

Soccer team enjoys Kenyan mission



Sterling College's soccer team (from left) Ryan Covey, Michael Wells, Pedraam Abrar, Kyle Burns, Dario Villatoro, Cuyler Prichard, Michael Baxter and Jordan Getting take time to pose at Ngong Hills. (Photos by Jennifer Underwood)

Player enjoys journey

**By GODFREY MIHESO
LYONS NEWS INTERN**
Mission ministry has always been a cornerstone at Sterling College. The college men's soccer team spent 10 days of bonding and sharing the gospel with Kenyan communities. Sterling soccer coach David Underwood and his team had an opportunity to minister with Gary Getting. Getting spent much of his youth as a student and missionary at Kijabe Missions in central Kenya. Getting's son, Jordan from Hutchinson, was raised in a family that went on short-term and long-term missions. "I was so touched by how people survive without proper road and drainage systems in Africa's largest slum Kibera," said Jordan Getting. The 10-day trip left life-time memories for the team. "Kenyans live as if they are in heaven, but

only three of five homes in Kibera have electricity in their huts," he said. The 12 member team visited Tumaini (Hope) Children's Home, an orphanage of HIV AIDS victims hosts 11 children from within a given area of their operation. Getting tells of how emotional it was when a 6-year-old child from Tumaini marched straight to his lap with a smile and said words in a Swahili language that he had understood from the movie, "Lion King." Getting said the children appeared happy despite the fact they were infected with the HIV virus. "Those kids ran and played around as if nothing was affecting their health," Getting said. The trip through Nairobi's streets was an eye-opener for most of the team that had never been out of the United States. "Playing friendly soccer matches was very fun, a little ad-

vanced football (soccer) with lots of skills." Despite the heavy rains the trip impacted at least every member of the team from the Swahili foods made from corn and wheat flour called Ugali and of course through playing and taking Bible devotion together. The team made a Safari to Nairobi National Park where they looked eye-to-eye with the King of the Jungle, a rare scene at this time of the year. Jordan felt privileged to see part of Africa's pride in the forest. "I was so shocked, but felt safe seeing such a multitude of lions, peaceful and calm, walking along with our car," he said. He felt the need to share the Gospel with the underprivileged as his life-changing lesson from the trip. "Our presence meant a lot to the Kenyans because we played and prayed together," he said.



Cuyler Prichard of Aurora, Colo. enjoys the attention of two Kenyans.



Sterling College players pass out soccer balls and equipment.

Team learns lessons

STERLING -- During one game the soccer players had to brace the ball with stones at kickoff to keep it from rolling, and one barefooted opponent had to leave early because the rocks on the field cut his heel. It was not soccer at its finest, but the hugs shared between the two teams' players following the game were genuine. "Soccer is an amazing tool for ministry," said Dave Underwood, Sterling College soccer coach. Eight players traveled to work with the sports ministry program at St.

Andrews Presbyterian Church in Nairobi, Kenya. "If you throw a soccer ball out on any field around Nairobi, people gather. If you send a team of American players out on the field, THAT draws a crowd," Underwood said. "Through soccer we formed friendships and that led to more personal, more effective ministry." Several young people from St. Andrews joined with the SC players to form a full squad, and the American/Kenyan team played eight matches in 10 days. After each game, both

teams gathered for a time of prayer and sharing. "It was important that we shared the most important thing in our lives, relationship with God through Christ. Next to that, everything else is nothing," said Underwood. The Sterling College players and coach conducted a clinic for nearly 450 children ranging in age from four to 18. Following the training session, the SC team was able to give balls to their coaches who took their teams to the clinic. SEE KENYA, Page 8

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