



# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID



**Serving & Learning**

*from the*

orphaned, widowed, poor & oppressed

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# UPDATES

FROM A.B. PUCKETT AND MAUREEN

We are about to wrap up another successful year with our work in Kenya. We received great feedback from our kids who seemed to love the first two terms of Life House. Special thanks to Bobby and Brandy and the donors to the Life House for making it possible. Construction has begun on a new baby home across the street from the main branch of the LCC.

In Kenya, as many of you know, children are brought to the LCC by the Kenyan government. Though the Kenyan government brings children to us and asks us to take care of them, they unfortunately do not provide us with any funding to care for them. However, there are very strict guidelines from the government on how to care for the children. In June the LCC was audited by the government on our care for the kids and we were honored to be recognized as the best children's home in our region according to the national standards. We are constantly amazed by our partners on the ground in Kenya. Our director, Patrick, and our social worker, Lillian, continue to provide amazing care and love to our kids.

Rachel Thomas left her full-time work with Global Connection in July of this year to pursue her passion in high school counseling. She will always be a part of the Global Connections and family, and without the work she did in getting us off the ground in 2007 and the work she continued through this year, Global Connections would not have made it to where it is today.

As some of you can attest, there are many challenges, joys, and heartaches in raising children. Please continue to pray for all of the Global Connections and LCC team as we try to raise children in Kenya to be Christ centered, responsible adults. And, as always, thank you for your financial support that makes this work possible. Please continue to tell your friends the LCC story and invite them to Kenya. Without prayer and financial contributions this work would not be possible.

God Bless!

## CELEBRATIONS

- New LCC Baby Centre
- Life House home and house parents
- New forever homes for babies
- Great staff at LCC & their recent high accreditation scores
- Two great teams to Kenya in 2016
- Team Foot Clinic (Dr. Christensen)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- Funds for feeding the elderly
- Scholarship funding
- Adoptions for babies
- Adopt-a-Crib sponsors for Baby Centre - \$100 monthly



## LCC REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Maureen reports, "The government has added more inspections and the Area Advisory Council (AAC) inspection is a big one, as the officials are very strict and thorough. When they showed up at LCC (unannounced and in the late afternoon the main office was closed for work) they found the house parents who took them around and told them what we do. They were so impressed by the information the house parents gave and how they answered the questions very articulately. The ACC were so impressed that they told the Children's officer and also said it to the staff that of all the homes they have been to they were most impressed by the LCC. The staff are well informed and aware of the work they are doing and the children at L.C.C are so happy and content." We are so very proud of the awesome team at LCC - congratulations!



# LIFE HOUSE

## A HOME FOR LCC HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Furnishing apartments is not something we saw ourselves doing when we started working with LCC, but that's what we found ourselves doing frantically a few weeks ago trying to get the new apartments ready for the high school students coming home for school holidays. Just a few weeks before schools closed for the August break, we secured some apartments that would be the new home for the Life House program. It was a busy time with lots of shopping, but it was worth it all when the students came home to find that they now had a place of their own, a place where they could come back to during every school break.



The provision of the apartments was really an answer to prayer. They are close enough to the main LCC campus that the students still feel connected to the staff and kids at LCC, but they are now more independent and can now be more involved in cooking, shopping, cleaning and taking ownership of their property - all things they need to learn before they step out of LCC one day. When I asked some of the boys what they knew about cooking before they had moved in, their only answer was tea, but I'm happy to say that by the end they

had all learned how to cook something, and thankfully no one went hungry. They all worked well together learning from each other and the house parents.

God also really answered our prayers in providing house parents in Maureen and Julius who were great leaders and mentors for the kids. I am not sure how they managed to supervise 20 youth, but they did a great job and the kids loved having them there to learn from and share with. Although that August holiday was short, we still managed to hold several sessions on relationships, sexual purity, having a growth mind set, self belief, and making budgets and managing finances. The best part of the new Life House setup is that the kids now can learn so much more through experience. They have been given more freedom and more responsibility, and we are really excited to see how they have enjoyed it and that they have made the most of it.

Thank you to the donors and godparents who have given so much to make the Life House a reality. It has already had an enormous impact on the high schoolers and we are already looking forward to, and planning for, the next one.

-Bobby and Brandy Reese

**WOW!** It is a privilege to be given this opportunity for Julia and I Maureen, to have this chance to write on behalf of all the youth about the life in Life House. Global Connections has been a blessing to us for having a great idea of Life House. We all think that since we were all born, Life House has been the best experience ever. It is fun and all the great things one can ever think of. The Bible study and sessions we are going through are of a great help to us. We are learning new things every day and we promise to put it into action. About our Life House parents, they are cool and awesome. They are of good company to us and support us every time we need them. Maureen and Julius are teaching us new stuff like cooking and showing us how to do new things that we never knew before. We thank our unconditional God for all the things and challenges that He has helped us to overcome. He has been faithful to us and sent for us friends who are kind, loving and felt mercy for us. We thank all of the people who came up with the Life House idea and have made it possible, and we promise to change and be better people in life.

- Life House residents *Maureen Wangui & Julia Wangari*



# MY TIME IN KENYA

## REFLECTION BY ROBIN CHRISTENSEN

Looking through the hundreds of pictures I took in Kenya, I am inspired by how many amazing experiences we had during our 12-day adventure in July 2016. Choosing 'a most memorable moment' is impossible since every day was filled with meaningful experiences filled with the love of our Heavenly Father. As I looked through my pictures of Pat's feeding program, LCC, the Free Foot Clinic, Cheshire Home for Disabled Girls, LCC-K Branch, Body of Christ, Teaching the LCC Staff, and the amazing Maa-sai Mara, my heart kept hearing the scripture Matthew 25:40: 'And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'

Living in the greatest country, we have been blessed with many luxuries that our brothers and sisters in third world countries will never know. Giving back to those in need does not take much. Anything we can do or give to charities blesses so many lives more than we realize. With that, I hope the following story inspires you to look at life a little deeper and find a way to help our brothers and sisters in need.

**BAG NUMBER 6:** After 5 trunks and duffle bags were filled with donated medical supplies, we realized we still had one bag unpacked to bring on our trip to Kenya. We searched our closets to find things we could bring for the people in Limuru. The slightly worn athletic shoes piled in the corner of our closet seemed to be shouting at us to join the adventure. With plenty of good wear left, we tied them together in pairs and packed bag #6.

Fast forward to day 2 at the Free Foot Clinic in Limuru: Each morning upon our arrival, people patiently sat with their numbers under the trees to see the foot doctor at the modest medical clinic that was surrounded by dire poverty on one side and a school

filled with busy children wearing matching uniforms on the other. During the hours at the clinic, the enthusiastic student choir next door could be heard singing Handel's Messiah. The first patient that morning was an 83-year-old man wearing an old worn-out suit, two times too big, on his 90-pound frame. Through an interpreter, the old Kenyan man said his legs hurt and he couldn't walk because his feet were too heavy. Dr. Christensen provided a few suggestions for this gentle soul and examined the worn-out shoes he shuffled in with. With one knowing glance, we knew what to do. I sent my daughter Kylie to the back room to search through bag #6. She found a pair of New Balance men's walking shoes that looked his size. Having sat in the corner of our closet for years without any appreciation, these shoes provided hope for this gentle soul. As we put the shoes on his feet, the man sadly replied, "I can't pay for these." The interpreter explained the shoes were a gift and he did not need to pay for them. The man grinned and stood up to feel the shoes on his worn out feet. He replied, "I feel 20 years younger!" He seemed to have grown a few more inches that morning as he walked out of the clinic with renewed hope. We asked him to pose for a picture; he humbly thanked us, then left with hope in his heart for an easier journey home that day.

So many times we think we 'need' new shoes, clothes, stuff. I have since wondered how such a little thing as an old pair of shoes can change someone's life. With all the blessings we have, just giving the needy 'a little' makes such an enormous difference in their life. Global Connections has bag #6 open right now. Limuru Children's Center always has needs. Pat's

Feeding Program is hoping to give the Limuru needy blankets for Christmas gifts. Cheshire Home for the Disabled Girls and Body of Christ orphanage need monetary donations. From small to large, needs can be met with donations that go directly to these gentle souls in Kenya making their lives a bit easier each day.

-Robin Christensen



*“And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*



# MY TIME IN KENYA

## MORE REFLECTIONS

My month spent working at Limuru Children's Centre was filled with life changing moments, but the most pivotal moment of my trip was adopting Morgan to be my godchild. For weeks I had prayed that Morgan would be given a godparent who could love him fully. Then one day, God kind of just told me point blank, "Hey it's you. You are going to be Morgan's godparent." Of course my stubborn self-questioned God completely. I wondered if I was strong enough to commit to it or if I was good enough to be his godparent at all, and as always, God let me know that he didn't care about my petty and selfish worries. This was about so much more than me – it was about Morgan. The moment I finally told Morgan that I was his godparent completely washed away any selfish worries I was having. The smile on his face, when he realized that he finally had someone who loved him completely and fully, was priceless. Moments like that make every dollar spent, every letter written, and every picture sent completely worth it. Moments like that make me truly appreciate how vital the godparent program is to the children at LCC. These kids have been turned away and treated like nothing, but the godparents allow them to feel loved, cherished, and above all special.

-Caroline Brantley



My time in Kenya was incredible! The children and moms touched my heart like no other. At LCC I read the story of Daniel and the Lion's Den. When preparing Anna and I found this verse: Daniel 6:21- "My God sent his angel, who closed the mouths of the lions, so they would not hurt me." How fitting is this verse - Africa, lions, us, God. This verse touched my heart and lead me to adopting Asumta. Being her angel, sent from God to help protect and love her, along with being sent to love and play with all the children and fellowship with the moms. God definitely showed me He is in the "small things" of life by sending me to such an amazing place!

-Kelly Cosby

*“My God sent his angel, who closed the mouths of the lions, so they would not hurt me.”*

I have struggled to find words to describe the feelings I have when I travel to Africa. I am not sure there are words that can ever completely justify it. The quote "I never wake up a day in Africa where I am not happy." is one that I can relate to. Africa is my thin place. There is a least one place in this world whether physically or mentally that brings an immediate smile to your face and warmth to your heart. A place that gives you peace, perseverance, purpose, pleasure ... a thin place, in Celtic Christian tradition, is a physical place where humans experience God more directly—where the boundary between heaven and earth is especially thin. It is the place where we can sense God's presence more readily. For me, it's not the country that makes it thin or the travel or even the work. For me, it's the people and the relationships and the love. Who knew that I would fall in love with babies across the world and build cherished friendships with the people of LCC? Who knew that I would want to go back again and again? God knew, and that is why three years ago He put the desire in my 15-year-old daughter's heart to go. He knew, and that is why He put Global Connections in my path with the perfect opportunity. God knew Africa (LCC) was my thin place way before I did, and I am so grateful.

-Karen Stephens



# BABY CENTRE

## UPDATE FROM TESNI

### HELLO FRIENDS!

We are so excited to share that the actual building for the new baby centre has begun and we should be able to move across into our new home by the end of the year, if all goes well. We have learnt to expect hurdles and challenges along the way, but even so, God is faithful and has never let us down. And so our faith has grown, and we are expectant of our new beautiful home soon! We are so thankful for everyone who has played a part in making this happen!

Our big boys are now going to 'school'. We have a fantastic new teacher who has taken on the younger children at the LCC, including our older boys, and is teaching them letters, numbers, colors etc., through play and creative activities. The boys are really enjoying being with the older children and are responding so well to the extra stimulation and teaching! We are excited to see them grow!

Local adoptions have opened up again and one of our babies has been placed in a family. We have several more who are waiting to be matched with their 'forever families'. We would really appreciate prayers for their future families and the adoption process. So far, things have been moving very slowly, but at least they are moving.

At the end of June, our beloved baby Alvin, who has been terminally ill for months, went home to his heavenly Father. He was 9 months old. How we miss his sweet smile, and fighting spirit, but we are grateful he is now whole, happy, pain-free and at peace. Thank you to everyone who supported us through this difficult time. God has been good and present through it all.

In July, we received a new little baby girl and a newborn boy in September – both beautiful treasures, growing and developing very well. We now have 13 babies. Our 'little ones' are not so little anymore, and are now walking, talking, crawling, and getting quite cheeky. We have been amazed at Becci's progress who is now sitting beautifully by herself. It has been fun to watch all these little personalities develop! Once again, thank you for your faithful support! We couldn't do it without you! God bless you!

Sincerely,  
*tesni*



New LCC Baby Centre across the street from LCC Children's Centre.



# PAT'S FEEDING PROGRAM

## AN UPDATE

### SOMETIMES I JUST GET TIRED:

tired of running errands, tired of cleaning house, tired of trying to figure out what's for dinner. The older I get, the more tired I get... and the more justified I feel in deciding to sit a spell... catch up on the news... take in the view. Sometimes it feels like wisdom and maturity - and maybe it is. But then sometimes I think about Pat Dixson... and long to get off my duff and DO something... and not just something, but something of value.

Pat Dixson, 84, has not slowed down a bit since we first met her eleven years ago. She is in her 23rd year of providing life-sustaining food packages every two weeks for an ever expanding number of elderly and advanced AIDS patients. She is now up to 400 and the number who sit outside hopeful for a half loaf of bread and some maize just continues to grow. She provides additional food supplements for The Body of Christ School which houses and educates orphaned and at risk children in Limuru as well as the Cheshire Home for Disabled Girls, which provides love, training and hope to an otherwise discarded or abused population of women in Kenya.

Pat has never taken a salary for herself or money to cover her administrative expenses. She pays the men who help her prepare and distribute the food packages out of her own pocket. Almost every team we take has been blessed to participate with Pat in her feeding program. We see the passion she and her small team of three have to help as many people as they can in their community. We are amazed by her team's commitment. We are inspired by her leadership, integrity and willingness to humbly and shamelessly seek out the funding required to sustain this program (and maybe grow it to include one or two more people when no one is looking).

Pat Dixson is certainly not a martyr; she knows when to take a nap and when to enjoy tea, but neither is she one to waste her precious time. Even as food costs have more than doubled over the recent years, even as she's replaced joints, battled thieves and prepared for terrorists, she has not gotten too self-focused to use her time and resources to serve others. Then, when she gets REALLY tired...she teaches herself to paint. What an inspiration!

-Anna Pochett

*“For to whom much is given,  
of him much shall be required.”*

*Luke 12:48*

Donations can be made to support Pat Dixson's work by going to: [GlobalConnectionsOnline.org](http://GlobalConnectionsOnline.org)  
Donate and choose *Feeding Programs*.



# PATRICK'S UPDATE

## ON THE LCC, LIFE HOUSE AND BABY HOME

It's with pleasure and humbleness that I make this report on the progress and wonderful things that have happened recently with our children's programme. Thank God for His love for the children who provide this platform for our testimonies. As always, I like to say every day for me is a new experience here in Limuru and when working so closely with the children's programme. We have been experiencing a great curve in the lives of several of our children as they transition and move on in life without our supervision and guided by their own.

I almost felt like it was wrong when some of our girls ended up getting pregnant and dropped out of school because we had nurtured them since they were young and had gone through difficult times in their young lives. But the reality was that it was time in a way for them to stand on their own feet and begin to fend for themselves however difficult the circumstances of being young mothers and been left to make their own choices still at an early stage. It's the life out there that will mold them and thereafter they will find themselves and be ordinary citizens of a society in their motherland. Several of them are entrepreneurs by their own right and it shows so much just how limited we were in supporting them to get to a stage where their own choices determined the outcome of their daily lives just like ordinary citizens... Selling food in little trolleys in the streets of Limuru, sewing and making clothes as well as being teachers themselves to others, hairdressing careers, teaching etc.

Likewise, our young boys (men), had to step into bigger shoes after they realized they had a life to live and on their own and so now I find them

working in factories, as mechanics, and generally hustling and paying their own rent and food. This is welcome for the LCC and our efforts in creating the environment and space for them all to find themselves. Our graduates may be struggling with sourcing career jobs but they are out there and trying to figure things out in an ordinary world with ordinary people. We continue to encourage them whenever a chance presents itself ...We are still engaged in the day to day lives of several young children with all manner of needs. Our upcoming young teens or rather those in secondary schools give us challenges as they transition from childhood to adulthood. A Life House Programme set up to work with them more closely is doing well and we hope and believe this will provide a much needed support program in our exit plan for these kids.

Recently in our secondary schools around the country, many teens were engaged in burning down their dormitories and this was bad for every parent as it created a lot of pressure on those kids who didn't want to be involved in such destruction and the risky business of arson. We have had to deal with one of our own, and the outcome has yet to be determined by the investigating agencies but the fact that he was implicated gives us reason to work more closely with them in every way possible to make sure we have provided for them in the right way in all areas of their lives.

The staff continues to work diligently and with dedication and with minimal supervision. Only a good team can accomplish what the LCC has been able to accomplish over the years and in the lives of so many of these kids within and in

the outreach programme. The progress is great in terms of how well we are provided for with the means to work with the kids and making sure they benefit. A regular counselor has been engaged.

We have since embarked on a new development to create more and better space for the little babies, this through a generous donor (Rano and family) who have purchased a plot right opposite the main Centre and are now putting up a building! God allows for such things to happen so we can truly testify His provision and love for all His children. We are forever humbled by this reality and continue to give thanks to Him and to everybody He touches and directs to fill in these much needed areas in the abandoned and vulnerable children's lives.

The continued support from our far away family GC Team in all areas of the programme is in itself a God thing and we cannot thank them enough. The teams continue to see that everything is going on well here and the kids particularly are well taken care of. The visits always bring that much needed encouragement and more so fellowship. They are a 'Beacon of Light' for so many children...I am forever thankful to have this opportunity to work in the children's ministry. To work so closely with our friends from US. To be able to give real life testimony and see children move on or abandoned babies getting into families that love them and are taking care of them as their own. It is humbling and a joy and a blessing only our God can provide.

-Patrick





*Love grows by giving.*

*The love we give away is the only love we keep.  
The only way to retain love is to give it away.*



# CHESHIRE HOME

## CHESHIRE HOME FOR DISABLED GIRLS

For several years our summer team has enjoyed visiting the Limuru Cheshire Home for Disabled Girls run by the Assumption Sisters of Nairobi. This home is a member of the worldwide Leonard Cheshire Foundation family of charitable services. The first Cheshire Home was established in Hampshire, England in 1948 and has since expanded to 255 homes in 57 countries worldwide.

The Cheshire mission is to work with people with disabilities throughout the world, regardless of their color, race or creed by providing the conditions necessary for their physical, mental and spiritual well-being. They believe that each person, whatever his or her disability is a uniquely valuable individual and that people with disabilities should have the personal freedom to pursue their aspirations and take their own place in the world.

This year thirty-two young ladies with disabilities aged 12-25 are residents and will receive two years of vocational training in tailoring, knitting, leatherwork, jewelry, and computers. On completion, the girls are provided with the necessary equipment and materials to establish their own businesses.

It was our privilege in July to visit with these special girls several times. During our first visit we provided the girls with yarn for their knitting, dental hygiene kits, hand knitted washcloths, and bracelets made by children from Palmer Home. Our foot clinic was set up one weekend and each resident was examined by Dr. Vern Christiansen. Our last visit was to pamper the girls. Each girl received a hand knitted hat and headband before they were treated to manicures and pedicures by the four remaining team members.

- *Jovise Powers*



*“Think of giving  
not as a duty  
but as a privilege.”*

*- John D. Rockefeller Jr.*





## GIVE THE GIFT OF HOPE.

Give your friends and family the greatest gift of all – the gift of hope to others – and tell them the story of why their help is needed in Kenya. The Gift of Hope Program is a partnership and charitable giving program to support efforts to improve lives in Kenya.

This year, our focus will be on providing the elderly and single mothers living with HIV/AIDS with HOPE through the warmth of wool blankets or life's basic necessity - food. Many people don't realize how cold it gets during the Kenyan winters, especially in the highlands of Limuru which is known as the coolest area of the country. Winter temperatures dip into the 40s and houses have no heat source and no insulation. The elderly receives a supplement of only \$2 each month and must walk miles to obtain that mere amount.

Through Pat's Feeding Program, we've identified over 400 elderly and single moms living with HIV/AIDS to provide with new woolen blankets. Blankets cost \$4 each, so your gift of \$40 would provide 10 people with this comfort and hope for their future. Beans, rice, meal etc. cost approximately \$7 each two weeks for a small family; so your gift of \$70 would feed 10 small families for two weeks. As with all of our Global Connections programs, 100% of your gift goes directly to serve the needs of the vulnerable in Kenya with no overhead or administrative costs deducted.

The Gift of Hope program is available year-round, so please consider this option for Christmas, birthdays, graduations, and other special events. Your loved one will receive a note from Global Connections detailing your gift and its impact on people in need in Kenya. Gift of Hope is a meaningful way to honor your friends and family, and it is certainly a gift of both hope and love.

## GIFTS THAT CHANGE THE FUTURE

- \$40** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and brings warmth to **10** people through providing them with wool blankets.
- \$70** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and provides nourishing food for **10** small families for two weeks.
- \$100** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and brings warmth to **25** people through providing them with wool blankets
- \$140** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and provides nourishing food for **20** small families for two weeks.
- \$250** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and brings warmth to **62** people through providing them with wool blankets.
- \$500** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and provides nourishing food for **71** small families for two weeks.
- \$1000** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and brings warmth to **250** people through providing them with wool blankets.
- \$1500** donation – gives a Gift of Hope and provides nourishing food for **251** small families for two weeks.

*Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." Matthew 19:23-24*

## 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

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

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Columbus, MS 39705  
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Email: info@globalconnectionsonline.org

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Mail to recipient



# GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

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