



"FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, DECLARES THE LORD, PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU A HOPE AND A FUTURE." JEREMIAH 29:11

Mission Trip 2018.....Trusting God when things aren't going your way!!

The question that trips up many of us, whether our faith is weak or strong, is; "Why isn't God answering my prayer?" Just yesterday I had a FB friend post something similar to this. It is a question many of us asked this year as we prayed at the airport. Now you are wondering, oh no, why would you need to pray at the airport. (One of our team members, a fabulous 18 yr old student, accidentally picked up his expired green card instead of his current permanent residence card.) You like me may not think this is a big deal, but airlines are serious about the rules. We prayed Diego would be able to get on the flight home with us even without that magic piece of plastic the airline wanted. We prayed God would make a way when there seemed to be no way. But, sadly, he wasn't getting on that flight. Why not, God? The answer is fairly simple: God's plans are always better than our plans! Yep, sounds too simple so I'll say it again, God's Plans are always better than our Plans. In Jeremiah 29:11 our founding verse, **God says: "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, Plans to give you a hope or a future."** But when our prayers aren't instantly answered, doubt creeps in and we start the downward train of thought that ends something like this... "Maybe He isn't all powerful, maybe God isn't even real" which is exactly what the devil wants you to think. He wants you to blame God because surely it's "His" fault things aren't going the way you want them to. And then, my friends, we are playing the blame game with the creator of the universe who literally spoke the sun, moon, and stars into being. This is a very dangerous place to be, because the devil is roasting marshmallows singing "Let it die, Let it Die, let it shrivel up and die." as he watches our hope fade away. Hope is a very precarious thing, it doesn't take much to see it fall away. So we have to have something more than hope. Many people say they know God, but knowing God with all the hope in the world isn't what saves us or changes our lives, or gets us to Heaven (Heck even devout Jews have hope), it's a little thing called trust. Yep, we can't just hope His Plans are better we have to TRUST His plans are better and follow it through with action. That action in trusting God is called Faith. So after being stranded in Kenya for what felt like forever (2days) God had already done so many things! He sent Diego's Uncle's friend half way across the world with his card. Provided for Diego, by prompting me to give Diego dollars, so when he attempted to leave the country the 2nd time and couldn't go, he would have the dollars he needed to get another visa. See Robert, Diego and I were all originally on that same flight out the 2nd time, but God being God, bumped us so when Diego couldn't leave again even on a one way to Amsterdam we would still be in country with him. God even worked it out so the same people at Hilton who picked us up the 1st night where there to get Diego the 2nd night after making a simple call. Plus, the people at a hotel already knew him all while the devil was throwing in attacks and hoops to jump through. (for more details message me and I'll fill you in on the whole saga. Roll forward to the climax. Sat at lunch I was going over all these things with Diego showing him how God is here with us each step and he said to me a very profound thing that many people stumble over. He said *"I've always believed in God, but now I trust HIM."* So what is it that God is doing in your life to get you to trust Him? Most of us don't think of getting stuck in a developing country as what it will take for God to show us that He's Got this, but in this case, He did. Oh the story Diego now has to tell. The truth is that there is evil, corruption, hate, and a whole lot of ugly in the world because the devil is working his hardest to get us to stumble and blame God. Because blaming God keeps us from seeing the truth. The truth is, when we open up and let God in, yes the evil is still there too, but now we have GOD on our side fighting for us and going on before us, working out the things we can't even see in the way ahead of us.





For the past 4 years, I have been in charge of games during our Vacation Bible Schools. Over those years, I have found that the older children are typically the hardest to get involved. As the older girls class made their way to games, I was a little nervous. At first they were a little shy, but after a few minutes they warmed up to me. Before I knew it, they were pulling me over the Aunt Wendy (their color group leader and our resident photographer). I was shocked whenever one girl put her arm around me and threw up a peace sign for our picture to be taken. Soon after, there was a swarm of girls around me in what turned out to be a 30 minute photoshoot. The next day, the girls ran out to games and started teaching me games that they liked to play. The group that I was worried about the most ended up being my favorite group of the whole trip. It was so much fun to get to love on, laugh with, and play with these girls. In the picture to the left, the girls and I are doing the SFA Lumberjack Axe (the sign of my college).

Thank you so much for your support,

Katie



If there is one face I will never forget, it is this lady whose name is Teresia. She lives in one of the poorest homes we visit with our basket of blessings: food, soap, blankets, etc. Many of us can't imagine a house with mud sides and dirt floor, with the only room on the inside for a small table and sleeping on both sides. The bed area is raised off the ground by a contraption of sticks so the blankets don't get wet when it rains and the water comes in to coat the dirt floor and turn it into mud. When we arrived, we were invited to step into her house where there was literally no place to stand as large tea baskets filled the table and the small bend behind it. I know you are thinking, "but where to the store their clothes or anything for that matter?" The clothes they have on are most likely the only they own aside from a few others being washed and hung. The air was stale as we jumbled in on top of each other to give her and her family of 6 the much needed food. I remember the feeling of wanting to get out of the house, of almost feeling trapped inside. I couldn't wait to pray bc that would mean we could get out of the house. Now as I reflect back, I wonder if this is how Teresia feels. If she feels trapped in her own home, by her own circumstances? I wonder as a

little girl, did she ever dream of something different for her life? I can tell you something I do know about her when we spoke, she asked for one thing and one thing only, a Bible. If you take a closer look at the head wrap you will notice what I failed to notice that day and the year before, on her head is the name "JESUS". So no matter how we might view her situation, she has a hope a lot of people know nothing about.

Love, Barbara

We are not just giving away backpacks, supplies, we are giving away HOPE for a brighter future and SMILES!!



**Funds
needed for
2019:
\$20,000**

This year we were able to bless so many more kids by your generous gifts. This year, we want to continue the relationships we are building at the two schools in Kenya. You can help us get there by visiting our page and donating now or by setting up a monthly donation. 33 people at \$25 a month= \$10,000, half of our goal!

New Year...New Goals—Monthly Giving: With the new year comes a fresh opportunity for the Plans He Has For You Ministries to help Gods children in Kenya. At this very moment, the board is planning and making preparations for this summers mission trip in late July. As we begin 2019, our organization has a projected fundraising goal of \$20,000. This money will allow our team to locally purchase uniforms, school supplies, and shoes for the children of Nduchi Primary School and new school supplies for Munyuni Academy. Most likely, if you are reading this, you have not only prayed for Plans missions but you've also financially helped make them possible. To all who have donated in the past and those who will be donating this year THANK YOU!

As with many things in life, every small bit counts. Ten dollars provides school supplies for a students entire school year, and a little from a lot of people adds up quickly. For you bigger spenders, if 200 people donated 100 dollars each, 2019's mission to provide Kenyan children the tools they need to get an education would be fully funded.

Finally, a new year can often symbolize beginnings, and in that theme we'd love you to consider donating to the Plans He Has For You on a regular monthly basis this year. Quick to setup, and easy to adjust, simply visit our website at www.PlansHEHasForYou.org starting in increments as low as \$5 a month, you can seamlessly incorporate Plans into your giving budget, while providing consistent support to our dear cause.



God Bless You, Lauren

About our Ministry

We are an educational based mission/ministry. Our mission is to provide for or enhance the educational opportunities of underprivileged, underserved or orphaned children. God has plans for us all, plans to prosper us and give us a future and a hope. That future and hope for most students around the world comes through education. An education is the ticket up and out of poverty. For some it's simply a school uniform required in order to attend school. For others it's uniforms, supplies and tuition assistance. In many countries where people live on less than a \$1 per day, uniforms, supplies and money required to attend school are luxuries. Our goal is to provide for these needs to show these children they are cared for, by us and by God. For our first year we plan to provide uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies for students in a small community outside of Nairobi, Kenya called Ituramiro. From there we will continue to providing these educational needs to the poorest of the poor in this area, and growing the circle to include other small towns and villages to meet their unique educational needs. We also plan to seek out similar opportunities in communities in Texas, around the United States, and in other international locales.

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after widows and orphans in their distress..." - James 1:27a

Contact Us

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1. Mail checks to the address above
2. Online via PayPal link on website



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