



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID



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Serving & Learning

from the

orphaned, widowed, poor & oppressed

UPDATES

FROM A.B. PUCKETT

As many of you know, Kenya held an election for president in August of this year. Due to events surrounding presidential elections in the past, Global Connections did not host a group to Kenya this summer. However, a few of our board members and directors did travel to Kenya before the elections.



They enjoyed a fruitful visit with Patrick, the staff of the LCC, the kids, and others associated with our work. They also worked many hours and participated in many meetings discussing the operations and organization of the children's centre. There is a lot of "behind the scenes" work that allows us to continue our mission in Kenya.

Much attention must be given to the legal regulations, registrations, and obligations

associated with operating a children's home. Laws governing land ownership and use are tedious and confusing, government requirements for a children's home are constantly changing, and as Kenya becomes more globalized the gap between the very wealthy and the destitute widens. God has been gracious in providing a strong network of Kenyan, European, American, and South African leaders who have partnered with Global Connections and the LCC to help steer us through these hurdles. Please continue to pray not only for our kids and the community we serve, but also for the Kenyan and Western leadership which leads our work. As always, what we do would not be possible without the help of each and every person connected to our Global family. Whether you give money, prayer, or time, without you there are countless kids and individuals whose lives would be very different. We are still proud to say that 100% of every dollar you donate goes directly to the project which you choose to support.

Thank you again for all you do!

God Bless!

A.B. Puckett



KENYA SUPREME COURT NULLIFIES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The New York Times – September 1, 2017 "NAIROBI, Kenya –

“In a historic ruling and a first in Africa, Kenya's Supreme Court nullified on Friday the re-election of a sitting president, ordering a new vote to be held within 60 days after finding that the balloting last month had been tainted by irregularities. The election on Aug. 8 was conducted peacefully and was largely praised by international observers. But David Maraga, the court's chief justice, declared the result "invalid, null and void" after siding with the opposition, which had argued that the vote had been electronically manipulated to assure a victory for President Uhuru Kenyatta.”

The violence that engulfed Kenya following the controversial presidential election of 2007 shocked both Kenyans and the world at large. Two months of bloodshed left over 1,000 dead and up to 500,000 displaced. Let us all join in prayer for a peaceful re-election.

STATISTICS

17

BABIES

45

LCC BOARDERS

61

PRE-SCHOOLERS
(LCC & K-BRANCH)

145

CHILDREN FED
DURING SCHOOL HOURS
BY LCC

39

DAY SCHOLARS
IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

10

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS
(HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE)

19

KCSE CANDIDATES
EXAM FOR
HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE

3

KCSE CANDIDATES
EXAM FOR
COLLEGE ENTRANCE

34

STAFF

PATRICK'S UPDATE

UPDATE FROM KENYA

This season started well with a visit by the Team which was very encouraging even to see Al as he has always been. I am forever grateful that he was able to come and he has progressed well from his medical situation. Answered prayers!

It was also great to meet again an old friend Don even though under the difficult times he has to be going through from losing his dear wife. Our prayers all out to him. As usual, the day to day time with the team around is always most welcome and exciting as we get to engage with them on several areas of the progress of the children programme which we do so greatly appreciate their input. Thank you Linda for all your continued efforts to see that we are all heading in the right direction and that the kids are always taken care off in all areas. God bless you and the Team.

We have had an interesting topic on Strengths finder with our facilitator Tesni. This has helped us in identifying our gifts and areas of strength among a diverse Team already. It is very encouraging to learn these things as we strive to improve the working relationships between ourselves and to appreciate each other's capabilities and gifts as we work for the programme. It was further enhanced when we sat with the MS Team and we all shared a lot in common and this was very encouraging to be a part of.

Again as always, we are constantly kept busy with the day to day running of the programme with each day being a new experience. We continue to rescue little kids from abandonment or abuse and even though emotionally draining, somehow we have found among ourselves a strength and courage to meet these demands of our society with grace and joy as we watch these kids grow and improve and others joining family's after adoptions. Our new house has been a gift from God. The space for taking in these little angels is adequate and the staff

there have a good and pleasant environment to work in.

Meanwhile, we had a good break during August and schools are now back in session. We did engage some good teachers during the break to keep the children busy and engaged. After tuition, the kids were able to prepare for school with homework and a little visit with relatives for those who can go. It's been a good and positive season I must say as the buildup of our elections took central stage and focus on everything we did around here. Plans for security and safety of our kids by making sure we were around all the time and especially for myself as the rest had to go to cast their votes on poling day.

Our enhanced security backup with CCTV has been a wonderful investment as it captures events as they really are and this has helped streamline the staff and especially those who think they can be uncaring and reckless.... Story for another day...Thanks to Ian from the UK for this wonderful support.

We have embarked on repainting all our buildings again with support from Ian in the UK. It's a wonderful face-lift and everyone is happy about the outcome. Our teens have settled down well within the compound of the main Centre and appreciate their cooperation so much. We are a closer family and they understand this by way of working with the staff and helping around with the smaller kids. Our space has been used wisely and we are happy with this set up.

Our new cook (chef) has made great changes in our kitchen and everyone is so happy about the quality of food and sense of humor he brings into it. The kids love his food so much. I do so wish to acknowledge our dear friend Jimmy Galloway, and with prayer in my heart, that God sees him through this difficult time he is



going through. Peace be with him and his caring family.

Thank you all Team. AB, Linda, Anna P, Kate and Louise for everything you continue to do to make this a great sanctuary for the needy and vulnerable kids of this community. Thanks to everyone else working diligently behind the scenes Katie, Linda Mitchell, Allegra and all those others who have dedicated their time and contributions to be a part of this programme. Last but certainly not the least, a big thank you to every donor, sponsor and God-parent. You each help make the care of these children possible.

With these few comments, I wish you all a wonderful time and may God continue to bless you and expand your boundaries.

Lots of love,

Patrick

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

LCC BABY HOME

UPDATE FROM LCC BABY HOME

WARM GREETINGS

to all our dear friends and supporters. Life is slowly getting back to normal after the country came to a standstill, holding its breath, to see how the elections would turn out in August. There were many fears that ethnic violence would break out again, but we are so grateful that God answered the many prayers for peace, and the elections came and went with unrest in just a few isolated places. We are especially grateful that all our children and staff are safe and healthy.

We have settled in very well in the new baby home, and are so blessed to have this amazing space. The kids have more quiet when they are sleeping in their various bedrooms, and more space to explore when they are playing. God knew we needed this space! We currently have 17 babies!! Our youngest is just a week old, and our smallest just 1.9kg. We have had to hire more staff to maintain the quality of care and home environment that we long to provide for the babies. Please pray that God would continue to knit us into a family with so many babies and new staff members. The moms are doing an amazing job of handling so many babies of different ages, needs and developmental stages. I am truly proud of them, of how attentive they are to each baby's needs.

We would appreciate prayers for our babies' health and development, and especially that each baby would feel loved, treasured and safe with us. Please also pray for adoptions to gain momentum, as it has been a real struggle to find families for our babies. We have a few more things to get done on the building to have it completed and fully functional and are grateful for God's provision for that – please pray that we can get it all done quickly without much disruption to the babies or staff. Thank you for your partnership with us. We are grateful for you all.

Sincerely,
Tesni



We have a few Crib/Baby Sponsors that are needed.
PLEASE CONSIDER
sponsoring a baby at the LCC Baby Home in Kenya.

FIRST VISIT AND MEDICAL CLINICS

FIRST VISIT TO KENYA

Kenya was everything I expected and a complete surprise to me. Kate (my wife) is a longtime volunteer with Global Connections, so by the time of my first trip she had been on the ground a dozen times. So when I stepped out of the Nairobi airport early on that June Saturday morning I had a reasonable understanding of the approach, the programs, and the hopes of Global Connections.

I had seen poverty first-hand in North America inside and outside of the United States. Early in my career I worked in city government and saw successful and unsuccessful ideas and programs—developed by both government and nonprofits—intended to improve the quality of life. So as the sun came up on the drive to Brackenhurst, I was not surprised to see poverty and progress side by side. After breakfast and a nap, Kate and I made our way for my first visit to the LCC. The moment I climbed the steps to the gate of the LCC my Kenyan education began. The children ran to greet us and most insisted on speaking to us individually, looking us in the eye, and shaking our hand before going back to playing on the courtyard. The staff was truly happy to see us and greeted us like we were members of the family. In these moments I began to sense the faith and the welcoming nature of Kenyans. Most who know me well know I was adopted as an infant. I've always thought the courage of my birth mother and my adoptive parents was a witness to the goodness of people. When I walked across the road to the baby

home a part of my heart stayed in that place with those little children and their caregivers. It was there I began to fall in love with Kenya and the Kenyan people.

Sunday morning, we attended Anglican services at St. Luke's mission in Tigonini followed by a Baptist church service in Kabuku and a visit to the church feeding program. Wednesday we volunteered with Pat Dixon's feeding program, and I was moved to tears when those Pat helps each week prayed for Kate and me. We visited several boarding schools to see children from the LCC—all of whom were succeeding! I was struck by the well ordered nature of these schools and the absolute dedication of the teachers and staff.

One of the highlights of the week was our visit to the K-Branch to meet the children and see the amazing, life changing work being done by Teacher David and the staff. I listened to his story of teaching Swahili and then English to children whose first language was Kikuyu. I saw imaginative teaching aids such as numbered recycled bottle caps. More importantly I saw first-hand the delight of he and his staff as these children learned.



So my first trip to Kenya was life changing. I expected the challenges, the poverty, and to find very good work being done by Global Connections. Nothing prepared me, however, for the Kenyan people, their selflessness toward others, their acceptance of strangers, and their deep faith. A part of my heart stayed in Kenya with the Baby Home, the LCC, the K-Branch school, and Pat Dixon's feeding program. Each day I pray for and think of those who are being cared for and their caregivers. Often I ask myself what I am called to do. And I am grateful to Global Connections and my Kenyan friends for that question being always present in my life.

Dr. Jim Borsig



MUW NURSES MEDICAL CLINICS

In June, a team of nurse practitioners and student nurses from Mississippi University for Women (The W) in Columbus visited the LCC and led medical clinics at both the Baby Home and the two preschool classrooms at the LCC Main Branch. At the Baby Home, they were able to spend time with each of the 15 babies, and at the preschools, they conducted health assessments of the village children enrolled in the LCC preschool program. As potential issues were identified, the LCC social worker, Lilian, was on hand to learn about the diagnosis and to organize any necessary follow-up medical care. Led by Dr. Sally Pearson, W nursing faculty, the team spent two weeks total in Kenya engaged in various medical clinics and assisting hospitals. The

team included: Dani Jennings, Kari Collins (both graduate nurses), MacKenzie Fletcher (MUW senior), Denise Englehart (nurse practitioner), Christine Kennedy (nurse practitioner from Canada), and Dr. Sally Pearson (W nursing faculty). Dr. Jim Borsig, W president, was already in Kenya visiting the LCC and other Global Connections projects with his wife, Kate. He was happy to welcome the group from the W, supervise the preschool medical clinic, and provide a tour of the LCC after the medical clinics were completed.

AFTER THE LCC

COLLEGE AND LIFEHOUSE

OFF TO COLLEGE

As I sit here writing this, I've sent one child off to 4th grade, another to his first day of kindergarten, and waiting to send my first off to college on Monday! The only difference between all of my kiddos is that the latter is starting college thousands of miles away...and I won't be there. As badly as I would like to be there, she is ready. She has been encouraged, loved, and poured into by the staff at LCC. Margaret will begin her journey as a college student at Utali college next week. I had the blessing of visiting back in January to help her prepare and choose a college. Now we are seeing her dreams come full circle. This is the reason that I am so passionate about the Godparent program.



When we became involved with Margaret, I never dreamed that her path would be the one she is on. She has done ALL the hard work...we've just supported and given her a relationship that she knows she can count on. So many of our children at LCC need that very thing. They just need a relationship they can count on and an encourager. Who doesn't like to be encouraged and to have

someone in your corner? Goals are much easier to obtain when you have someone cheering you on!

I'm so very thankful that God guided us to Margaret's corner. Now our prayers are that she thrives in a new environment, makes wise decisions, enjoys her studies, and finds a career that she loves so that work may be fulfilling and prosperous for her. We also pray one day when she is grown and we are old, that she will return to the LCC and give a portion of what she has learned back to the children there. That is the real goal. The goal that the investment that these children have felt will encourage them to return and invest in the lives of the next generation. That will be the only way the love we all have for this program will help it continue to thrive. Now we will do what every parent of first year college kids does I guess...pray A LOT, wait for emails or texts, and hope that they remember "who they are and where they came from".

Katie McBrary

LIFE HOUSE continues to develop

The effort to more fully prepare our young adults for transition to independence continues to be filled with a lot of opportunity for celebration and reorganization. The Life House, is a transitional program designed to provide more life skills training for the older children and guided, intentional, steps toward self-sufficiency. It is still being developed and perfected to safely and effectively meet these goals. This year, the Life House was located on a property separate from the LCC Main Branch. The boys and girls each had an apartment along with a male and female mentor. During the school breaks the mentors used many local resources as well as mission teams to bring relevant spiritual, educational and career training to the kids. The youth also learned to take more responsibility in their own care, which included cooking, cleaning and even some shopping for themselves.

The programming went very well, including a week long training session provided by a mission team from the Summit Church of

Little Rock, Arkansas. They took the high school students on an awesome camping trip, their first time in tents. The mission team of twelve truly touched the older kids in a God-inspired week. LCC children are still talking about their time with this group. Further consideration of both oversight for the kids as well as good stewardship of resources, led to the decision to bring the older children back on the LCC campus. The boys have moved into the old LCC baby home, which provides the degree of separation needed culturally and legally for circumcised boys, and the girls have taken over the upper floor of the dorm on the main campus. This allows Patrick and Lilian to have a bigger role in their lives and in the oversight and development of the programming. We have seen remarkable spiritual growth and development in the boys and a growing spirit of cooperation among the girls. Pray with us as we continue to meet the ever changing needs of the LCC child.

Anna

LIFE HOUSE - the teens opening up.

Margaret and Patrick shared their life stories which got me to tears as I realized no amount of food or schooling that LCC can give that can set these kids free and happy but the Love of Jesus (the first thing they said was how LCC introduced them to God and the gospel) which I never really thought about,

always thinking of food, clothes, shelter and education as the main key things but it's God and the word of God... it was great hearing it from the kids themselves. They told their stories with so much joy and pride knowing that they have conquered (after all that they have been through) God came through for



them and they spoke about their future with so much hope which I think is the greatest achievement these children can have. Accepting themselves and loving themselves despite all they have been through and despite their backgrounds.

Maureen

LCC K-BRANCH

FROM PRESCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS

LCC K-BRANCH STUDENTS



Rachel Wangari Kihika My name is Rachel Wangari Kihika. I got in Limuru Children Centre K-Branch in the year 2007. Currently I am a high scholar in Kambui High school. I am in form 2. I have benefited a lot. When I was through with my nursery school you sponsored me to my primary school. I was very grateful to you because my mum could not have the ability to take me to primary. You sponsored me with everything I required in the 8 years in primary school. I humbly request you to continue sponsoring me till to the end and if I make it, I will be able to reciprocate the same to the community. My aim is when I am through with my high school studies I want to go to university and pursue medicine because I really want to be a professional doctor. I thank you from the bottom of my heart and may God shower you with uncountable blessings.

Pedson Ltabayie Dida My name is Pedson Ltabayie Dida. I entered the Limuru Children Centre Kamarithu branch in the year 2007 and is the same place where I finished my nursery school in 2008. I am now in form one schooling at Kanunga high school. I will say since I have been a child of the LCC K-Branch I have benefited a lot from this institution. The benefit I have got is that I have been sponsored with school fees for the whole year and I have also been taught by teachers from this institution moral values to use in the society. The great thing is that the institution gives food supply in the end of year. I will strive to excel in order to achieve my goals as becoming an archaeologist in life. I will also aim my target which will help me to achieve my goals. This institution is very brilliant and I would recommend that parents should bring their children to this institution and they will be great people in the future and in the country. Thank you LCC for what you have done to me and I will never forget your good deeds until Indian Ocean remains blue.



Ann Wanjiku I joined LCC K-Branch in the year 2007 until 2009 when I joined Kamandura primary school. Currently am in class eight in the same school. Since I joined LCC-K, the benefits have been so many for example, we get lunch on Saturdays. Since I joined I've been getting uniforms from LCC-K. we've been enjoying many events together. I would kindly request you to support me until I achieve my goals. In life I would like to be a neural surgeon and travel abroad across the continent and do operations to many poor and rich old and young: all sorts of people. I would also like to support needy families and children. Thank you for your support and may God bless you even hundred folds.



The K-Branch is a satellite location of the LCC preschool located in the rural village of Kamarithu. In this community, many children live in extreme poverty and do not have the opportunity to attend preschool (which is essential to be prepared for the rigors of the Kenyan primary education system). We recently celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the

opening of the K-Branch. As the children served by this preschool program have grown up, many have demonstrated high levels of accomplishment in primary school.

This year, we were able to provide scholarships for three of the top-scoring 8th grade scholars (who had attended the preschool as young children) with scholarships to attend high



school. For these students, this level of educational attainment would not have been possible without the financial support of Global Connections and our donors. All three are halfway through their first year of high school and are performing beautifully. We know that education is the most important intervention to move these kids from a cycle of generational poverty to careers that will place them in a socioeconomic class where they will be able to provide for themselves and their future families.

Head Teacher David has already informed us that he is anticipating a much larger number of former K-Branch students who are currently in the 8th grade to perform exceptionally well on the national exam in November and be accepted to high school. This means we need to raise scholarship funds to ensure that as many of these children as possible have the opportunity for a high school education.

A financial commitment of \$50 per month or \$1,000 per year will provide a scholarship for one of these very deserving young people.

Please join us as we work to break the cycle of generational poverty and provide opportunities for these bright and hardworking students to further their education.

- Dr. Kate Bersig

VULNERABILITY AND COMPARISON

The one I've been trying to write for two years but vulnerability is hard.

It has now been 2 years and 6 months since I returned from my 3-month trip to Kenya, Africa. Until now, I haven't really found the words to describe what it was like living there. Wait—scratch that. I've had the words, but expressing them has been the hard part. In fact, vulnerability has been the hard part.

You see, when I got the idea to graduate early, the one thing I did NOT want to do was go on a mission trip. I felt like that's what everyone was doing and if I went, I would look like someone just trying to "look extra Christiany for a little bit". I didn't feel like I deserved to get to go there. I honestly thought there was no way people like me deserve to go on mission trips. I was scared people would think how about how many mistakes I make and how I don't deserve to talk about God and everything he has done for me.

But you know what? I am a sinner. We all are. We are all so unworthy of the Lord's grace, yet he continues to allow us to take part in experiences that shape us for the rest of our lives.

Kenya was my experience. When I got back home I really struggled with talking about what it was like living there. I wanted to talk about it...I really did. But again, I felt like if I talked about everything the Lord showed me while I was there, then I would have no excuse to ever mess up again. Honestly, writing this is still hard for me! But what can we learn if we never make mistakes? – **Have I mentioned how hard vulnerability is yet?** You see, Kenya showed me something I will never be able to explain to anyone the way I experienced it. So for what I can tell you, know it was the best trip of my life. Difficult? YES. Trying? YES. Even frustrating? YES. But is it something I would do all over again if I could? **10,000 x YES.**

I left for Kenya as a simple-minded senior in high school wondering what my purpose in life was – why the Lord planned my trip so easily, delicately, and perfectly. It's taken me two years. Two years of more experiences, two years of great successes, and two years of utter failures

to see my senior high school self finally living out my purpose. You see, college is a very interesting place. Very fun, but very interesting. In high school, you're surrounded by people you've known your entire life – people you're comfortable with. In college, you're thrown into an entire new spectrum of individuals. People who are smarter than you, people who are more involved than you, people who are richer than you, people who are funnier, skinnier, prettier – the list can go on.

People often say not to "fall off the deep-end" when you head off to college. Naturally we associate that with partaking in the "party nature"

of college. Lately, I have realized myself becoming victim to falling off the deep end in a much different way. In a way that I now realize **I have lost so much joy due to comparison.** I have lost so much confidence due to comparison. I have even lost so much money due to comparison. Why? Because you look at the people you're surrounded by and suddenly think you're not good enough so you want to be just like them. How could I not want to be smarter, or skinnier, or prettier, or wear nicer clothes or buy nicer jewelry? I've often felt that if this lifestyle were a competition, I would come in last place.

But then it hit me – *What am I competing for?* There are no judges here. Sure we get real grades on our tests and some people may get asked out on more dates than others, but that will never measure our intelligence or our beauty or our ability to fulfill a purpose so bigger than ourselves.

Even writing this I am still uncomfortable. I'm uncomfortable by the reactions I will get, but even in the uncomfortable-ness, the vulnerability - there is beauty. Beauty in knowing that my struggles and my sins do not define me, because there is so much more to life than making the highest grade or dating the hottest guy. As I am sitting here, writing my thoughts as fast as they pop into my brain, all I can think about is Kenya – the simplicity found in difficult circumstances, the patience found in frustrating situations, and the love found in the hardest relationships.

I remember my first encounter with this one baby in the orphanage. If I had been allowed to take him home, I kid you not, that baby would be mine right now. I can still hear his little laugh and smell his curly little

*All I can think about is Kenya
— the **simplicity** found in
difficult circumstances, the
patience found in frustrating
situations, and the **love** found
in the hardest relationships.*



head. He's almost three now and I wonder how he is and what his life is like. He wouldn't even remember me, but I remember him. He taught me how to love the littlest of things.

I also remember working in the kitchen for two hours just shelling peas for dinner. The same two hours the "moms" at the orphanage spend every single day doing the exact same thing with not so much as a yawn. And here I am now spending two hours online shopping and being frustrated a store doesn't have my size in the latest shoe style. I sometimes look at myself and honestly question what happened – what happened to the girl who left high school early and lived alone on another continent? How did I go from wanting a total stranger to literally be my own child....to wasting time and money buying things I don't even need?

Vulnerability is hard, but so is comparison. My 11th grade teacher had a poster in her classroom that said, **"Comparison is the thief of joy!"** Thinking back, I realize I have lived an over privileged life and far too often compare myself to others. I have lost so much out of life simply by being caught up in "societal norms". So let this be a challenge for you and myself: Work each and every day to remind your-

self that YOU are good enough. **We were ALL made for a reason and a purpose.** So promise me to stop comparing yourself. Don't miss out on life because your best friend weighs five pounds less than you, or become defeated because they made an A and you made a B, or think even you're worthless because someone went on their 4th date of the week and you're just waiting for even a friend to call.

Even if you do feel defeated, it's okay. You too may find yourself in the deep end, but just start swimming. Soon you will come to the surface and realize that your hardships and struggles aren't there to defeat you. They're there to mold you into the person God created you to be. **So be vulnerable. Say the things that are hard to say. Do the things that are hard to do. Live the life God intended for you to live – and live it well.** Luke 12:34 "For where your treasure is, your heart will be also."

– Meri Hellis West



For where your **treasure** is,
your **heart** will be also."

PARTNER PROGRAMS

PAT'S FEEDING PROGRAM AND FIKI DADA

PAT'S FEEDING PROGRAM

Pat Dixon will be 85 years old this year. For more than 20 years, she has headed up a feeding program for the elderly and for single mothers who are HIV+. In Kenya, where there is no form of social welfare, programs like Pat's literally save lives and keep families intact. Every two weeks, Pat orchestrates a food handout for 400 people – providing staple food items (rice, maize, beans, and flour) to sustain them for the next two weeks. She thoroughly checks out each client and maintains meticulous records to ensure no one is abusing the system. Every other Wednesday, elderly women in colorful skirts and head wraps converge on the Red Cross Center in Limuru along with old men with stooped backs and walking sticks. They are joined with young women living with HIV – many with babies strapped to their backs. In many cases, these people have walked for hours to reach the center. Pat greets her clients and lines them up with respect to Kenyan traditions: elderly men first, elderly women second, and finally the single mothers who are HIV+. At 9:00 a.m. the handout begins. The 400 clients file through the line slowly with their bags held open while volunteers place bags of maize, beans, rice, and maize flour inside. Murmurs of "asante" (thank you) and "Bwana asifiwe" (praise the Lord) echo softly through the line. In addition to the dry goods, clients also receive a loaf of bread, a piece of newspaper (for starting fires), matches, salt, and a bit of cooking fat. They also receive 50 shillings

(the equivalent of 50 cents) to purchase a few vegetables.

Pat is ever resourceful. When we visited in June, she also had a stack of cardboard that clients could choose from as well as a few recycled plastic containers. She also had about 20 avocado tree seedlings to share. She told us that the monkeys eat her avocados and in the process, plant new trees with the pits. We loved that she was giving them small trees to plant on their own land that would eventually produce food for them. Sometimes there are used water or soda bottles to give the clients or even a bit of kerosene. At Christmas, Global Connections tries to raise enough funds for Pat to be able to give each client a wool blanket and a small amount of tea and sugar as a special treat. Food prices continue to increase in Kenya, jeopardizing Pat's ministry and limiting the number of clients she is able to serve. **If you would like to help support Pat's work, please consider a one-time or ongoing monthly gift through the Global Connections website. You might also consider our Gift of Hope program for your own gifts, acknowledgements, or tributes.** Your contribution will be used to support Pat's program, and your designee will receive a card from Global Connections acknowledging your gift.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kate Bersig

FIKI DADA - REACH A GIRL PROJECT

This year, while on the ground in Kenya, we were introduced to Fiki dada – Reach a Girl Project by Nila Ombete. Nila is the coordinator of volunteers for African Encounter in Limuru, Kenya. She has implemented this program in local schools and hospitals to introduce menstrual hygiene management to young women and distribute feminine hygiene kits that contain washable, reusable pads, laundry soap, and panties.

..... IN KENYA
65%

**OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
ARE UNABLE TO AFFORD
SANITARY PADS**

Even though menstruation is a natural process in a woman's life; due to illiteracy, ignorance about religious teachings, poverty, socio-cultural trends, and negligence the matter is not properly dealt with in Kenya and many other developing countries. Education about feminine hygiene is not the only factor in this equation. Expensive

sanitary materials, unavailability of soap, insufficient water, inexistence of toilets, and proper incineration also factor in to hygiene mismanagement. In Kenya, 65% of women and girls are unable to afford sanitary pads.

Evidence supports the fact that once a girl begins her cycle many drop out of school or are absent during their cycles. Statistics confirm that menstruation results in Kenyan adolescent girls losing an average of 3.5 million learning days per month. Global Connection team members are committing to Reach a Girl and increasing the self-esteem of needy young women in Kenya. We hope to engage our local churches and mission groups to make as many cloth bags and pads as possible for our summer 2018 team to take to Kenya. Our summer team is also planning to assist Nila as she offers health education and sustainable hygiene solutions to some of the 10,000 vulnerable adolescent girls in Kenya.

- Louise Powers

To learn more, contact Louise Powers - lpowers12@yahoo.com





CELEBRATION AND PRAYER AND EDUCATION

Give your family, friends or business partners the greatest gift of all – the gift of hope to others and tell them the story of why their help is needed in Kenya. This year, our focus will be on providing an education for as many village children as possible.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

\$50 per month per child
\$150 per semester per child
\$300 per year per child

SECONDARY SCHOOL

\$175 per month per student
\$500 per semester per student
\$1,000 per year per student

ORDER FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone number and email address: _____

Name as I/we would like it to appear on card: _____

_____ Total Number of Gifts of Hope purchased

_____ Amount Enclosed – check/cash

_____ Amount by credit card

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Name of Card Holder: _____

Billing Address: _____

MC AMEX VISA Discover

In Honor of _____ Gift Preference/Cost _____

Address _____ Mail to you

City, State, Zip _____ Mail to recipient

Please allow two weeks for processing. Send your order to:

Global Connections
PO Box 9630
Columbus, MS 39705
Fax: 662.327.4676
Email: info@globalconnectionsonline.org

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS

The need for scholarship donations is greater than ever. We are very passionate about providing education to children who show a great work ethic and academic promise in the community of Limuru, not only the LCC. So many children hunger for the opportunity to learn. Our donations can make this dream become a reality for them. It breaks my heart for children to desire to learn, but not have the means. The need for educational funding is great. We have children inside the LCC wanting to pursue higher learning and children outside of the LCC yearning to attend school.



If education is a passion of yours and you'd like to be paired with a student to fund, inspire, encourage, and educate...please contact us. Schooling in Kenya is of such a great value to those blessed enough to receive it. Please join us in educating as many children as we can. One of the most powerful legacies that you can leave is an educated child.

– Katie McCrary

CELEBRATIONS

- Safety of LCC family during Presidential election
- New LCC Baby Home
- Management Team and staff of LCC

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Peaceful Presidential re-election
- Adoption families for babies
- Scholarship funding for village children
- LCC students sitting for class 12 exam
- 19 LCC students sitting for class 8 exams
- Funding for feeding program
- Adopt a Crib/Baby Sponsors





GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Global Connections
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Columbus, MS 39705

Info@GlobalConnectionsOnline.org
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