

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES



Last month marked the 3-year anniversary since the idea for the Christian Business Angels was given to us, at our Compassion-hosted "business trip" wrap-up meeting in Nairobi Kenya.

Since then, we've held workshops for hundreds of Compassion LDP students, reviewed more than fifty business plans, and made investments in the companies of several young entrepreneurs. Along the way, we have met talented and eager young entrepreneurs, learned much about Kenyan culture, African entrepreneurship and long-distance investing.

Based on the progress to date, our vision remains clear and unchanged - to help young Christian men and women start companies through which they can raise up local employment while serving their communities with their passion and talents.

Of course, starting companies is a multi-year process, and as CBA we are now in the midst of our initial 5-year "get -started" period. It is still too early to gauge our results, but one thing is clear - we are on our way to helping young men and women through workshops, coaching and in some cases, financial investments also.

We encourage you to pray for the success of our efforts and to "watch this space" to see how God will use us in this task. Further, we encourage you to start thinking about whether joining us as a Business Angel in the future is something that you may be called to do.

*Roland Heersink, Chairman CBA Netherlands
december, 2015*

The KLM/AirFrance ClubAfrica e-Newsletter carried a feature article on the Christian Business Angels. Check it via the attached link: <http://www.your-bizbook.com/en/Club-Africa-News/angels-boost-entrepreneurial-talent-in-kenya>

CBA NETHERLANDS FINANCES

The activities of CBA are financed by gifts from the CBA members, with at least, a yearly regular gift of EUR 2.500. We also received gifts from business sympathizers which support the vision of CBA to help alumni in their business plan. In addition to our bank account in the Netherlands, we opened a bank account in Nairobi at the end of 2014. Since the start we have invested about EUR 20.000 to finance the businesses of our young entrepreneurs. We expect to finance a similar amount in the coming period.

Jan Voois, treasurer CBA Netherlands



VIC GREEN FARM LIMITED

This past month, Vic Green Farm Limited started food growing operations in eastern Kenya. Located near the shores of Lake Victoria just outside the city of Kisumu, the first greenhouse has been placed on the CBA-financed property, with plans (and space!) for at least 3 additional greenhouses in the coming years.

Victor Onyango - former Compassion sponsor child and university graduate in business administration and farm accounting - is the principal partner for CBA in the start of this business. To his advantage, Victor has a long background of growing vegetables throughout his childhood, especially after losing both his parents at a young age. Victor has grown up within walking distance of the greenhouse location and has extensive contacts in the area to help with the work as the business grows.

Following placement of the first greenhouse on the property, Victor's friends and neighbors will help build a small mud house on the property, so that Victor can move out of his aunt's home and live next to the greenhouse - a nice touch to secure the CBA investment!

The Vic Green business will replace imported tomatoes and leafy greens coming from Uganda - often by a rough motorcycle trip across the equator - with high-quality local foods. Since local residents do not see farming as an honorable profession and local soil conditions are mediocre, we see a sustainable advantage for the Vic Green business.



2015 Summer Workshop Success

On the very same weekend as President Obama visited Nairobi for the Global Entrepreneurship Conference, the CBA held its own 3rd annual Business Planning workshop for budding young Christian entrepreneurs from across Kenya.

This year's workshop focused on "Startup Company Success Secrets" and involved a fun mix of CBA lectures and participant-run contest in which attendees presented a very short 3-minute funding proposition for their business plan ideas to the workshop, followed by the answering of impromptu questions selected at



The workshop lectures shared the collective CBA wisdom related to business startup success, while the game-show-style mini-contest quickly revealed weak points in the student plans for their further attention. The workshop was once again held ahead of the annual CBA Business Plan Contest submission deadline, and is therefore a useful tool in the student's business plan development.

This year, 22 students and alumni attended the all-day workshop. In order to maximize interactions and learning, workshop participation was on an invitation-only basis to those students/alumni already registered for the Business Plan Contest.

2015-2016 Business Plan Contest

This year, CBA is hosting the 3rd annual Business Plan Contest for Compassion LDP graduates and other young Christian entrepreneurs in Kenya.

From the 20 business plan entries, we have selected 4 finalists and are now coaching these young people to further develop their business plans, before deciding on the winners for CBA investment.

This year's finalists include submissions in the areas of software/IT, student counseling, fish farming and food production. Final selection is scheduled for January with investment by CBA to follow later in Q1 or Q2 of 2016



CRYSTALYN MEDIA

This year, CBA also partnered with by Karanja Kiarie, David Kirika and Sheila Obilo to help launch the Crystalyn Media business in Nairobi Kenya.

Crystalyn was already in business when they entered the CBA 2014-2015 Business Plan competition, giving them a distinct advantage over the other Compassion LDP students in the competition. Now, Karanja works in the business full-time as the music producer, while Sheila and David remain active in other pursuits.

Crystalyn has booked agency and recording deals with a number of talented Christian musicians and is now expanding its efforts to provide top-notch music studio and live recording services to additional artists in the Nairobi area.

As a result of our investment in Crystalyn, they have been able to secure the necessary recording studio facilities and equipment to allow further business expansion. Crystalyn offices are headquartered in the northeast of Nairobi, and are also the new home of Karanja and Sheila, who were married just this past summer.

