



# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

## RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID



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**Serving & Learning**

*from the*

**orphaned, widowed, poor & oppressed**

# GLOBAL HEALTH

## ELECTIVE FOR PHYSICIANS

I traveled to Kenya in March 2022. This was my second visit. An internal medicine physician by trade, part of my job is to train young physicians in this specialty. My primary objective for this trip to Kenya was to complete the groundwork necessary to begin an international global health elective for these physicians in training.

My job was made much easier by the incredible team of Kenyan partners assembled by Global Connections. The inspiration from this group of believers cannot be overstated. An example, among many, are Francis Agevi and his wife, Jane Wangari. Francis works as a night watchman at the Limuru Children's Center. Jane works there as a house mother. What is so awe inspiring to me is what all else they do. I'm not sure when they have time for sleep! Francis is instrumental in "Pat's Feeding Program" and has been for many years. More recently Francis and Jane started a feeding program targeting the elderly and disabled. Those unable to leave their homes. The love of God, demonstrated through this couple's tireless service to their community, is both inspiring and humbling.

Global Connections' Kenyan professional partners are no less inspiring. I am working closely with the team from EDU Africa to develop the global health elective. Prior to my visit in March, this team visited and evaluated six hospitals that were identified as potential sites for clinical rotations. When I visited the sites, I found medical and administrative leaders already well briefed about our objectives. They met me open-armed and excited about an educational collaboration. I anticipated some reluctance and skepticism among the Kenyan healthcare leaders. To my surprise I was met by an unequivocally warm reception at every site. EDU Africa had been there and paved the way.

Home visits have become an essential part of the humanitarian relief efforts of GC partners like Francis Agevi and Pastor Julius Ngugi. When visiting homes in these impoverished communities, hunger is not the only need evident. Increasingly Francis and Pastor Julius encounter people with unattended medical needs, some urgent. Global Connections has been able to assist in some instances with help from existing partners. Each instance requires a

lot of research, coordination, fund raising, and often communication challenges.

One product to come out of working on the international global health elective is relationships with Kenyan healthcare providers. We have identified collaborating physicians in Limuru Town who agreed to participate in a "medical board" composed of Kenyan providers, US providers and non-medical board members. We also started a fund within GC designated specifically for Kenyans with unattended medical needs. When a medical need is discovered, we will arrange transportation to partner Kenyan medical providers. The medical board will be advised of the results of the evaluation and any treatment recommendations. The board will then develop a treatment and resource utilization plan as a collaborative effort.

Quality healthcare and the relief of suffering should be available to everyone regardless of where you live or how advantaged or disadvantaged you may be. We hope to improve access for some of the most disadvantaged through this medical board and fund.

Cheerfully in Christ,

*Dr. John Boswell*



# CLEAN WATER BUILDS BRIDGES

Several years ago, Anna Puckett and I embarked on yet another adventure to Kenya together. Little did we know that this one would take us through Kigali, Rwanda, and Entebbe, Uganda. After several days of delays and flying, we were finally waiting to board a flight into Nairobi from Kigali. While standing in line, a very intimidating armed guard in fatigues stood by me. We were about to get on the plane, and I had two water bottles in my backpack. I emptied them both into the trash can. I will never forget that the guard came over and asked me why would I pour out clean water? Did I know how many people in his country became sick and died from unclean water? Did I even know what a luxury clean water was? I will never forget that interaction. I try to remember the way he made me feel when I fill up my water bottle daily with readily available filtered water and let that feeling produce the gratitude that is owed.

Fast forward a few years later to another Kenyan adventure we had last summer. We met several missionaries staying in the same place we were and they were using Sawyer water filters to bring clean water to villages nearby. They gave us one filter and we learned how they worked. We are blessed to have wonderful partners in the Fikia Dada program, a partner program of Global Connections. Nila and Maggie do amazing work with young girls and share my heart for a tea field village nearby. Nila and Maggie told us that many of the children were continually ill due to drinking contaminated water. We delivered the one filter that we had gotten from the missionaries to them before we left. The tea field community learned how to use the filter and immediately asked for more.

After talking to Nila and Maggie, I realized this was a real need. We did some research and

found a supplier of the filters in Nairobi. It was very important to us to purchase the filters in the country to continue infusing funding into the local economy. We put together a plan and created an estimate of the number of filters we needed to serve the tea community. God aligned so many people to partner in this project and allow it to come to fruition. I shared the project with a few girlfriends simply to share the work we were doing. Overnight these ladies funded the project. We could not have been more blessed with such an amazing team in Kenya and in the US. Roughly 500 individuals received access to clean water from that filter hand out. We also did some food packages for the destitute areas with the filters.



With that funding, we were also able to hand out filters in a Maasai village named Kajiado. Nila and Maggie are building a great relationship with these communities using water as her bridge builder. Once they are allowed in, they can discuss other pressing issues in the Maasai villages like Female Genitalia Mutliation (FGM) and teenage pregnancy.

We hope our next water project is funded to bring more clean water to Kajiado. The relationships formed by the water are as important as the clean water itself. The water is opening doors to do much more than quench thirst.

One filter and bucket system from our Sawyer representative in Nairobi costs \$38 USD. That filter can service several families and if cleaned properly, last up to seven years. If you are interested in providing a filter to a household in Kenya, please email [info@globalconnections.org](mailto:info@globalconnections.org).

*Katie McCrary*



# MIRACLES HAPPENING DAILY

It's amazing how God's timing works. I have learned over the years that God never forsakes his own and a year ago, God worked a miracle with us and more so to James. God brought us to each other through Francis who has been working tirelessly to find elderly who were homebound and needing assistance. James is a participant in the Homebound Elderly feeding program. I kept asking how he found James so far from Limuru but I have realized that everything happens for a reason. A reason that God reveals in His time of choosing. First, God worked out a good and spiritually driven relationship for James and his partner family. God provided Global Connections, us and so many people who have had the privilege to be in front of James' smile and enthusiasm and to be a part of his story. I noticed while I have spent the past two days with him, that he is a blessing to everyone he comes in contact with.

The second miracle is the housing which God

worked in His ways and got James' house renovated into a good and safe house. I would say that has made James' life so good and I think he looks forward to going back home after a long day in the farm where he works. The house has a very beautiful shiny tin roof and gutters both in the front and the back which leads us to the third miracle.

Due to the harsh weather conditions where he stays, James has had to get water from far and especially from neighbors but God intervened and lately the weather has not been too bad. It rains once in a while and the need to collect the rainwater was ever present. Through God's ways, He worked out a means of getting a water tank with 1000 liters capacity. Through the GC partner family and donors, we received funds to start working on this project. Francis received information that in the neighborhood where James stays, there are so many cases of tank theft and so we had to re-enforce the tanks security

and make a concrete stand and also have metal bars concreted around the tank so that if the tank is empty it wouldn't be easy to move the tank.

We have been a team of four people which is Geoffrey, Moses (Francis' son), Sam Moorner, and I working on this project. They have been a great group to work with and we worked out all of this together in brainstorming and also have worked to the success of this project. James also was a big player in the project, he somehow knew where everything was and amazingly he had everything we needed and didn't have. It was a good experience for all of us. It took us some time to complete this project, but we thank God for enabling us to complete this work which He assigned us to do. We sure are blessed and also blessed is every single person who made this possible in every way.

**PATRICK KUNGU**  
LCC Alumnus



# FEEDING PROGRAM

ALL THAT IS CERTAIN IS LOVE

When a crisis occurs such as the Covid-19 pandemic, we are surrounded by uncertainty. Our whole world literally shut down. Everything that we thought was certain to happen, stopped. Most of us, at this time, experienced many emotions; fear, anxiety, confusion, etc. After a few weeks, the reality of the situation began to sink in; that there was a new normal forming for our world, unlike anything generations alive today had ever seen.



Then the most amazing thing began to occur. The Global Connections Family, despite having fears of the future for themselves, began to rally together to form a plan to help our brothers and sisters in Kenya during the pandemic. Our Kenyan partners were ready to act and within a few weeks, families in need were being identified and needs assessed. It truly was amazing to watch God work through all this uncertainty to establish what is certain, **LOVE**.

We are now two years into the feeding programs that were established during this time. What started as a crisis intervention program has evolved into something so much more. These programs are providing hope for so many that will impact future generations. The Empower to Transform feeding program, Homebound Elderly Feeding Program, Pat's Feeding Program, Seka, Oasis, and the relocation of families' programs are truly

changing lives daily and, where appropriate, are being managed in a way that empowers the participants to become self-sufficient after a certain amount of time on the program.

These feeding and empowerment programs have truly been a Godsend for so many people! We are seeing transformation in the lives of the families in Kenya who are renewing their health, hope and dignity, through the provision of food and the forming of relationships. We believe the program is facilitating the ability for families to stay together and resulting in fewer children going to children's homes. We see the gospel being made manifest through the sharing of the food and we see the hands and feet of Christ reaching out in a very real way through our partners.

Transformation is not just happening in Kenya. Those of us supporting these programs have been transformed as well. There are real people, just like us, sharing their spiritual wealth through prayer. Our sacrifice is life changing and meaningful.

**LOVE** is being established on this earth through these relationships. Most importantly, we believe that we are all realizing that God sees us, knows us, hears our prayers, and loves us deeply.

- There are over 900 families being impacted in central and western Kenya by the food and support the GC family is providing.
- **Empower to Transform** has 120 Kenyan families and 106 donor families. 40 families have rolled off the program since its inception.
- **Homebound Elderly/Disabled Feeding Program** delivers food to 105 households.
- Shelters have been built for four families.
- Seed money to help start small businesses has been cooperatively saved and met with donations to start four small businesses.
- **Pat's Feeding Program** continues to provide food to 400 elders every other Wednesday, rain or shine.

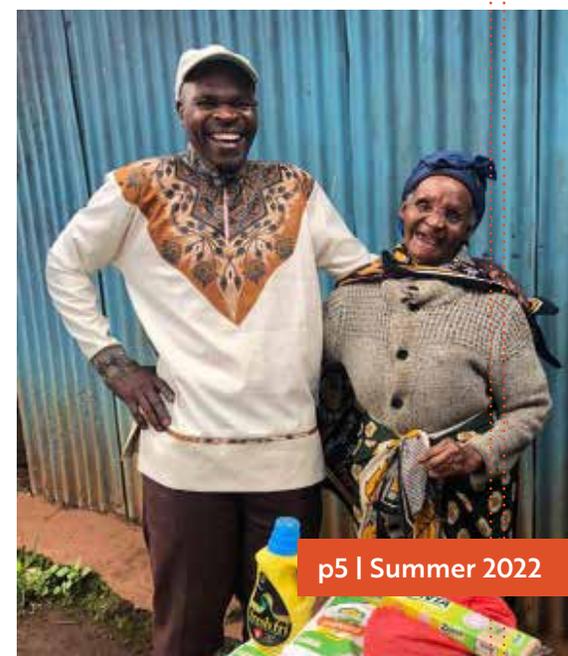
- **Oasis of Endless Hope** serves over 120 families each month in the slums with food, counsel and, in some cases, shelter.
- **Seka Foundation** provides food to an average of 150 families/month.
- In the Spring trip, 67 mattresses and 120 blankets were delivered to those in the greatest need.

Thank you so much for partnering with us through this journey. Two years ago, we had no idea that we were establishing new programs that would be so impactful to so many. God knew though, and He has used a pandemic to bring together hundreds of people to share their lives and resources and most importantly their **LOVE**. We pray you will help us include more financial donors in the blessings by sharing your experience or signing up to be partnered with a specific family or program.

As our partners, please be praying over the following prayer request: While we were on the ground in Kenya, we personally watched the price of cooking oil in the local market rise by 60%. The cost of buying food had increased to an average of \$56.00 for the family program and \$32.00 for the elders/homebound.

Thank you for walking this journey with us and providing for the needs of others.

- Anna Puckett



# OASIS FOUNDATION

## FEEDING PROGRAM

*Gratitude* unlocks the fullness of life, it turns what we have into enough and more. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home and a stranger into a friend. Covid pandemic revealed physical challenges as an opportunity to show love for people we care for. About 1.4 million people in Kenya experienced food insecurity even before Covid-19. Global Connections, in partnership with the Oasis Foundation, has been striving to uplift and improve the lives of over 120 greatly affected families in Kariobangi, Kenya. In the wake of Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, they launched a feeding program. The program aims at reducing the vulnerability of poor families, managing and mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

Covid-19 affected operations of different industries and hit each and every one of us

in different ways. Most businesses laid off their staff to stay afloat. Florence Atieno, is a HIV positive widow and a mother of four. She is also a resident of Kariobangi area and one of the victims who was immensely affected by Covid-19. She lost her job as a domestic worker and had to cut back her family's meals to one a day. *"At some point we went three days without a meal,"* says Atieno in tears of the painful memories. Due to rent arrears, she was evicted out of the house. Her friends and family were in no better place to come in handy. To a point, she felt like killing her kids and later commit suicide. Fortunately, she became a beneficiary of the Global Connections feeding program. Food makes people happy, for a moment when you are fed, you forget all your troubles. Florence represents over 120 families with a similar story. Global Connections and Oasis Foundation have made it upon themselves to

feed the families on a monthly basis and cater for their house rent since Covid-19.

Whenever a disaster like Covid-19 strikes, restoration efforts led by residents who live and work in the affected communities are often over-passed and underfunded. We are grateful to Global Connections for changing this reality and for transferring decision making power to the crisis affecting the underprivileged in the society through the food feeding program. Your altruism has positively impacted the lives of a vast number of slum dwellers throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. They are all grateful for making them experience the fullness of life again.

*Duncan Kimani*





**SCAN TO DONATE TO ANY  
OF GLOBAL CONNECTIONS'  
PROGRAMS**

Thank you for your consideration of partnership with the ongoing service efforts of Global Connections!

All donations are tax-deductable and 100% of the funds are used for the program YOU designate. There is no deduction for administrative costs.

# LCC UPDATE

## LIMURU CHILDREN'S CENTRE



Much greetings from the LCC family! We are truly grateful for God's care, protection, and provision. The children are doing great with the help of our loving and passionate staff.

The LCC main boarders have continued to thrive very well. They have been working very hard in school and have been posting good results. The staff at LCC has been working as a team to make sure the physical and emotional needs of the children are met.

LCC and K-Branch Pre-schoolers held the first graduation as they were transitioning to grade one. They were super excited. LCC feeding program children, who sat for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education, performed well and a lot of improvement has been noted in their learning.

Our college students are doing well in their studies. Some were placed for internships and performed well. The courses they are undertaking will prepare them well for the job market. Maureen graduated with a Diploma in Community Development and Social Work. The LCC celebrated this great achievement with her!

During the Sub-county Children's assembly, Margret was elected as the Member of the County Assembly and Gabriel was elected as the bodyguard to the Member of Parliament. Margret gave a wonderful speech that impressed all the people and guests present.

Daniel, John, Josephine, and Gladys cleared their high school education. Our scholarship students, Ann Wanjiku and Micheal Mwaura, also cleared high school.

The children and staff have been attending aerobics classes on Saturdays in order to keep fit and also motivate them.

Through the support of the Global Connections team and well-wishers, LCC was able to purchase a commercial washing machine and dryer. They will go a long way in handling the massive washing load.

A fun event that took place was a football match that was held between the LCC staff, alumni and the children. Al, Anna and Sam were present for the occasion. The LCC children won against the staff.

Blessings upon the GC team, well-wishers and LCC friends for the continuous support. We are thankful to God as the Covid situation has improved in our country.

Blessings,

*Lilian*

# BABY HOME

## UPDATE

Warm greetings from Kenya,

We can hardly believe how the year is running. It is our sincere hope that you are keeping safe, healthy, and well. These are turbulent times we are living in and our thoughts and prayers are especially with those who have been affected by the Russian/Ukrainian war.

It has been a busy and full year for us so far. Since December we have had a sudden influx of children, with 15 new admissions between then and now. We have started using our upstairs expansion and are very thankful for this space. It has served us very well, moving our toddlers upstairs where they have room to run around, play, and be rowdy. Downstairs is now a much more peaceful and calm space for our smaller babies. We currently have 20 little ones in our care. It has been encouraging to see our caregivers step up, solve problems, and take on more responsibilities with this transition and I am very grateful for their flexibility and endurance, especially on the days where there seems to be no end to the energy of our toddlers. They really are heroes in my books!

Adoptions are ongoing and several of our babies have been placed with their new families and we have more coming up. We have also placed our twins and another one of our toddlers in a foster family, which is a huge answer to prayer. Foster care is still quite rare in Kenya, so we really see God at work here!

With the rains having arrived, we are also so happy that our industrial washing machine and dryer arrived and have already been put to good use. They have really lifted a burden in the laundry department. We are so grateful to all you who gave towards this! Thank you!

Please remember one of our boys in your prayers who has chronic breathing difficulties. Thank you to all who gave towards an oxygen machine for him. We are so thankful that he hasn't needed it yet, and incredibly relieved that we have it for when he will need it.

Be blessed for your great kindness and generosity towards us and the children here. We are very grateful for you!

Sincerely,  
Tesni and team



# 15

NEW ADMISSIONS  
SINCE DECEMBER

# 20

LITTLE ONES  
IN OUR CARE

# LIFE IN THE SLUMS

There's a lot that happens around the world that's beyond our control. We cannot prevent drought, conflicts or stop earthquakes, but when we know where hunger has stricken and the homeless live, then we can help. Of 200,000 families forcibly displaced in Kenya during the 2007-2008 post-election violence, hundreds are yet to be resettled despite government pledges to find them new homes. For instance, in Ruiru slum area, about fifteen families out of seventy five families, the initial number, are still surviving on donations from well-wishers.

Susan Wambui Kariuki is one of the victims of this brutality. She's currently seventy years old and a mother of four children, two ladies and two gentlemen. Prior to all the cruelty, Wambui was a full time employee in a coffee farm. That being the case, she was able to sustain her family needs and educate her children. Imagine being forced to makeshift houses just

to provide a roof for you and your family due to lack of an alternative. It's like being robbed of your past life. Her last born daughter who was schooling by then, had to drop out of school due to the financial crisis. As a result, she opted for an early marriage just to escape the poor living conditions in the slums. The rest of her children live in small rental houses and rely on casual labor for their survival. They can hardly help or accommodate their mother as their living conditions aren't any better. When she was sharing her story with us you could clearly tell she still has unhealed wounds. 'I don't know if I should share this with you,' She said as she whimpered for a moment. 'One night, a gang of men stomped in, grabbed me forcefully and sexually harassed me to a point of stroking my neck. That is how I developed a stiff neck in an attempt to defend myself. Time to time, it interferes with my hearing, eyesight and pain on my back and legs.' Wambui acknowledged it has not been easy

as the neighboring community often despise them. Each day she lays down, she just hopes that what happened to her and her family fifteen years ago will not re-occur. Often when it rains, there's not much difference between her and a person who sleeps outside as water leaks in. The living conditions are hostile, tents are worn out and donations from well-wishers are not always guaranteed. The government on the other hand, just gives lofty promises which never happen. This is a story of one of the many victims and the homeless people currently living in the Ruiru slum area. If Wambui and the rest with a similar story could be relocated to permanent structures, where they'd call home again, this would be like an answered prayer to them. At least this way they'd be self-sufficient again and their loved ones would visit them in well-structured homesteads.

*Duncan Kimani*







# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
Global Connections  
70 Brickerton Street  
Columbus, MS 39701

Info@GlobalConnectionsOnline.org  
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CHECK OUT  
OUR WEBSITE:

[GlobalConnectionsOnline.org](http://GlobalConnectionsOnline.org)

## LIMURU CHILDREN'S CENTRE AND FEEDING PROGRAMS

**12**

LCC COLLEGE  
STUDENTS

**20**

LCC BABY HOME  
BABIES

**36**

PRESCHOOLERS  
AT K-BRANCH

**33**

PRESCHOOLERS  
AT LCC

**43**

LCC COMBINED  
STAFF

LCC SCHOLARSHIPS

**1** COLLEGE  
STUDENT

**5** HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENTS

**51**

LCC BOARDERS

**>900**

TOTAL FAMILIES FEED BY  
PARTNERING FEEDING  
PROGRAMS PER MONTH

**93**

CHILDREN PART  
OF LCC  
FEEDING PROGRAM

**>900**

TOTAL ELDERLY AND  
HOMEBOUND FEED  
PER MONTH