



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID



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Serving & Learning

from the

orphaned, widowed, poor & oppressed

UPDATES

FROM A.B. PUCKETT

Congratulations to LCC for the tremendous progress made over this past year. It is hard to believe that LCC now has four campuses. The Life House is going great providing a safe and nurturing environment for the teenagers. We just cut the grand opening ribbon for new baby home that is custom built for the needs of babies. And the K-Branch is celebrating 10 years of successful pre-school education. The Centre and all of its programs seem to be operating better than ever with over 30 staff doing an amazing job. As we look back on this past year, we continue to be in awe of how God is working in and through the children of each LCC branch. For this we say thank you to all of you for your prayers, time and financial support. You are truly an essential part of the Global Connections and LCC families. A special thanks to Rano and family for providing the new Limuru Children's Centre Baby Home, "Angels of God".



Please continue to tell your friends the LCC story and invite them to Kenya or to become a part of the Global Connections family as the work in Kenya continues. Again, without the help of each and every one of you all of this would not have been possible. Thank you for helping us serve.

God Bless!

A.B. Puckett

CELEBRATIONS

- New baby home
- Life House team of leaders
- Awesome staff at LCC
- New Minister of Education in Kenya

PRAYER REQUESTS

- New discipleship program at LCC
- School for a child that needs extra attention
- Rain for Kenya (LCC periodically without city water for days/weeks at a time and tanks close to empty)
- Scholarship funding
- Feeding Program funding

STATISTICS

55

CHILDREN CALL LCC HOME

108

CHILDREN FED DURING SCHOOL HOURS BY LCC

115

VILLAGE CHILDREN SUPPORTED WITH AN EDUCATION, FOOD AND/OR CLOTHING BY LCC

2

BABIES ADOPTED IN 2016

8

BABIES FOUR TODDLERS MOVED ACROSS TO THE MAIN CAMPUS

25+

CHILDREN GRADUATED THE LCC PROGRAM AND ARE EMPLOYED OR REINTEGRATED WITH THEIR FAMILY (IN PAST 3 YEARS)

>200

CHILDREN HAVE ATTENDED PRESCHOOL AT LCC-K BRANCH AND GRADUATED TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

26

KCPE CANDIDATES WILL SIT FOR EXAM TO GRADUATE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND TRY TO PLACE INTO HIGH SCHOOL

1

KCSE CANDIDATE WILL SIT FOR A MONTH LONG EXAM TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL AND TRY TO PLACE INTO A UNIVERSITY

1

STUDENT ENTERING COLLEGE (OTHERS ALREADY IN ATTENDANCE)

UPCOMING KENYAN ELECTION

Please join us in prayer for the upcoming Kenyan election. All Kenyans are praying that their future leader will have a goal of peace. Kenyans always fear instability with their past elections having proved to produce violence and tragedy. We join them as we pray for peace, the welfare of their nation, a chance for economic prosperity.

U.S. ELECTION VIEWING FROM KENYA

Watching the 2017 Inauguration in Kenya was a surreal experience. We joined in a small room at Brackenhurst with about 15-20 other Americans and Kenyans. Every party, race, and age was represented. Kenyans have really lifted the United States in prayer. For them to see such a peaceful transfer of power in a nation like the United States was of great comfort in the world view. At one point many heads were bowed and actively lifting our nation in prayer. Whatever your party, seeing the unity of that room was encouraging to our team for sure.

HOW CAN I HELP?

CURRENT NEEDS FOR OUR PARTNERS IN KENYA

I get asked all the time before I depart for Africa, How can I help? Here are a few ways specific individuals helped from home:

- One friend made an online donation after I had left to provide beef for a meal at the LCC (delicacy). We also were able to buy yogurt for snacks and loaf bread for breakfast. All of the above were such special treats for the children.
- Donations were made while we were there to repair sewing machines which was a need that arose while we were visiting a home for girls who make their living sewing.

CURRENT NEEDS FOR OUR PARTNERS IN KENYA:

Global Connections frequently receives inquiries about our current needs. Many organizations, clubs, and church groups hold service projects each year and would like to support our work in Kenya. Unfortunately, the Kenyan government heavily taxes goods that are brought into the country, so we cannot accept donations of clothing and most other items. We are able to purchase the necessary items in Kenya, often at a reduced cost, so financial contributions that are earmarked for a specific cause are most helpful. Our most pressing needs for the LCC and our partner organizations are highlighted below.

CHESHIRE HOME FOR DISABLED GIRLS:

This home provides a loving, secure environment for approximately 25 disabled young women and teaches them trades such as sewing, tailoring, and knitting, ensuring that when they leave the program, they will be able to earn a liveable wage and have a measure of independence. The Cheshire Home is in need of sewing machines (\$250 - \$750 each) as well as sewing and knitting supplies (they appreciate gifts of any amount designated for this). **Please mark your gift Cheshire.**



- Donations to our team can be made ahead of our departure. They are put into a team fund and when needs arise, our team votes how to spend the money and we have funds for special needs that we can't foresee. We very often see God working in front of our very faces.
- If you are looking for a more tangible gift, you can email at any time and a wish list can be provided. You can then choose a need that you identify with the most (pencils, erasers, toothbrushes, socks, underwear, soccer balls, etc.)

– *Katie McCrary*

LIMURU CHILDREN'S CENTRE:

The LCC operates two preschools and is in need of educational materials and supplies to support this work. The LCC offers free preschool education to children in the local villages who could otherwise not attend. Both sites have two classrooms each serving a total of 100 students. The preschools need basic supplies such as chalk and pencils but would love to expand their work through books, manipulatives, and other educational tools. **Please designate gifts as Preschool.**

Village children who attended LCC preschools when they first opened are now approaching high school age. The Kenyan government does not fund high school, and families are required to pay school fees that frequently exceed their annual income making it impossible to send even the most capable students to high school. Global Connections would like to begin offering high school scholarships to academically talented graduates of the LCC preschool programs (\$600 per year per student). **Please designate these gifts Scholarship.**

The LCC also has a Baby Home that provides loving care to abandoned infants until they can be placed with adoptive families. Many of these babies come to us with a host of medical problems, and all are underweight and at-risk. If your heart is drawn to these children, please consider a gift to support the Baby Home's on-going expenses and **mark it Baby Home.**



PAT'S FEEDING PROGRAM:

Pat Dixson feeds approximately 400 elderly people and young mothers with HIV every two weeks. At each handout, clients are provided with rice, beans, corn, ground corn, bread, cooking fat, salt, and a small amount of money to purchase vegetables. This food (that fits into one plastic grocery sack with room to spare) provides these vulnerable people with enough food to subsist on one meal per day for the two-week period. Kenya has no social welfare programs and experiences high unemployment making it nearly impossible for the elderly and those who are HIV+ to support themselves. Pat thoroughly vets her clients to be certain she is helping only those with genuine need. Many of her clients walk up to four hours to receive their handout and would not survive without it. Each year, Pat tries to provide clients with something extra for Christmas like warm wool blankets (\$5/each) or tea and sugar (\$2/each). Gifts of any amount are gratefully accepted on Pat's behalf and will go toward the Christmas handout. **Please mark your gift Pat's.**



K-BRANCH

10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE LCC K-BRANCH

Ladies and Gentlemen, all protocols observed. The Limuru Children Centre - K-Branch was officially started on the 19th day of March, 2007. It initially started as a feeding programme project. Through the years, it has by God's grace advanced to become an academic centre of excellence for the young children without neglecting the latter. As we celebrate the first decade, we would like to thank the Almighty God for the achievements we have realized and the drawbacks we have encountered as an institution.

We are grateful to have adequate learning facilities that are within and without. We also have a committed workforce that include the teachers, the cooks, and the management team. We would like to recognize their efforts in making the K-Branch thrive. We also cannot forget to recognize the Global Connections family for their Godly dedication and support to the K-Branch family.

Most of all, we are proud to humbly serve the

surrounding community of Kamirithu Village. Firstly, we offer quality educational services and play to our children. So far, more than 200 children have passed through our hands and are now in various primary schools around. I am happy to say that last year in 2016, we had our first graduates from primary school who performed excellently in their KCPE (Kenya Certification of Primary Education) exam and were admitted to good high schools. We also had a programme to provide food to the elderly within Kamirithu Village that we hope to resume. These are some of the many successes we have achieved through the years. All in all, we thank the Lord for the 10 years of humble service. We also thank all who are di-



rectly or indirectly involved in the running of Limuru Children Centre K-Branch. Long live LCC K-Branch.

May God bless you all.
Thank you,

David

BECAUSE IT IS MONDAY

One of my most powerful memories of Kenya was from my first trip. It was 2007, and the K-Branch preschool had only been open for a few months. We arrived for our first visit on a Monday morning around 9 a.m. Teacher David gathered the children and arranged them in two rows to sing songs of welcome for us. It was a cold, misty day, and the children were shivering. The little girls were traditionally dressed in skirts with their legs bared to

the cold. I took someone aside and suggested that we get some of the warm clothes we had brought from our bus and dress them more warmly. She seemed confused and asked, "why?" "Because they're shivering," I said. "They're not shivering from the cold," she replied. "They're shivering because it's Monday." I didn't know how to respond and thought that I was experiencing some kind of language barrier. What could Monday possibly have to do with shivering preschoolers? Then she explained to me that many of these children had as their last meal their school lunch the Friday before and had spent the weekend with little or no food. The morning porridge was cooking over a wood fire but wouldn't be ready for them until 10 a.m. This stunned me and made me realize that no matter how prepared I thought I was for the poverty in Kenya, I really was clueless as to the reality so many families and children face on a day-to-day basis. Thankfully, this preschool recently celebrated its tenth anniversary and continues to feed both the minds and the bodies of these children.

- *Kate Borsig*



**FIRST DAY OF PRIMARY
SCHOOL WITH MUM JULIA**

LIFE HOUSE

MORE REFLECTIONS

LIFE HOUSE

The Life House program is growing into such a place of refuge for our high school kids and young adults. This program is allowing the older children to really learn how to be an adult, while still having some guidance. There is also a discipleship and mentor program growing at Life House. Global Connections is in a new season.

When we began, all of our children were smaller. Now we are raising teenagers, young adults, college kids, young working professionals. What we do know is that after investing so long in these children we must bridge the gap between childhood and adults who effectively contribute to the community. The Life House is striving to do just this. When coming to this community our hopes were that we could provide a place for children who needed it, raise them with love, give them a faith they could stand on, and eventually send them back out into the community to give back themselves.

For the first time, we are on the verge of seeing some success in reaching this goal. On the horizon are some very exciting goals. We are working on an extensive mentor program, which will hopefully include internships and industry partnerships. The kids are also planning on opening a small duka (shop) on the bottom floor of the Life House and they will begin running it themselves. This will give them an opportunity to study first hand marketing, stock management, investments, and customer service. All in all, the Life House is dreams come true. We are seeing our kids succeed in life and rely on God to do so. We couldn't ask for more. The irony of the whole situation is that the teenagers and house parents are fighting the exact same battles at the teenagers in the U.S. are fighting. Teenagers are equal all throughout the world.



LIFE HOUSE SESSIONS

From the time Life House started in April 2016, so far teens have experienced a progress of coming from renting a school Dormitories to an apartment as tenants where our teens are gaining more exposure on how to stay as a community. In Life House, we have been focusing on empowering teens on how to become independent e.g. cooking, shopping for themselves and all activities that goes on within a home. We do have bible studies every Wednesday where we gather together in either boys house, girls house and/or house parents' house. Which is to enable them know more about Christ, for it's by knowing the truth that one will be free indeed. We believe people need to move from a saving knowledge of Christ to a life that reflects His character, therefore Discipleship, has been our critical element in our residential care program.

VISION - As Life House moves on, it's my strong desire that every teen will have an opportunity to not only breathe, but experience all that God intended for them. This is by touching every area of their lives physically, emotionally and more so spiritually stable. Through mentorship program will ensure teens in Life House are role models to the growing children at LCC even to the community.

I am looking forward to ensure that the biblical teaching that we are training them in bible study. Every November and December holiday they will be conducting a Vacation bible week to the children at LCC. It's also my desire that as we stay in an apartment, a time will come where will have our own home with Cattle, Shamba (garden) and many others.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - I wish to acknowledge LCC management led by our goal-oriented director Patrick and our Social Worker Auntie Lillian for their commitment to ensure everything is progressing on well, and to the Global Connection and all other sponsors Worldwide who ensure life house is running on smoothly without lacking.

Stay blessed,
Pastor Julius



“ We are seeing our kids succeed in life and rely on God to do so. ”

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS AND UPDATE ON FLORENCE

HELP US BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY BY PROVIDING HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

In our early days of working with the LCC, we collaborated with our Kenyan partners to fund high school scholarships for high achieving children in the local village whose families could not afford to pay for their high school education. Over the years, as our financial responsibilities to the LCC have grown, we have been unable to fund scholarships from our budget. In Kenya, the government offers free, public primary education (through class 8), but in actuality, primary education does come at a cost. Parents must pay minimal school fees and purchase uniforms and textbooks for an average cost of about \$175 per year per child. While that amount sounds very affordable considering our western financial perspective, in the developing world families often subsist on \$1 per day (or between \$300 and \$400 annually). This describes the economic reality for the majority of the families that live in the villages surrounding the LCC and its K-Branch location.

The LCC provides loving, residential, custodial care to the children who are remanded there by the Kenyan court system. For those children in our care, we provide funds for primary school, high school, and college/university/trade school to support each child as he/she transitions to adulthood and independence.



But the LCC also operates free preschool programs for village children at its main branch in Limuru as well as at its satellite branch in Kamirithu (K-Branch). By providing a strong start to their education, the LCC preschools help these children get accepted to better primary schools and help their parents recognize their academic aptitude. Many of these families begin to prioritize education and make a way for their children to attend primary school. The K-Branch celebrated its 10th anniversary this year, and we've realized that we have a wonderful problem on our hands. These children we

worked with at a very young age are now approaching high school. At the end of class 8, all Kenyans take a national exam that determines their placement in high school. While some private, for-profit high schools exist, the best high schools are sanctioned by the government and are highly competitive. These schools can only serve 25% of Kenyan eighth graders. A score of 300 or higher on the national exam is considered high school material.

We recently learned of three of our K-Branch former preschoolers who scored well above that and were accepted to outstanding Kenyan high schools but whose families could not afford the cost (approximately \$600/year per student for a boarding school). Global Connections made the decision to step out in faith and awarded scholarships to all three students for this academic year. We would love for you to join us in this effort with your financial support so we can continue funding these three students for all four years of high school and in years to come fund additional students who have been a part of the LCC family.

Please consider a one-time gift or an ongoing commitment of \$50/month that will provide a member of our LCC family with the opportunity to attend high school. The research has shown us that the best way to end the cycle of generational poverty is through education. Please join us as we seek to impact the future of these families one high school education at a time. You can set up a recurring or one-time donation through our website, globalconnections.org, or by contacting Kate Borsig by phone (662-549-1661) or email (gckate@yahoo.com).

- Kate Borsig

FULL CIRCLE MOMENT

What a full circle moment we had. Thankful that Florence was able to join us at LCC and make mandazis for the children. They are a Kenyan donut. Florence came through the LCC program. She was a little girl that would not hold her head up, look you in the eye or smile very often. Because of a lot of love, care and an education she was able to return and share her skills and gift the children with a wonderful treat. A beautiful young lady that supports herself with her passion of cooking has become that special person who all respect, admire and love to be around. Florence, now a loving leader and role model, loves to give back to LCC. A truly special afternoon for moms, us and especially all the hungry children!



MY VISIT TO KENYA

AN UPDATE



I remember the moment I first wanted to go to Africa. I was sitting around a fire on my back patio talking with my mom, grandmother, and my grandmother's friend, Joanne. Joanne was telling us about her recent trip to Africa and describing the experiences she encountered. She spoke of the African women cooking meals over an open fire, the caregivers who worked at the home, and all of the children who lived there. Listening to her sharing stories of the trip and hearing the emotion she spoke with made me want to go and see and serve. About a year later and a lot of hints dropped to my parents, I was packing for Africa.

This past summer was my second trip to Africa with the Mississippi team. Having been there once before, I knew what to expect and was much more relaxed. It was a great feeling to walk in the gate at LCC and see familiar faces like Kelvin, Holly, Ethan, and Jabali. At the beginning of our trip, we spent several days with the babies and helping out at the baby center. Sadly they had lost baby Alvin, who had been sick since birth, the first day we were there and needed extra help. We played with, fed and changed diapers of the babies allowing the moms to grieve and plan for the celebration of baby Alvin's life. My favorite part of the trip was the feeling of family around me. Physically I was so far from my home, but I felt so welcomed and loved at LCC. The people at the center became more to me than African women cooking or caregivers or children living there. They became Mom Julia and Mom Jane who ate smores with us and wiped snotty noses. They became Becky who was sitting up all by herself and Samuel who was taking his first steps. The people at LCC are my family, and I felt the love they had for the children they cared for and each other.

Hopefully one day someone will hear me talk about my experiences in Africa, will hear the emotion in my voice, and will be inspired to go and see and serve.

- Kenley Stephens

One of the last nights our team was in Kenya, we decided to invite my God daughter, Margaret, and Gladys (God daughter of Bo & Kimberly Jeffares) to a special dinner at Brackenhurst and a spend the night sleep over. It was Margaret's birthday and Gladys had just had her birthday in December. We picked them up with their things and proceeded to Brackenhurst. I had arranged our normal American flair, a birthday cake prepared by Brackenhurst complete with candles. After our meal, our very sweet waitress Maggie brought in the cake singing Happy Birthday as we all joined in. After we had finished singing, I noticed Margaret crying. I began to think what in the world she could be crying about. What I had not realized or fathomed was that neither of these girls had ever had a birthday dinner...nor a birthday cake. In that moment I became even more abundantly thankful for the time I've had in Kenya. No one can put the feeling of giving someone their very first birthday cake at ages 17 and 19 into words that will do it justice. Everyone should celebrate their birthday with extravagance at least once and I will be forever grateful that I was able to be a part of this special time in their lives. Gladys is headed for a very important job interview tomorrow and Margaret is getting ready to apply to college and hopefully begin a path to a successful career in hotel management. We were able to celebrate the present, reflect on their growth from the past, and fervently cover their future in prayer. These experiences in Kenya stretch my faith to uncomfortable places each time I come, resulting in growth. I would not be who I am today if it were not for this place. Our team is extremely thankful to have shared this time with these girls. May we continue to covet your prayers as they embark on a path that will shape their future.

- Katie McCrary



CHESHIRE HOME VISIT

Visiting Cheshire this January was wonderful. The girls at Cheshire are all special needs children. The school teaches them a trade like sewing, knitting, beading or weaving. We were able to take handmade scarves for each of them, a piece of chocolate, and some knitting looms to make potholders. The joy they possess is so contagious. Listening to their laughter after receiving their gifts is music to your ears. Thankfully Global Connections has been blessed with the opportunity to help

support the girls from time to time. We also get to provide special treats sometimes too. Sister Anne is a true blessing. She has been so kind to us. She is the type of person that you feel her spirit when you are in her presence. The girls at Cheshire are extremely lucky to have her and we are blessed to know her. Providing for these girls is one of the highlights of our trip!



UPDATE FROM LCC

COOKING LUNCH AT THE LCC

Today I was blessed to be able to cook lunch with Mum Elizabeth. It was a treat today because we had BEEF! A generous donation to the GC team allowed us to serve such a treat! Today we made beef and rice for about 30. Mum Elizabeth is a wonderful cook. She allowed me to do most of the cooking with some instruction. First I browned onions we had chopped in butter. Then I added all the beef to the pan to brown. Talk about an arm workout! I had a paddle with long handle to stir. Eventually I added a little salt and some vegetables. I have to tell you how conscious I was when transferring the beef to the frying



pan. Oh my word I was so scared I was going to drop a piece. At home you know when you drop a piece of meat, we normally just toss it in the trash bin or to the dog. That would have been offensive here with meat so scarce. Little things every day

remind me how I need to be more aware of my blessings! We also prepared rice and chai tea, both a favorite. To make the chai we boiled ground tea leaves and then added milk. She also added pepper which I've never seen done, but really complimented the chai. Afterwards we served the children. They were so very happy to be having a delicacy such as beef and rice. After cleaning up we started on dinner. I've got great respect for Mum Elizabeth. There is no rest for the weary when feeding upwards of 35 children breakfast, snack, lunch, and then dinner. And the dishes... there are ALWAYS dishes! Thankfully today we had water and I was able to wash the dishes. There's no dishwasher here! There's been very little rain so sometimes we have water, sometimes we don't. I truly enjoyed my time with Mum Elizabeth today learning to prepare Kenyan meals. You can learn a lot by standing beside someone preparing meals. Watching hungry children eat is a photo that freezes in your mind. I'm thankful we were able to feed their stomachs today and cooking definitely fed my soul!

— *Katie McCrary*

LETTER FROM LCC MOMS TO THE GLOBAL CONNECTIONS TEAM

It is much greetings from us all moms from Limuru Children's Centre. We are very grateful for the good work you are doing to us and the kids here. We are also very grateful for providing us with sewing machine and showing us how to mend children's torn clothes. God bless you for your great care and concern. We love you all and really miss you so much. We will continue praying for you as you pray for us. God bless you.

— *From the LCC Moms*



OFF TO COLLEGE

My main reason for returning to Africa this year was to get my Godchild enrolled in college. We got word that she had scored well enough of the Kenyan test (KSCPA) to be eligible to enroll in college. I started planning my trip at that point. I knew in my heart that this was a pivotal point in her life and that I had to be here to encourage her. I will be honest, only having 2 boys - 4yrs and 9yrs, I was a bit intimidated. Parenting a girl moving to college...I did a lot of praying! I also began to thank God for the opportunity. Our Godchild is amazing. She's smart, funny, confident, and ready to succeed. I am forever thankful that God gave us the opportunity to help her do that. I do feel like we were put in place to help make a difference in her life, but I mainly feel like God put her in our life so she could make a difference in ours. Seeing a child come from humble beginnings and becoming an elite student ready to take on college and choose a career... our child...I've never felt prouder and been humbled so much at the same time. Visiting colleges in Kenya is quite an experience. Maureen and James from the LCC accompanied us. We visited 3 that Margaret was interested in. We finally decided upon Utalie. Margaret has decided to study cooking and tourism/hotel management. She will hopefully enroll in April when applications are accepted and then start in September! I cannot express the joy we've felt watching Margaret grow and succeed. She's become part of our family. Feeling that you may have had a small part in making a real difference in a child's life is an overwhelming thought. It is through God's grace that we were all brought together and that Margaret has accomplished so very much. Attending college in Kenya is a highly sought after goal. So many children strive to enroll and only a small percentage actually make it. Then the entry process is lengthy. It's not easy to leave your kids at home to travel across the world to help your other child. But, we've decided in our family that great efforts produce great results. Teaching that to our children is important to us. My boys know they have a sister in Kenya and she is loved. They know she is kind, hard-working, that she loves God, and will one day be a college graduate. This relationship has taught our whole family that opening your minds and your hearts can produce blessings close to home and far away. Kenya has stretched our minds, our geography, and our faith. Rigg who is 4 years old - "Tell my sister Margaret that one day I will be old enough to come and visit her at her big college. When I go to school next year I will study hard like her."

— *Katie McCrary*



TEAM PRAYER PARTNERS

AND A SPOTLIGHT ON SIMEON

SIMEON

I heard the story today of why one of our kids saved his money to buy a wallet. He saved his money so he could buy a wallet to keep his money safe. You see, he saves all his money and finds his mom occasionally in the village and he gives it to her. She has struggled with an addiction problem for a long time which is why he is with the LCC. His heart is so big. Like all of us, you can never replace a mom. Although she isn't parenting him, she will always be his parent. He has shown us how love and grace is really done. Simeon has a talent for the arts like no other. His artwork is amazing! A keyboard was donated to the center a while back. Simon has taught himself to play the keyboard. His love for the Arts is simply a gift from God. There is no other way to explain it. He must learn to play by ear. It's the only explanation. We were all simply in awe of his acquired talent. He was also featured in his high school magazine for his amazing art. LCC and the Global Connections family are so very proud of him!



TEAM PRAYER PARTNERS

Some people look at being a prayer partner and see themselves as having received the short end of the stick. I know because I was that person at one time, not because I didn't see the value in being someone's prayer partner, but rather that I was not the one experiencing everything first hand. Instead I was the one praying for someone else's journey.

Well, let me be the first to tell you, that that negative attitude changed rather quickly when I realized how important prayer was as well as the blessing that came from it. You see, just like experiencing Kenya and LCC first hand is a unique and wonderful experience, so is being a prayer partner for someone on the Global team. I was asked a few weeks ago to be Katie McCrary's prayer partner for her trip in January and I jumped at the invitation because I believe in the power of prayer. An honest look at scripture allows one to see the way prayer not only produces faith, but affirms it. Also, it has strengthened a friendship that God planted. Katie and I have never met in person, but I like to think of our friendship as a Linda and Louise kind of friendship. And for those of you who don't know Linda and Louise personally, well, I highly recommend traveling to Kenya with them and you'll soon find out what a treasure they are.

In Exodus 17 we read of a battle where Israelites are fighting against the Amalekites and Moses is watching this battle at the top of a hill along with Aaron and Hur. As long as Moses held his hands up, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered them, the Amalekites began to win. Here is the beautiful part about this story (V.12) Moses' arms soon became so tired he could no longer hold them up. So Aaron and Hur found a stone for him to sit on. Then they stood on each side of Moses, holding up his hands. So his hands held steady until sunset. This, to me, is the epitome of a prayer partner.

Global Connections sends people to do the Lord's work in Kenya, but doing any sort of work wears on you. You sometimes grow weary and just plain tired. As prayer partners, we can hold those teammates up. We can be Aaron and Hur. We pray for God's strength to increase, we pray for the hearts that are serving and giving, we pray for the hearts of those they are loving on. There is always SO MUCH to be praying over and committing yourself to praying for the team brings THEM a peace and the determination to keep going! I didn't know what a work God would start in my heart when He first opened the door to Africa, but I can tell you this- it has shaped my heart to look more like Christ and has brought beautiful relationships along the way. And no matter the role you play whether it be traveler, financial supporter, godparent or prayer partner, God is molding your heart, too.

- Jenny Moorer



But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side. So his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

BABY HOME

WORKING WITH THE LCC STAFF

I would like to take credit, but I can't! Traveling to Kenya to work with the LCC staff, as well as students with special needs was not in my plan; but it was God's. The most unexpected experiences can be the most life changing. I value every minute spent at Limuru Children's Centre. The kids at LCC are so special and pleasant to be around. I was able to work in many classrooms in Limuru alongside staff and even teach young students. There was a significant language barrier, and my thick southern accent was hard to translate at times, according to the LCC staff LOL! It was my pleasure to share my knowledge of special education with the LCC staff and we forged a partnership stronger than I could have imagined.

I hope to do more research and keep in touch with the teachers and staff members in an effort to expand their work with special needs students. Some of my favorite times in Limuru were on

Saturdays. On those days we were able to put work aside and just play. Trying to play soccer in the high altitude of Kenya was not the best of ideas...(talk about breathless). Also on Saturdays, our team was able to serve the children of LCC a fantastic meal straight from the Butcher Shop. Sundays were also incredibly special worshipping with the children and teaching Sunday School. We taught the story of Jonah, one of my personal favorites. I think we all can relate to running from a task God has given us. I had no idea God could use me in the ways that He did in Kenya. My goal was to teach the staff about students with disabilities; however, the staff taught me that no matter the circumstances, give thanks to God. This opportunity was not my plan, but it was made possible by God. He used this trip to show me that it is sometimes more important to celebrate the small victories rather than to see the finish line. My prayer is that God will continue to bless the precious



children at LCC and the adults who care for them. I pray that God will take the weakness in all of us and use it to lift His Great Name. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9.

- Lane Maxcy



Bracelets were made by children at The Palmer Home for Children (in Columbus) as a gift for the children at the Limuru Children's Centre and did they ever love them! LCC Children water colored bookmarks with Jesus loves you on the back of them to give to Palmer Home children. Love and fun from one continent to another and from one Home to another!

*My grace is sufficient for you,
my power is made perfect in weakness.*

BABY HOME

Dear Friends,

We hope you have all had a good start to 2017. We look back on 2016 and thank God for his faithfulness. It was a very hard year in many ways, but through the difficulties and loss, we grew closer to each other and to Him. We were privileged to have a full house for the whole year, caring for between 11 and 15 babies at any given time - what a blessing to give a home to these sweet little ones. We are so happy for our 4 babies that found loving families, and keep praying for the ones that are waiting to be matched with their adoptive families.



In this work there seem to be constant ups and downs...

unfortunately, the beginning of 2017 was difficult, as we lost another little baby to SIDS early in January very suddenly. God has been close to us through it and is still comforting our hearts. But we have many reasons to rejoice too - our big boys have transitioned to the LCC main centre and have settled well, and our new baby home is almost finished. We marvel at God's goodness and provision! We are so thankful to all of you who pray for us, support us, and visit us. You are invaluable to our work and in these children's lives. Be blessed for all you do for us.

Sincerely,

Tesni Anderson

PATRICK'S UPDATE

AND A SPOTLIGHT ON SIMEON

PATRICK'S UPDATE:

We continue to acknowledge the support which we receive from our Global Connection partners in various forms. Most of all, for their continued show of love and fellowship. The cost of education remains high. Our numbers for feeding programme in both Centres has reduced due to children moving on into boarding schools, into the communities or employment as several have grown out of the programs. Our children after graduating from primary schools continue to join high schools and are doing well. The feeding programmes here at the main branch and K-branch are doing well. We have had to deal with new guidelines and several new requirements from the children's department (National Council of Children Services) on best practices in running a children's programme.



Already listening at this young age

We now have a finance department which was set up for good account's accountability and reporting and this has been going very well with our CPA Mr. David heading it. Our health matters have now been overseen by a qualified nurse Esther Njogu on a regular basis. Limuru Nursing Home c/o Dr Patel and his brother Rahesh continue to give free medical services which they have offered since the beginning of this programme. Life house continues to offer our teens a well based programme that helps them in learning to be independent and responsible. Imperial Bank gave us a kind donation of ksh 400 k for the purchase of all our education books and materials. Rano and her team from Hindu

community in Nairobi donated a gift of a new house for our babies across the road from the LCC campus.

To all who have contributed in any way big or small, this programme would not be where it is today without your input. Thank you for your continued support in every way that makes this the place and sanctuary that it is today for the needy and vulnerable children of Limuru.

- Patrick



We all know what a strong man and what an awesome father figure Patrick is to each child at LCC. As Patrick has aged and mellowed just a little – he questions if he might be too tough on the boys. One Saturday I was chatting with Derrick (high school junior) after he got a talking to from Patrick for lost books. When I asked if Patrick was tough on him – he said "No – not too bad. But if he wasn't tough on me I would not be where I am today or who I am today!" Wow - not many teens say such things about their parents. With tears in my eyes - I told Derrick that he needed to tell Patrick what he just told me. When he then went to Patrick for a 20-minute chat – I really cried! A wonderful moment for a brave young man and Uncle to hundreds of children!

- Linda Holden

We continue to acknowledge the support which we receive from our Global Connection partners ... most of all, for their continued show of love and fellowship.



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I think we have some little engineers on our hands. These boys were creating somewhat of a water pipeline. I am always amazed at the things these children can build with anything!