

Mission Trip 2017....God Answers Prayers even the popcorn variety!!

Last year after we left Africa the goal was to provide shoes for the children at the Nduchi Primary School on top of the backpacks, school supplies, and uniforms. At \$15 a pop for a around 300 kids the first thing we needed was the funds. Insert Kathy Frick, Spring Baptist Church, and GOD and we received the funding to make this goal a reality! After we sorted shoes for the kids at the Nduchi we still had some shoes. We ordered a few extra to ensure we had extra sizes just in case kids feet grew. Interestingly enough we had about 25 extra pairs. After VBS we would be going on home visits the poorest families. At this point I sent up a popcorn prayer to God asking Him to let the sizes we had be the sizes needed by the kids we would be visiting at these homes. Yup, just like that!. I call these popcorn prayers, but really they are like speech bubbles in my ongoing dialogue with God. And if you know mg GOD, you know He answers prayers, even the popcorn variety. Every house we went to I pulled shoes out of my magic bag and God made them the sizes the kids needed. I was bewildered, because even when we had made it to the last house I had 2 pairs of girls size 3 shoes left. This last house had a boy and a girl both size 3. The boy was so happy to have shoes he didn't even care they were girls shoes. This didn't sit well with me, so I went back to Haven and found 2 pairs of shoes Janice had brought for us to give away. One plain black sneaker and a tennis shoe. I went back and explained to the boy that I would rather him have these 2 pairs of shoes. He was so excited. So I went back to Haven with one pair of girls school shoes. Before we started giving out shoes, Kathy had asked for a pair of shoes to take back to show her church what the shoes looked like we gave away. Spring Baptist Church gave us all the money we needed to place the shoe order, so I really wanted to get them a pair. I just wasn't sure we would have one left over. The need was so great and you just want to give everything you have. But, God



On the last day of VBS last we found out some of the kids at the school were not attending because they didn't have any lunch to bring. So not only did these kids need uniforms, school supplies, etc, but they also needed to bring their lunch. In America we have Title I schools where lunch is free and most other things can be provided by just filling out some paper work. We are set up to be an educational non-profit so buying food for these kids didn't really fit in our framework. So last year Elizabeth took the money I gave her and bought food to take to this family. That was just one family, but many more where suffering and going without. This year my mom asked me what was one thing we needed money for and I told her if she wanted to give, to give money I could use to buy food to deliver to the poorest families on our home visits. So with the money my mom gave me we bought over 40 lbs of food for each of the 12 homes we were able to visit. This top picture is one of the poorer families we visited. The right picture is a rusted out outhouse and in the back where we are walking to are the families home. I discovered this home was really 2 one-room houses, like a duplex. I also went on to find out from Naomi these homes are rented. It never dawned on me these poor families wouldn't own their home, but they would have to rent a room/home to share. I thought my mind was already blown, but this just took it to a whole new level. The left picture is a typical mud house in Kenya. Nevertheless, both these families were so excited to see us and get the gifts we were giving them of food, scarves, and shoes and backpacks for the kids who were attending a poorer school located in town which is a huffing and puffing 40 minutes uphill both ways thru the valley to get back and forth. These poorer kids have to take that hill route to the valley floor and back up everyday just to get to go to school. (ok, I know your mind is blown again) Next year we will be going on faith to receive funds to bless this school with school supplies, backpacks, shoes, and uniforms as well. I am so thankful to God everyday that He allows me to be His hands and His feet. Helping these families in little ways, but little ways I know HE has bigger Plans for.

Giving locally, in Peru, and Hope after Harvey



After Harvey not only were many homes flooded, but entire schools. We started ordering school supplies the moment the news announced a lists of schools that were flooded. It was amazing to see our community come together and for schools out of state to adopt schools and send school supplies. We found a school close to where Robert and I grew up, Hull-Daisetta and adopted them. The kids at this school had already started school so not only was the school lost, but everything these kids had already purchased. Robert and some of the Plans Board and team were able to go deliver a U-Haul full of fresh new school supplies to this school that is currently meeting in the old Hardin Elementary school until their school can be repaired. Thank you to Principal Kevin Frauenberger and Teresa Camp, Director of Student Services for allowing us to be part of the recovery efforts at your school.

<u> Usupaki....Thank you, from the children in the jungles of Peru.</u>

Our goal is to help those around the world. We were able to help those in Peru by partnering with our friends Sam and Marcie Nicholson who run the The Cocama Project (www.cocamaproject.org). This part of Peru right next the river is not unlike the very rural area of Africa we visit every year. Most of these students didn't have their very own school supplies either. It is amazing to be able to partner with another organization and to be able to bless a whole other community of children. It is amazing what God can do. These children will be the next generation in our world and I pray they will be the generation that changes our world for the better.





We were also able to help here locally within the Lamar school district where we are based. We are lucky enough to already have a service set up to help school students with uniforms and school supplies, so we partnered with LCISD Common Threads and provided them with over 50 backpacks stuffed with school supplies and 15 just backpacks for kids so needed one.

A lot of the flood damage also occurred down Cumings Rd just north of the Brazos river, so we went out and took over 25 backpacks with school supplies to these kids as well.

Being a teacher is more than just showing up with a lesson plan. At one of the poorest junior high campuses in LCISD we adopted a new teacher Ms. Lamb and helped to provide much need school supplies for her classes. I will be partnering with her this year to see what else we can provide for these kids.

These people and this place take root in your heart and these invisible roots spread throughout your body until they find that place in you which we call the soul. The roots burrow in deep to your soulhome and take up residence. It happens so subliminally you have to wonder is there something in the chai? No it's not the chai although my hubby loves the stuff. It's not even the red dirt which now covers all your clothes or all your shoes. It is an experience and feeling like no other. The first year I went I coined this phrase: "Red Dirt Stained Soul", and that's exactly what it is. These people and this place have left a permanent stain on my soul. If you can imagine cave drawings which depict people's lives or experiences, my soulhome is now just like those drawings, permanent and with standing the test of time. People ask me all the time why do you go back? The feeling I have just described to you is why I go back. So...do you want that feeling too? A magnetic pull to a place halfway across the world? Before you know it we will be planning next years trip. We already have so many great ideas on who we can bless next year. We many not be able to help the whole world, but we can create a ripple effect in this community and in other places in need. A ripple effect that knocks downs boundaries and changes our world.



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



Funds needed for 2018:

\$30,000

This year we were able to bless S0 many more kids by your generous gifts and this year we want to step out on faith and adopt the poorer school in Kenya to provide them with backpacks, supplies, uniforms, and shoes. You can help us get there by visiting our page and donating now or set up a monthly donation. 50 people at \$50 a month = \$30,000 needed!!

A note from Lauren (my friend I conned into going with us last year):

"With God, all things are possible," as Christians, we've heard those encouraging words from Matthew 19:26, many times. Throughout my life, I've watched it proven true over and over. How many times have YOU witnessed God accomplish the impossible in your lives? *I'm willing to guess it's quite a few.*

For me, a major "impossible task," was missionary work. See, I always felt that missionaries were incredible people whose level of faith and dedication was so impressive, that God himself picked them to serve. I always assumed that mission work was an unattainable higher calling devoted to Christians far more worthy.

So when I agreed to go on a mission trip into the mountains of Kenya as a "favor" to my good friends Barbara and Robert, it seemed like I was embarking on an impossible journey.

Of course, God always knows exactly what he's doing, and I'm happy to report that the "impossible task" of doing God's work abroad, was not only possible, HE has given me the path to serve him for years to come. What I once considered an impossibility- traveling to Kenya to teach, love, and assist poor school children, has now become my life's passion.

Speaking from the other side, I can confidently tell you that missionary work is simply saying YES to God; once you agree to His adventure, He lights your path every step of the way. Where I used to be terrified to leave America, I now have a home in Kenya. A continent that I was scared of, currently has a firm grasp on my heart. Some of you reading this right now are thinking, "I wonder if I could do that?"



To you I say: "Yes, you can!" Join us in Kenya this July, and experience the indescribable happiness that comes with doing exactly what God asks. Join THE PLANS HE HAS FOR YOU on the July mission trip this year, and I assure that you will be left in awe of the good God works through this organization.

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

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