#### **SURVEY**

In our survey of 3964 Kenyans, Cosmas Maina, a Kikuyu on the Coast who is approximately 40 years old, received the second highest number of votes for being the non-clergy leader with maximum impact. He was rated quite highly for skill at his work, for training leaders, for having a good reputation, for using resources efficiently, for having ethical integrity, etc. His organization, Teen's Watch, also was named as one of the Christian Organizations having maximum impact.

#### **ABSTRACT**

Cosmas Maina works with drug addicts to help set them free from their addictions. He has two parallel ministries that cater for the same at-risk population: Teens Watch and Set the Captives Free. Teens Watch is a community-based organization that utilizes peer educators to raise community awareness of harm reduction in areas such as drug abuse, alcoholism, and prostitution. Once they care for the individual, they try to push them in the direction of Set the Captives Free which is a faith-based organization that shares the gospel with them and reiterates that they need Jesus for a full recovery. Both organizations have received little funding from outside donors with the majority of the same being volunteers. However, despite the small support, he is hoping to build a rehabilitation center on 52 acres of neighboring land that will house addicts and also teach them skills before they leave the center. He is also planning to have a methadone program in his ministry once it has been approved for use by the government. Currently, they cannot share the gospel under Teens Watch, but when the rehabilitation center opens, it will be under Set the Captives Free thus making it clear to the community what the expectations there will be.

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Childhood Home***

Cosmas Maina was born in the Eastlands of Nairobi, which he says was the ghetto in those days. It is a suburb of the city but not for the middle class, but for the lower classes that have to work in the city. He was born and raised in the same city until he completed high school. He also attended the city council schools there and did not get the chance to leave for boarding school as some children might.

For Cosmas, life in the Eastlands made it very easy for him to get into drugs because it was the norm. When he was there, people smoked cigarettes, chewed khat and drank alcohol as a way of life. So if young people also partook in those things, it made them look cool to each other. He mentions that in his time, marijuana was the fad, so those who took it looked the greatest. So as children, they started with small cigarettes from their own home. They used to take them or steal them and light them up. Or they would make makeshift cigarettes with rolled up newspapers and smoke that. He thought it was fun at the time because he would be imitating the movies, which was shown free of charge at the time. He noticed that every star was smoking a cigarette and

began to think that this is what big people do. So at that time, he was just hoping that one day he would be able to buy his packet of cigarettes. So the easy access of drugs in his home, coupled with parental leniency allowed him to be easily swept off into the drug lifestyle thinking that this was something that would make him distinguished amongst his peers.

### ***Countries of Residence***

After college, Cosmas went to Italy where he lived for two and a half years. He had moved there with a girlfriend who was Italian but then came back after. When he went here, he went on his own before the ministry when he used to own a pub called Vera Cruz on the beach in the coast city of Malindi.

He has also gone to Indonesia, to learn about the issues of drugs and substance abuse. He has visited Ethiopia to do some work on child sex tourism, to see an example of what it is and what to look out for. He went to Mauritius to learn about methadone and how to treat opiate users as well as how to prevent relapse and the possible negative effects of the treatment. He also has gone to Scotland (Glasgow) to learn about alcohol abuse and treatment. He calls these trips good exposure, and all these trips have been funded and supported by the organization.

### ***Current Family***

His wife works with him at the ministry most of the time. His son is very young, in the second grade, so he is not involved in the ministry. But he works together with his wife and says that it has had an impact on the ministry because working with family has made it easier for him. When he had drug-addicted females come into the center, he feels that he is not the best person to talk to them. So he can refer them to his wife who then can take it from there. Mostly she handles the female aspect of the job and also some of the administrative aspects of the job.

### ***Educational Background***

He went to Kimathi Primary School in Kimathi, Nairobi. This was a city council school that catered to his neighborhood. He had to skip kindergarten because he was a big child because in those days all you had to do was put your hands over your head and if you could touch your opposite ear, you were ready to be enrolled in the first grade. He went through the old system of schooling where it ended in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and liked it because they used to get food from the Kenyatta government. They would also get all the school supplies that they needed: textbooks, stationary, etc. and school fees were only 17 to 23 cents per child, per 3-month term. He then went to City High School in Nairobi, which was converted into a Methodist University where he graduated. After that, he attended Universal College, which is a group of colleges for accounts.

When he started the ministry, he went for certificates in guidance and counseling from the Kenya Association of Professional Counselors where he got a diploma. He then went to Amani School of Counseling where he did a certificate in general counseling. Currently, he is thinking about getting a diploma in addiction counseling because he has not received that training and that is where most of his work is derived from. He also has had a lot of experience in the work of drug and substance abuse for over 20 years and has been with Teens Watch for 13 years as a person on the group working with drug addicted persons.

For his education as a child, his parents provided the fees that he needed. When he started the ministry, the Kenya Association of Professional Counselors gave him his first course free of charge and the certificate that came with it was also free. When he first walked into their offices and told them about what he had gone through and said that he has started a small rehabilitation center and had already started to change people, they asked him how he was doing it. When he told them that it was based on his experience and not education, they offered him some education that would impact the people even more. He also had support from the women of Jesus Celebration Center (JCC), namely from Madam Judy Mbugua and her group of women who helped him a lot when he started the rehabilitation programs.

### ***Personal Testimony and Calling***

When he was a child, Patrick Shaw used to be his role model who used to go out and minister to people. He was not a minister of God but used to warn people not to take drugs, become thieves or take up any kind of that lifestyle. But when he was young, Patrick Shaw would come and pick him, his siblings and their friends up when he would find them skipping school. He would buy them tea and bread then take them back to school. In the night, he would invite Cosmas to see his ministry first hand; and when he grew up, he knew that he wanted his ministry to be along the same lines of helping and changing young people.

When he was at Jesus Celebration Center in Nairobi, his pastor was Dennis White, who has since left, but he was the one who brought him to God. He has a close relationship with the pastor and his wife and together they started a program for children in Eastlands to help fish them out of their circumstances. They led him to Christ around 1998 and 1999, and he was able to go out and try and do the same himself. He left Nairobi around that time; but when he left his home church and the city, he went through some hardships with issues of drug and substance abuse. But the foundation that he was given was very important to him so that when he came out of all these issues, he was still able to go back to the church. His message that he used to share was “no more sleeping with pigs” based on the prodigal son in Luke. He wanted to come out of his circumstances and also fish out other people and try to help them change. He started with the Set the Captives Free ministry, which is a parallel ministry to Teens Watch. Teens Watch then came later as an entry point for drug addicts to receive the help they need to be lucid enough for the gospel.

### ***Influences***

The male leaders who influenced him worked on him at different times in his life. Patrick Shaw sowed the seed to grow a heart for helping and changing people, and Pastor Dennis White led him to Christ and continued that work of growing him as a person and as a leader. The female leader who most influenced him is Madam Judy Mbugua, who, alongside her women’s group, supported him when he came out of his last rehabilitation program. They would invite him to events where they would raise funds for him, and would call him to speak at their women’s fellowships. He was also greatly moved by the fact that she would actually touch him, because in those days he was very rough and dirty. But she would still touch him. She also would encourage him not to worry because recovery will take time and she saw the good person that he could become. Basically, he walked through his recovery with her and her women’s fellowship and now he can minister to women and children when he is invited.

## **CURRENT MINISTRY OR VOCATION**

### ***Work/Ministry***

He says that he coordinates about 12 outreach workers under Teens Watch, who go to the streets to reach people. Four of them are fully paid by the International HIV Alliance and KANCO, and the rest are volunteers. Every morning, by 7 AM, they go into the field, which is the streets where people are taking drugs--injecting themselves--to cater for them. They do not actually go with the gospel because they are not allowed to do it openly with the funding they receive. So the addicts have the option of Set the Captives Free, which stands on its own. They go out and supply clean syringes to the drug addicts, and condoms and lubricants to sex workers. They also go out and wash wounds before and after they have been infected, and usually they are wounds caused by drug use or mob justice such as a thief that is caught and stoned. They also talk to people about sexual reproductive health and have had the chance to speak to girls who were engaging in bestiality, and to homosexual men. They also reach out to sex workers who sell themselves for 60 cents a man and can sleep with about 20-30 men a day. They try and give them advice and a condom to protect themselves; but then it depends on what the client wants and how desperate they are for the money. He has set aside money for those who are in the bush to bring them out of the trade and drugs and bring them to church. He also teaches children in schools to be careful that they do not end up in such a situation that they are doing anything for money, both for the boys and the girls.

They also go around nightclubs and bars and put up signs that prohibit minors from drinking. They train personnel there on how to take care of such children and also drive around to make sure that they are being enforced. Sometimes they will find minors drinking, and they will take them back home to their parents. They do have a special uniform that identifies them, and they partner up with the police to make sure that once a minor is found, the law is enforced. But even without the police, they already have a reputation, so their presence is enough. For those minors they find in other situations such as bestiality, he has an opportunity to minister to them alongside a church and bring them into the fold. At times, he has had to intervene in times of mob justice, and save a person from being killed. So he has to take the person, such as a thief who was being stoned, and put him in the car and take him to the hospital because the community will not want to save such a criminal.

They have received some pushback because as Christians, people do not understand why they would do this; but they want to protect people. They call it community action on harm reduction, and recognize that a person cannot stop taking drugs in a day. So they believe that as they supply these things, they can give people a chance to stop and come out as a whole person. They are lowering the chance of the addicts and sex workers being infected by HIV/AIDS because once they get infected, it becomes very hard to share the gospel. Before they can start talking about salvation, they have to treat the HIV, for which there is no cure. So the individual has stress and depression, which they have found makes it very difficult to share the gospel with such people. They cannot stand up to sing and praise, and praying is difficult because they are in a lot of pain.

### ***Mission/Vision***

His mission is intertwined with his ministry to set the captives free, as he wants to get as many people as possible out of drugs. So his goal is to set up a rehabilitation center on 52 acres where

people can come and stay drug-free, but also be able to serve Christ in the same place. It would be a yearly program that will also train them on skills, which they can use once they come out and serve the community and have a tangible positive impact. This is the biggest goal that he is trying to accomplish before he becomes too old to be able to move around so much with the team. So he is trying to get in touch with the nation's president so that the government can support such a center in the area.

### ***Organization***

He works very closely with KANCO which is a Kenyan NGO consortium. It brings a lot of people who deal with HIV and AIDS and is the organization that funded him when he started his ministry. When he began in 2000, he had just a small room on the community showground that people used to think was a toilet. He was given the room free of charge to run the organization and KANCO was the only one funding him. The Internal HIV Alliance pays a modest salary for him and three other workers in the organization. The Rotary Club did one fundraiser for him after he spoke, but that was all. Barclays Bank has also worked with him regarding funding, but that was not a frequent or continual partnership.

He has worked with Word of Life Ministries in Ukunda in leadership training. He has also worked with the Christian Interfaith Fellowship, which is for pastors and imams. He goes there to train them on the issue of drugs. He works with JCC in Mombasa, which calls him to have talks with the youth from the church. He has worked with the British Council and UNICEF for logistical support.

### ***Impact/Success/Assessment***

Since he began his ministry in 2000, he is still the only one doing this type of work full time in all Kwale County. There are people who have tried to start similar missions, but he thinks that due to lack of passion, the ministries have not survived. He never works in other fields despite job offer in hotels, because he prefers to do what he is doing. But for the little money that they have received, they are accomplishing a lot of work. The community also has finally accepted them because at first they did not want the organization there because it was going to bring in addicts. They have had different groups call them to talk about drugs, which would not have been acceptable before, especially because of the conservative nature of the Islamic community. Hotels are even trying to help by donating bedding and water.

They are reaching more people than before, which is a double-edged sword for Cosmas. When he first started, he only had three injecting drug users. Slowly, he got 80 of the same and in 2013 he has over 800. So for him, it means that the issue of drug and substance abuse is growing, and he has the manpower for it now, but might not in the new future.

One of their peer educators, Ali, has been greatly influenced by the work Cosmas has been doing. When he first met Ali, he was a Rastafarian and had dropped out of school in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade for ten years. Now he is back in school when he is about to turn 30 years old and in his junior year of high school. He achieved the best grades in his grade school exit exam and now his passion is to graduate so he can reach other people with his work and also his testimony. They also have another man named Mateso, which is Swahili for a person who suffers, who was changed. Mateso was a Rastafarian, who came in and cut off all his hair when he gave his life to

Christ and stopped taking drugs. Now he is sober and has a boutique on the beach, which sells curios.

Cosmas states that the significant ingredient to his success is Christ, who pushes him forward. He helps them grow and has prevented him from falling ill so that he could achieve all that he has been able to. He has also been protected from a lot of evil that was planned for him such as set-ups from the police and the barons. He finds comfort in the Word of God, knowing that he is in the palm of his hand, but reiterates that if it were not for Christ, most of his plans would not be working.

### ***Training/Leadership Development***

Personally, he does a lot of training for his peer educators and others. He has gone out as a facilitator to teach others how to tell people more about issues of drug and substance abuse. He can also teach them about using their life and how they can protect themselves in certain situations because there is an element of risk in the work that he does. There is also the psychological aspect of the training such as guiding and counseling the drug addicts but also protecting yourself. Additionally, he mentors young people because he believes that this generation has a lot of growing up to do.

For those interested in doing what he is doing, he advised them to avoid doing work to get a good salary, house or any materialistic motive. He teaches sacrifice, even if it is just time, to be able to talk to other about Christ, talk to others about changing their lives and becoming better people. He believes that we are in a society where everyone thinks about themselves and what their family is going to get. It is usually about the cars and the mortgage when a lot of people forget those who are being neglected and what he calls the MAPS, the most at-risk populations. He advises young people to talk to these populations positively, not neglect the drug addicted so that they can be able to cater for the 99 that are lost.

In terms of number of young people trained over time, he estimates 10-20,000 because he goes into schools where he talks to the children and trains them on drugs and substance abuse. He also shows videos on abstinence and saying no, as well as on personal hygiene. In his line of work, it is very hard to see the exact number of successful training and leadership development because that is very personal information that one can lie or not report. He has examples of a few people who have changed such as Ali and Mateso and also his peer educators, but the rest of the people he has trained such as the school children are harder to gauge.

### ***Professional Relationships***

There is the International HIV Alliance that supports them through KANCO for salary and funding. USAID is coming in with Fanikisha, which wants to support him in the aspect of scaling up his operation in Kwale. They would want to bring in a television so that the young people can have something to do. They also would want to bring in a pool table, have clean showers for people to come in and wash up, because the drug addicts usually come in very dirty. They also want to add a hair salon to cut hair so that the addicts can be hygienically clean.

He has partnered with Muhuri, which is a Muslim human rights group which at first did not want to talk even about drugs. Now they call him to partner up to talk about syringes and drug abuse.

He also has partnered with the Rotary Club and local individuals who contribute money, clothes, and materials. According to Cosmas, the churches have not been involved in his work because they would like the tithe, and the people that he works with are not bankable. Actually, it is him who supports the church by giving materials. For example, if they have an abundance of pens, they will donate them to the church and the church will even come asking when the next slot is arriving. Additionally, the topic that his ministry covers is a sensitive topic in church that they cannot speak of it. He has found that they think that he is promoting condoms while people should be abstaining, but these are people outside the church. But even those within the church are engaging in such behavior but do not want to talk about it there.

### ***Partnerships/Links***

When he was starting out, he would go to different hotels and talk to them and put pictures of his past all around. He claims that most people thought that he was not in his right mind, or he was trying to bring about an idea that would not work in the area. But slowly, he got individuals to partner with him by giving him materials to start out and opportunities to talk where afterward they would raise money for him. He slowly built his office from the one room by asking different people for support, but no organization except the HIV Alliance through KANCO would support him. And mostly he found that it was tourists and not citizens who were able to understand his ideas and what he was trying to accomplish.

Locally, he has tried to bring in the church to provide support, but the church has not shown an interest. He states that he tried to convene the local churches to do outreach with this population and maybe have a soup kitchen with food, clothing and some bedding, but when he spoke to the pastors, they were not interested. He did hold a few meetings, but by the third meeting, it was quite empty, so he stopped. To him, the problem is that the addicts will not give money to God, but rather they will try to feed their habit. And according to him, the church has become commercialized so that for a prayer, you must pay something. He knows that if he were to write to churches abroad, there would be interest but he feels that it is the responsibility of the local churches to support the ministry. International churches would bring in funds, but the local churches can support the ministry if some of the pastors want to buy planes and others have their limousines while the local people are perishing. In fact, the pastors have been trying to use him to bring more donors to their churches so that they can increase their support.

Therefore, his relationship with the church has become one where he “cleans them” up so that they can be presentable to enter the church. In his experience, the church is a comfort zone where people want to wear their best and do not want to sit next to a dirty person. But he has had the opportunity to bring many to church and has found that many of the girls can sing in the praise and worship teams when they have been delivered. He has been invited to speak at churches such as the Seventh Day Adventist in Mombasa, the Salvation Army, and even has spoken in mosques. He was a Muslim for some time when he was really desperate, and it appeared to him that Muslims were more devout. But he says that he discovered that it was a show and thus turned back to Christ.

He would greatly benefit from technical support because there is hardly any in the office. The financial aspect is quite huge because the land they want to buy is \$29,000 for 52 acres, which is not a lot of money in another sense because it is meant to help people. They also would like to

buy a machine to make blocks for the rehabilitation center, which will hold 100 people. He is looking at the government for support because there is a real need for the center and the problem is not just limited to the church.

In his certificate of registration, which he calls the Constitution, he has limited himself to who he will or will not work with. He will work with people who will want to see the work done and not undermine it with their reputation. He is open to working with the church, the local organizations such as the Rotary Club, and the government. He will not work with breweries or drug companies such as the khat association in Kenya. They have approached him, and at one time he was so fed up that he considered taking their money. But then he thought about it and declined because if he were to work with the breweries or the khat association, people would not understand his work. These organizations would fund him on the condition that they put their label in every corner. He feels that it would undermine his work and even hinder the recovery of addicts who would be surrounded by the labels in a place that is supposed to be safe. So all they do with bars and pubs are that they go into them, they put up free posters that prohibit minors from drinking, and patrol the bars for them but leave the police to enforce the laws.

### ***SWOT: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats***

He narrates about some his strengths as having been in the capacity building he has been able to do through KANCO and the various organizations. He says that he has been able to put his data in a central registry where he can tell at a glance how many young people they have reached every day. For him, it is really important, especially to know about the number of injecting drug users because it is his main target. So he claims that he knows how many were given syringes, condoms, water, lubricants, etc. So at a glance, he can be able to do monitoring and evaluation. His records are digital, so it is easier to look at them. He also has some modern equipment that he can use for the ministry such as an LCD machine for movies and some computers to reach the generation. Lastly, he has a small staff that is reaching a big number of people.

According to his assessment, his weaknesses are that he is not able to reach the whole population of Kwale because the capacity is low in terms of finances and manpower. He also cannot keep his staff on for a long time because if they find a good job where they are paid they will leave. He has a limitation of working space and is currently working out of three small rooms and could use more space for a clinic. He has to store the medical equipment in large boxes in his office because there is no space. The television and the computer room are the same, which makes it hard to work there. He says that the biggest weakness is working in a Muslim area where they are not appreciated as much because they are people of a different faith. Some of the community feels that they are there to change the addicts into becoming Christians, and so sometimes people do not want help from them at all. But they are still there and are still hoping to open a satellite office in different areas of the coastal region.

According to Cosmas, some of the unique opportunities that he has are due to the 'fact' that he is the 'only one' in Kwale County doing what he is doing full time. Currently, the government wants to bring in methadone into the country for opiate users. So when it comes into the country, he has already been to Mauritius and seen how it works, the benefits and the risks of bringing it in. He can circumvent some of the risk of abuse because he fears that the barons may stop selling heroin and start selling methadone. Addicts will be receiving it for free at the clinic in the



morning and may try and abuse it in the streets later. So he is in a unique position to try and stop it from spreading because he has been able to see the possible effects. He is also in a unique position to share the gospel with the Islamic community through the medically assisted program. Because the rehab will be set up under the auspices of Set the Captives Free, and not Teens Watch, they will have to come in knowing that it is a Christian organization and thus have to adhere to the guidelines.

Some of the threats that he has been facing are from those in the legal and illegal drug business. Sometimes the barons want him out of the place because he is 'interfering with their market.' Even now before the methadone has come into the market, the barons are already resisting that it comes in. At first, Cosma narrates, with the needle and syringe program, the barons thought that Teens Watch was coming in to remove heroin out of the market. But now they understand that it is not harming their work. But the pharmacies are unhappy because they used to make money selling the syringes and now the addicts are getting them for free. He has also gotten threats to close down the office not only from barons but also from competitors who want to come in and set up a similar operation. He has had setups such as in 2010 when an addict came in with mercury and counterfeit currency, and the policemen came in 5 minutes later and accused Cosmas of selling mercury and minting counterfeit money. Luckily he had the number of the policemen's boss and told him of the situation, and he was not arrested. Later they were set up with marijuana in the car, but they smelled it before they reached the police roadblock and threw it out the window. They have reported the threats, and the set-ups but the police have not followed up.

He faces some constraints in his work such as the financial aspects that will allow him to have more workers and start a rehabilitation center. He states that ideally there should be three programs available to the addicts: needle and syringe program, methadone and a rehabilitation center. But right now there is only one option, and soon there will be only two, and neither will be a long-term solution to the problem.

### ***Reading and Writing***

Most of his reading is in the area of community action and harm reduction. However, when starting out, he says he was greatly influenced by Sir Richard Branson and his book on business. He also likes Reverend Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's *The Power of Positive Thinking*. But most of his personal reading is on textbooks and chosen by virtue of the topic; there are no known African authors on the subject. He has to Google a lot of information because textbooks are expensive and instead of buying a book, he says he would rather buy food for people or clothes for the addicts or office furniture. But he can print out pdf files and read from there.

He wished that he had more print resources such as books on his work and also self- help books for the addicts to read and better themselves. They have a few pamphlets that they print sometimes, but they often are distributed faster than they can be printed. The ones that they have are donated from the Amazing Grace Ministry International and Word of Life, which are about the gospel. They print some themselves on drug and substance abuse but to Cosmas, the material never ends. They keep having to update them and make new ones, and those also go very fast. They make some t-shirts for their staff with messages, but it all depends on donor funding and they wish they had more.

Cosmas has written a few articles for KANCO, write-ups about the daily work that they do at Teens Watch. They can be found on the KANCO website and also the HIV Alliance website where they tell people what Teens Watch is doing. He sees writing as something important for him to do in the future and is hoping to write someday a memoir starting from how he got into drugs until his work right now. It will be about setting the captives free and informing people on what happens in schools, how children learn to take drugs and what happens when someone gets fully addicted. He would like it to cover the whole of Kenya but be especially informative to parents on what they should look out for when they have children. He also wants to focus on the sons in terms of drugs and how they are influenced so the book will partly be a parenting tool dealing with the issue of drugs.

### ***Electronic Media***

He uses a modem to get onto the Internet, but they do not have built-in Wi-Fi at this time. They have to pay \$3 a week for access, which constrains their already burdened budget. The area is remote, but they do have a Facebook page called 'Set the Captives Free.' They also have a twitter account for the addicts @settheadicts. They have an email address: teenswatch2002@yahoo.com, which helps them officially communicate with others. He has a personal cell phone, which he uses, and it gets a good signal. Facebook has been the most useful because they write messages on there such as inviting people to come out and serve addicts breakfast or donate if they do not want actually to come out. People respond by coming out or comment either positively or negatively. Either way, he believes that the comments allow him to know what people are thinking about his ministry. He does not respond to negative comments because most of the time someone will respond to the comment in an appropriate manner. Cosmas wishes that he had better access to the Internet and at a more affordable rate. They need Wi-Fi for everyone to use because the youth cannot access the Internet on the computers.

### ***Finances & Other Resources***

Once a year, they try and do some fundraising campaign, but it has never worked well. Most of the time, the people that they serve cannot raise support and also put it out there that they are addicts, the community stigmatizes them. Most people will not donate if it is not for children because they feel that drug addicts brought their situation on themselves. So resources for his ministry come from KANCO and the HIV Alliance. No churches give money or resources. The hoteliers and the hotel association give resources that they can spare, but not money. The government, through the policemen, provides manpower to enforce the laws.

Outside of the country, they have a lot of volunteers who come in. He has had a Swiss man who brought bandages and syringes for them to distribute. At times, tourists come and paint the office. Some come in and donate financially, but mostly people prefer to give manpower. So they usually come in and do something practical to leave the place better than they found it.

### ***Political Arena***

To Cosmas, politics is a very different game from the church. He believes that politicians often have to cheat by promising people things that they know they cannot accomplish. Additionally, bringing the gospel into politics does not garner a very big following because people are confused when bishops tell them that God loves them but the people are not at a political rally to

hear that. They want to hear what the politician is planning for their future, and they also want handouts. Campaigns often require giving money, bribery, and cheating. Sometimes, according to Cosma, politicians will find their potential voters chewing khat or drinking illicit brews and they will have to sit and participate to show them that they are equal. This, according to Cosmas, brings problems because congregants will not understand the Christian leader when he/she goes to the pulpit and begins preaching or praying. They will wonder if this is the same person who is preaching that partook in such behavior. So he feels that Christian leaders should be mentors to politicians and abstain from running for office.

### ***Future***

In the near future, he wants to put up the rehabilitation center on the 52 acres of neighboring land. They will plant trees and have an animal farm that will help the rehabilitation center be sustainable. They also want to buy a machine that makes blocks because soon the coral in the coast will no longer be available. So if he can find sponsors to bring the money, then they can make the blocks and build the rehabilitation center themselves. The center will be free, so the addicts will have to give back in some way so that it can continue. He plans to have a farm where they can grow kale, onion, and tomatoes, etc., which are staples of the Kenyan diet. So the community can buy from the center and take some responsibility to keep it open themselves. This way the center can be able to reach even those in the bush who have largely been infected by HIV and AIDS and can change if they are put in the right environment. A lot of them are 'selling themselves for a fix' and have children who are being neglected.

There will also be a halfway house for those addicts who have recovered so that they can reintegrate back into society slowly instead of getting fully immersed too fast. Here the residents will be able to learn skills that they can use when they are going back into society. Cosmas would like this especially for the girls who are in the street, the bush and the professional sex workers who have had to resort to such measure due to the lack of other options. This can be a safe place for them to recover as well as also help their own children out in the future.

He has an opportunity to buy the land and plant trees that he believes will net him millions of shillings in 7 years, which will sustain the center. He also will have an animal farm with cattle, goat and sheep which not only can get money from being sold but also from their products. Currently, there is an opportunity that has been brought forth by China that is asking that Kwale County supply them with 50,000 rabbits every month. He does not think that they will be able to reach 50,000; but if they partner up with a few other organizations or individuals, they can keep the deal and perhaps raise 5,000 rabbits each.

The main factor that will play a role in whether or not he will be able to fulfill these goals is his health and safety. He prays that he will still remain healthy but also that the clashes will stop or subside enough for him to be able to set up the rehabilitation center. If he can remain healthy, then he will be able to keep working in all aspects of the ministry and continue building on the work as the demand grows. He also can be able to continue traveling and learning more about drugs and how other countries are combating them. And if the clashes continue, they will hinder the construction of the center because the security will be at risk and people will not want to come out. Additionally, clashes lead to travel alerts which hinder tourists from freely traveling to the country, and he relies a lot on the goodwill of people and different volunteers.

***Report Preparation Information***

Peninah Kimiri and David Ngaruiya prepared this report. Peninah Kimiri interviewed Cosmas Maina on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013.