

CHILDREN ARE PEOPLE

East Africa April 2019

Our trip began in Moi's Bridge visiting our main project of the Children Are People School and spending much time making necessary improvements there and at the children's homes. With 160 children nothing less can be expected. Things we in the States take so quickly for granted are daily struggles for children in Kenya. Daily difficulties such as five children with malaria in one day, house mother illnesses and septic tank overflows are just a few. The Kenya government sometimes adds to the difficulties and unfortunately, there is still so much corruption in Africa. There are always needs but with the prayers and support of others we were able to bring hope to these situations.

We are excited and blessed, our school ranked second among schools in their local zone this year. We are so proud of our students and thank God for the great teachers that dedicate so much time and effort into the lives of these little people. Please continue to pray for God's direction and provision in the school. All children deserve the right to a good education in a safe and secure atmosphere. Will Guest's Golfing Fundraiser on June 8, 2019 in Oxford, Mississippi will give the school a needed boost. We need classrooms completed, a transportation van, supplies for the teachers, etc. Next year as we add eighth grade, we will need to board students in one half of the Children Are People House.

The simplest little things become some of the sweetest memories. Under the hot African sun with a simple stick and the dusty African yard, Marianne, a student at our school, patiently taught Luetta and Marie a lesson in Swahili—numbers, letters and basic phrases. It's humbling really, if a young child can so easily see opportunities, where are we as adults? There are so many things we can learn from children. Let us learn from the wisdom of Christ—unless you change and become like

little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, Matt:18:2-4. How often do we as adults miss the gifts and divine appointments of God in our pride and arrogance?



Mt. Elgon



Pastor Davidson

On Mount Elgon we purchased a new motorcycle for Pastor Davidson, provided his son with a laptop, a useful tool for his future schooling, and distributed many feminine packs provided by Eden Song Ministries and Central Baptist Church. Clothing given by Kathy Dehlbom's friends were handed out to pastors' wives and women/girls in need. We appreciate all the generosity of our faithful friends. It would not be possible to do what we do without your prayers and support!

We were greeted with much sadness on the mountain. Our dear friend Metrine lost her young daughter. Isabella was in her mid to late twenties, and had been severely diabetic for years and finally lost the battle. Metrine lost her mother, Nora, just a couple of months ago. She's suffered such loss recently. Along with the death of her family members she also lost her cow to disease. Losing a cow in Africa is like losing your car and job at the same time. It's gone.

There was no hope to replace it, but because of the generous gift from a friend we were able to purchase Metrine another cow. She can sell the milk to help provide for herself.

In the time of grief, it's so easy to feel alone and forsaken. God has NOT forgotten her!



Julie & Emmanuel

While on Mt. Elgon, the Children Are People team was able to visit Julie and her family. Julie is a bright 15 year old girl who had polio as a young child and is unable to walk. Even though this disease affected her limbs, it has not affected her spirit. She is such a lovely sweet young lady. CAP provided her with a wheelchair last year. Julie's mother provided for Julie until she lost her teaching job due to a foot injury. They moved to her homeplace where her gracious parents dwell. It is culturally improper for her father to sleep in the same house as his daughter since she had been married. For \$300 we could provide metal roofing and timber to help this family build Julie and her mother their own little house on her parents' property. Because of a dear supporter, her house is being built.

The team also visited Emmanuel who many of you know from last year. Emmanuel's legs needed tendon release surgery so he could learn to walk. Thanks to the supporter who paid for his surgery and care he is recovering, but will need braces starting in July as he learns to walk properly.



Pastor Margaret

We love the children! We were fully equipped with Bible lessons and crafts because of Dixie's friend, Marilyn O'Brien. Thank you for providing the materials and making our teaching experience a breeze. What a delight. It's always an honor to share the love of Christ. It's difficult to adequately describe the sheer delight these children find in the simplest little things. Stickers, crayons, and crafts are treasures to these children. The children meticulously colored their pictures.

Here is Pastor Margaret asking Kathy to come stay a year.



Chwele Town



Pastor Joseph

Pastor Joseph met us at the base of his area of Mt. Elgon; it's too far for us to walk up.

Marie and Luetta ministered to the children while the rest of the team gave women/teen girls feminine packs and passed out Bibles supplied by Kathy's church, Fountain of Life in Springfield, MO. They nearly knocked one another over for a Bible!



Pastor Francis O'Charles

Children Are People has known Pastor Francis for a few years. We haven't helped him much so far, but he would be a good candidate in the future.

Like most pastors in Africa, Pastor Francis has a church and a school. Like so many he rents land because it is so expensive to buy. We visited his school and wow...we were impressed! The children sang a welcome song, answered questions during our Bible lesson and behaved well listening for over an hour.

The classrooms were simple timber structure with tin sides and roof. Painted with chalk paint, the maps and charts were drawn on the tin walls.

Children received a shortbread cookie and a sucker as we said our goodbyes.



Pastor Titus

Pastor Titus was very busy the day we visited. He is building new classrooms because enrollment in the school doubled since last year. School was not in session when we were there, but Luetta attracted some nearby children. Pastor Titus still needs funds for cement floors in the classrooms.

Dirt floors harbor the dreaded parasite "jiggers" that embed themselves under the skin of hands and feet. Treatment is costly and painful.



Kenya



Bungoma - Bishop Justus Ochuro

Dixie was honored to be asked to share the Children are People message at Bishop Justus's Word of Life Church. It's amazing how the people are grabbing the vision of pouring into the lives of children. The population of Sub-Saharan African countries is projected to double by 2050. There will be countries with more than 50-60% children. In light of that, many came forward to dedicate their lives to children's ministry. Several men came forward as well, which is really amazing. In African culture women and children are not favored; to see this response is truly a work of the Holy Spirit.

Please Pray for Kenya's Street Boys

Kenya has many homeless boys that range between the ages of 12 and 17 years old. Many of these boys are addicted to sniffing glue that destroys their minds with similar effects like drug abuse. Some are orphans and some have run away because of abusive homes. Some are on the streets because of circumstances but others choose to be there. It's heartbreaking to see such young lives being wasted, however in such circumstances the love of Christ can shine brighter.

We had several opportunities to minister to these young men. It's simple to get their attention, feed them. It's heartbreaking to see a little boy eat a full loaf of plain bread. Unimaginable dangers and difficulties face them daily—hunger, fear, weather conditions, criminals and other dangers. No wonder so many become thieves and turn to drugs to numb the pain. Our hearts break when thinking of the horrible situations these children must have faced in their homes to choose a life of hunger and difficulty on the streets. We shared food and the love of Jesus with these boys.

Several years ago Children Are People tried putting Jackson, a street boy, into school. We desperately wanted him to succeed. The first time we purchased him a uniform and paid his school fees. He promptly sold the new uniform for one-third its value and connived the remaining school fee money from the secretary. We tried



again; he ran away. A structured lifestyle was too much for him. When God puts someone on your heart, giving up isn't optional. We tried again. This time he harassed the students so much he was expelled. We were so disappointed. We had one comfort, we tried. We decided there was nothing more we could do. Then GOD moved! It's amazing, Jackson is a believer, has a home, a wife and family. Now Jackson is appointed by his county government to oversee other street boys. He is a living testimony of a transformed life. Praise the Lord!



Bys Children's Home

Pastor Jeff and Stephanie Bys are American missionaries to Bungoma, Kenya. We visited the children's home and heard their hearts for children. They take any child, any age that needs help. Needless to say, they are in the midst of building a larger home and a school. Due to Kenya's dry spring, they started a feeding program serving thousands of meals per month. What a great resource they are to us!

