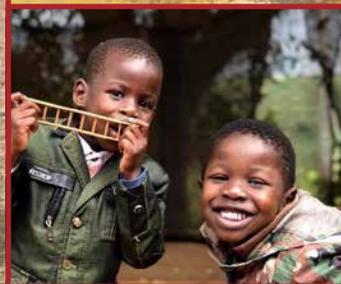




GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

RETHINKING HUMANITARIAN AID



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Serving & Learning

from the

orphaned, widowed, poor & oppressed

UPDATES AND STATISTICS

LCC ADVISORY BOARD

Patrick's transition from Director of LCC to Chairman of the advisory board has been very fruitful. The board is a wonderful group of highly capable individuals who have been committed to the LCC for a long time. The privilege of interacting with these well-educated and willing servants has been a blessing to all of us at Global Connections. As always, we thank God for Patrick and his family for their commitment. Together with them, we thank God for the team who has come along side to serve and accompany these children into the next phase of their lives.



CELEBRATIONS • Praise God for two LCC student's college entrance • Praise God for Brian & Camp Brethren Boarding School • Praise God for forever homes for several babies • Praise God for the leaders and staff of LCC • Praise God for the LCC Advisory Board • Praise God for awesome team and trip to Kenya

I can't even put into words how thankful I am that I was given the opportunity to go to Africa for two weeks this summer. The children at LCC stole my heart the minute I walked into the gate. It's amazing how kids who have so little, can be so humble and filled with so much joy. While I was in Limuru, I met a little boy named John. John and I had a special connection. He was so appreciative of his situation, it amazed me. John's favorite thing to do, was play baseball with a stick. The smile that simple game would bring to his face, brought tears to my eyes. Into the first week, I was informed that John had to go to court to see if his parents would regain custody. His parents did not take care of him. He would get an occasional beating from his drunkard father, and his mother didn't pay attention to him. He ran away multiple times, because of his parents' constant rejection towards him. It turned out that he had to go back home. My heart was broken into pieces. I was confused why an innocent child was handed right back into these iniquitous ways. I prayed and prayed for an answer from God. Even though I don't know the specific reason, I know God has a mighty plan for little John. So all I can do is trust in Him. These were easily the best two weeks of my life, and I can't wait to go back next year!!



- Mary Carter is a freshman at the University of Arkansas and this was her first visit to Africa.

PRAYER REQUESTS • Sponsors for scholarship students (LCC, K-Branch & village children) • Funding for LCC Baby Home • Prayer for Brian and College students in new schools • Prayers for 15 children taking KCPE (high school entrance exam) - first part of November • Prayers for 5 children taking KCSE (college entrance exam) to complete by mid December • Prayers for special needs toddlers at Baby Home

LCC STATISTICS

15

TAKING HIGH SCHOOL
ENTRANCE EXAM

400

PAT'S FEEDING
PROGRAM

3

LCC COLLEGE
STUDENTS

20

LCC BABY HOME
BABIES

28

PRE-SCHOOLERS
(K-BRANCH)

53

PRE-SCHOOLERS
(LCC & K-BRANCH)

46

LCC BOARDERS

5

TAKING COLLEGE
ENTRANCE EXAM

96

CHILDREN PART OF
LCC FEEDING PROGRAM

25

LCC LIFEHOUSE
PROGRAMS

43

LCC STAFF

16

LCC SCHOLARSHIP
STUDENTS

GODPARENT LETTERS AND HAILEY

GODPARENT LETTERS

Being a part of the godparent program is an opportunity to bless the life of a child at LCC. Through a sponsorship, you are able to provide for that child's most basic needs and in return, you are given a lifetime gift of joy in being able to love and provide for that child. One of the most intimate ways godparents are able to interact with their child is through a birthday gift. For the teens, this gift comes in an envelope complete with letters, pictures, and a small monetary blessing. Here is a small glimpse into a moment from the retreat that I hope can both encourage and stir your heart for continued good works.

After all the envelopes were passed out, I looked out into the room and all eyes were locked in on the letters they had just received. There was minimal chatter, but smiles were popping up right and left. I don't know about you, but there have been times where I am guilty of skimming through cards just so I can get to the gift that came along with it. These kids? Totally different story. I would venture to say they spent at least 15 minutes reading these letters over and over again, looking through pictures 10x, and excitedly sharing with those around them the news they had just read. You see, these letters are more than just words. These letters are the foundation to these relationships between godparent and child. I thought that moment was powerful, then came the time to write back to their godparents. For the next hour (yes, HOUR) these kids found a spot in the room, grabbed a pen and paper, and began writing letters of thanks to their godparent. As I walked around peeking over

different shoulders I realized these letters were more than just a thank you. These letters were an outpouring of love that showed a child's love for their family. These kids wanted to know about each family member and their life updates. They wanted to share in the joy of newborns and the fun activities their siblings in the states were a part of. They wanted their families to know their future plans and the grades they received. Joys were shared, and prayers requested. These kids not only shared their highs in life, but they also shared their needs and struggles. It became very real to me that these relationships with godparents are more than just a monetary support system, these relationships are everything to these kids. When asked if they had the opportunity to go visit anywhere in this world



where would it be? Their responses were not one of the seven wonders of the world but rather places like Franklin, TN; Raleigh, NC; Columbus, MS; etc. They want to be where their family is. This does not mean they don't have a family at LCC because I will be the first to tell you that is one of the strongest

family units I have ever experienced. However, these teens understand the kind of bond that comes from knowing they are deeply loved by a family that is located across an entire ocean and continent.

My purpose in writing this article was to encourage those of you who are currently godparents. You are shaping these young hearts in a way that is most needed. And if you are not one but have been considering becoming one, I pray this article gives you a small glimpse into the joy that relationship can bring. Your child may not be at a point where they can write a full page of words to you, but rest assured, your impact is much deeper than you could ever believe. You may be loving these children from a distance, but you are close to their hearts in the most meaningful way. May I encourage you to never lost heart or sight of the way something so simple can make such a profound impact. Your generosity and support for these kids not only inspires my heart, but it is spreading love that is abounding in the hearts of these precious children.

- Jenny Moorer is a graduate student from Harding University. She is working towards becoming a clinical and mental health counselor and school counselor. This was her second time to visit Africa.



HAILEY'S EXPERIENCE AT THE LCC!



The first time I walked in the LCC I felt like the kids were all staring at me, maybe because I was white. They liked to touch my hair. I was scared at first, but we sat together and had porridge, which was surprisingly good! We sat down and they asked me lots of questions about school, living in the United States and even math problems! Anna introduced me by name to many of the kids, and I learned theirs - but there were a lot of kids!

I couldn't believe all these children had no parents. It made me feel sad. But it was cool that they all helped each other - the big kids helped out the smaller kids, like a really big family. I also thought it was amazing that they had fun with broken bikes, closet parts, and deflated balls, but my favorite was rolling tires! In the U.S., we jump rope, almost the same as in Africa, swinging the rope and saying rhymes. I taught them a few new rhymes and they taught me how to jump in the moving rope.

Playing with the kids was a lot of fun and I realized while there they were a lot like us - playing outside and going to school. I was surprised by how happy they were, kind and welcoming of visitors, even though they must be going through a tough time in their life. It was sad every time we had to leave.

Hailey

FIKI DADA AND SPA DAY

PATHWAYS NOT PROBLEMS

A When we are able to empower girls, we are strengthening their communities and our world. This summer, we were able to participate in the Fiki Dada program. This program has been implemented 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. The program is now not just in Kenya, but is being implemented in many third world

countries on six continents. This program is providing so much hope because young girls who cannot provide protection for themselves during their cycle are forced to stay home and miss school - some even dropping out.

We visited three schools in July to see first hand the impact. Our Kenyan facilitators engaged us in discussions with sixth, seventh, and eighth grade girls exploring their prior knowledge about menstrual cycles, health, and what was available to use as sanitary pads. Many girls that live in poverty are not able to buy suitable pads and are sometimes forced to use rags, mattress stuffing, or leaves to manage their menstrual flow. In some communities, there is a stigma concerning menstruation and it is taboo to discuss this natural process that all women worldwide experience. This leaves them in the dark the day their cycle begins.

Thanks to volunteers in our communities in America who tirelessly sewed feminine hygiene bags and washable reusable pads, we were able to offer these girls a safe, clean

alternative and a way to stay in school.

We distributed at least three hundred hygiene bags. Each one was packed with panties, two reusable pads, ten disposable pads, and a bar of laundry soap. Along with this tangible gift, they each received the knowledge they needed to shatter the stigmas associated with becoming a woman, health education, and the reality that this process is a gift from God which will allow them to become mothers later in life.

Each team member was moved by the songs they sang, their willingness to share, their gratitude, and prayers they offered for us to be blessed by God and have a safe journey.

If you would like to get involved with this program, please contact Louise Powers at lpowers12@yahoo.com to receive a sewing pattern.



SPA DAY AT LCC

There is an incredible staff at LCC that works tirelessly, without complaint, for the children at the LCC. As a way to show our love and appreciation for these wonderful men and women, we treated them with a Spa Day at the Center. We played relaxing music, massaged their hands and feet with lotion, painted the women's nails, and gave back massages.

It was clearly a unique experience for most of the staff. Several of them expressed to us that they had never had a massage or any kind of spa treatment before. I was humbled by their gratitude towards each of us for taking the

time to serve them in this way. They repeatedly thanked us for coming and they told us they pray for the teams that come each year. One of my favorite things was watching the women sit back in the chair, kick their feet up, close their eyes, and let the cares of the world get washed away for a minute. It was also a special time to bond with the men and women of LCC and get to know their hearts on a deeper level.

These men and women are so strong. They spend the majority of their day on their feet, carrying heavy loads of laundry, cooking, cleaning, caring for children, and so much more. Their love for these children is evident in the work they do for each individual child and



the center as a whole. We wanted them to know that we see what they do for these children and that it does not go unnoticed.

Rachel Marshall

LIFE HOUSE YOUTH RETREAT

I had the privilege, along with an awesome team, to help plan a youth retreat for the teens at LCC this past trip. There were moments where I was a little unsure how it would all unfold because planning anything for teenagers can be a difficult task. However, with an encouraging team and the Brackenhurst staff, I was eager to start the weekend. As Linda and Maureen dropped off kids, my excitement continued to grow. I hadn't seen these faces in three years and I was quickly reminded just how much their smiles affected my heart the first time.



We kicked off the retreat on Friday night with dinner, some ice breaker games (although no icebreaking was necessary), and a devotional led by Julius. It was an encouraging start and I was excited for Saturday's events. Saturday morning, we spent some intensive time studying scripture and learning about our identity in Christ. Later that morning, we split into small groups and did an activity where we wrote down truths that scripture says about us. Teenagers, along with all age groups, have the tendency to believe the lies we tell ourselves. The more we allow Satan to speak those lies into our hearts, the more we believe them to be true. By taking scripture, we wrote down "I am" statements to remind us that God believes far different things about His children. We learned that we are loved, chosen, adopted, redeemed, holy, forgiven, heirs, conquerors, and the list could go on and on. Our prayer was that these kids walked away with a deeper understanding of who they are in Christ and no matter what their story is, He makes them complete. The rest of Saturday's events consisted of team building and quality time. Between a photo scavenger hunt, a futbol game, a movie complete with popcorn and coke, and a bonfire with smores, these teens were

having the most fun! As I sat around the bonfire watching these kids laugh, sing, and enjoy each other's company, I felt a tinge of sadness as I realized the last day was approaching. On Sunday morning, we celebrated birthdays and allowed time for reading letters, looking at pictures, and writing back to their families. That hour was so powerful that you'll have to reference a different article to get the full story. We ended the retreat worshipping our Creator together with the rest of the Global Connections team. The teens conducted the majority of the service and I think those of us who were there would agree it was one of the most uplifting hours of the entire trip. There is freedom in their hearts that brings about a genuine joy and a reverence for God that is moving. Our service ended with a team member praying over our teens that they would be lights to those around them and remember that their identity and fulfillment is only complete in Christ Jesus.

Here are the important takeaways to know about these 72 hours spent with this incredible group:

1 No matter how much we planned for them, these teens simply loved being together. We

could have given them only a soccer ball and some music and they would have still had the best weekend. Some of the most impactful moments were in between activities where they would just hang out. The smiles, the inside jokes, the deep conversations around the fire.... these kids were all in. My greatest joy came from watching their joy unfold just by being together.

2 God is doing a great work in their hearts. We need to continue to pray that no matter their location, they would trust the light He has shown into their hearts. Pray that light would reflect into the lives around them and transform the hearts of others for the Gospel.

3 You will never regret putting distractions aside and spending time with people you love most. It can be so difficult in our society to allow our time, money, and possessions to blind us from the thing we need most- quality time spent with our people and our Maker. The joy I experienced in this weekend filled me up in a way that will last for months. These are the experiences we need to create and cultivate.

Many of you prayed for weeks leading up to this weekend and from the depths of my heart, thank you. I believe the power of your prayers was evident and transforming not only for these teens, but for those of us who had the privilege of leading them. May God continue to mold the hearts of these teens to look more like Him each day.

- Jenny Moorer is a graduate student from Harding University. She is working towards becoming a clinical and mental health counselor and school counselor. This was her second time to visit Africa.

“You will never regret putting distractions aside and spending time with people you love most.”

PAT DIXSON'S FEEDING PROGRAM

AND CONNECTIONS FOR OUR DISABLED CHILDREN

As Pat settles into her new home in the city, she is still actively fundraising with her main donors. It was such a blessing to find that her son, Alan and his Let's Go Travel office family, have stepped in to fill the gaping hole left by Pat's absence at the program. Peter, Mburu, and Francis are continuing with the operation of the program and it is running beautifully.

The nurse practitioner from Brackenhurst, Steven Juma, came to observe the program for the first time this July and was both impressed and humbled by the fact that this has been going on all these years and he had no idea. In talking to some of the women, he found that one woman had come from as far as 30 kilometers away to receive this food package. He shook his head in disbelief that people were in such need of food. Sometimes it is hard to



see the need that is right in front of us.

His heart is to offer medical clinics to those who need it the most. Please join us in prayer that this will come to pass. This very trip a man collapsed in front of us. He was cold from the inside out and had nothing, but a shirt and suit coat to warm him on this cold and rainy day. On this same day, I was wearing long underwear

and several layers on top, as well as my own personal insulation born of unlimited access to cheese. His neighbor explained that he has no one to care for him and he has no food. Al and Linda took him to Dr. Patel in town who has always been most gracious to care for these at no charge in the worst cases - but for someone to come to the program and offer medical help would be amazing for these people. If anyone has access to medicines, I know this doctor (who does medical clinics in remote villages each year) would be very blessed to give you a list of the meds most needed by the people he serves.

We wish Pat great joy and are so thankful to know the great work she has started is continuing!

Anna Puckett

God has established an amazing connection to educate our disabled children in a Christian school where the children are fully integrated into the population of 400 students. Brian is a child who is emotionally 2 years old, but physically and mentally a big and strong 9 year old. He survived on the streets before he came to the LCC and he has remained in preschool because he lacked the self-control and emotional maturity necessary to be in primary school. It was so moving to see him meld into the 3rd grade class with great joy. When we had to leave after the visit, he only wanted to get his uniform and stay on the campus. Lilian and the management team and board members who were with us found peace that this is the school God is providing for this precious child.

This partner organization partnership, Camp Brethren via David's Hope, is working to raise funds to build a dorm for the severely disabled so they can have the accommodations they need without being separated from all the other kids. No doubt Global Connections is the appropriate name for our organization - for God continues to make life changing connections all around the world through the mission we've been given.



MUNA TREE CAFE

My experience in Africa was different than I thought. I had a realization that "it seems that poverty filled places aren't God forsaken, but all of the wealthy places are God forsaken". Even though the poor are poor and the rich are rich, that doesn't mean they are less gifted than the rich. The rich are rich and the poor are poor, but God made us in His image; the same. We might wash our clothes different, but in the end they're the same - clean.

By Hughes Canale - 12 years old - 7th grade



EMPOWER TO TRANSFORM - PASTOR JULIUS NGUGI

Julius Ngugi has shown himself to be a strong servant leader in his community and as a minister to our Global Connections teams. His faithful commitment to sharing the gospel of Christ by being the hands and feet of Christ has proven most fruitful on both sides of the equator. We give thanks for him and for his support team from Arkansas. The Kingdom of Love is advancing in our world because of their courage and faithfulness.



MUNA TREE CAFE

While in Kenya, we stayed at Brackenhurst Hotel & Conference Center and enjoyed most of our meals at the Muna Tree Cafe located in the main building. It's a quaint a la carte restaurant that caters their menu towards Westerners. My first morning there I enjoyed a delicious cappuccino and omelet with toast made from scratch. I was blown away by the quality of the coffee, food, and presentation. My eyes were also drawn to the enticing display of cookies, brownies, cakes, and other pastries along the counter. As someone who has spent several years working in the foodservice industry, I have a special appreciation for these things.

Linda Holden and Jenny Moorer, team members of mine, thought it would be a good opportunity to use my passion and knowledge for cooking as a mission. Linda set up a meeting with Robert and Christen, the Director of Operations and his wife, to see the potential needs and interest. The head chef of Cafe Muna Tree, Chef Alfred, and the food and beverage manager, Peter, participated in the meeting as well. We sat down and talked

about their current menu, desired changes, and challenges they were facing. They were looking for more variety in their baked goods, and also eager to learn about gluten-free baking. I was honored that they valued my opinion and wanted my help.



That same day they brought me into their industrial kitchen and introduced me to the rest of the staff. Immediately I was handed an apron and hairnet. The staff was ready for me to jump in and help them with a few recipes they were struggling with. Feeling under-qualified, I gave my best shot. I immediately felt welcomed and appreciated. Many bites were taken! More rewarding than the food was the laughter and love we shared.

Over the course of my stay, I worked in the kitchen 5 or 6 times. By the end of my time, I was sad to be leaving what felt like family. As a parting gift, I shared several recipes with Chef Alfred, and encouraged him to reach out through email with any questions. Since my return home, I have gotten word that they were pleased with our time spent working together. Also, that we should expect to see 'Rachel-influenced pastries' at Cafe Muna Tree next year when we return.

I came to Kenya with an open heart and mind, ready to serve wherever I was needed. The thought hadn't crossed my mind that working in a cafe kitchen would be an avenue for God to use me for His Glory, but that is the amazing thing about God; He has no limits. In return I was greatly blessed by the staff at the cafe and look forward to working with them in the future.

- Rachel Marshall is a Nutrition Coach from Bowling Green, Kentucky and first time traveler to Africa.

MY EXPERIENCE IN AFRICA

FROM KELLY COSBY AND DENNIS ENIX

JOYFUL

Years of hearing stories told by Mrs. Louise about traveling to Kenya and working with the children of Limuru Children's Center kept tugging at my heart. I taught at a county school for 3 years and the love & need my kindergarten students wanted from me made going to work meaningful and deserving. After switching schools to be closer to home, I still had the love for my job, but the kids were not the same. God had me where he wanted me. That winter I got a phone call from Mrs. Louise. She said, "Kelly you are going to Kenya with me this summer!" What??? How??? What do I have to do? She responded, "Don't worry about it." "We will get it all worked out". "The church will send you".

I had been praying for the Lord to lead me in a new direction. I wanted to help children more than I already was in my community through church, school, and Junior Auxiliary. Well, let's just say the Lord blessed me in SO MANY WAYS in 2016. Limuru Children's



Center grabbed a hold of my heart and never let go. When I returned home, I was planning my next trip for 2017 and I was supporting the most precious little one named Asumpta and praying for her, her friends, and caregivers-HER FAMILY!

2017 came but I was unable to make the trip. My heart sunk, I cried when Mrs. Louise and Mrs. Linda told me the team was not going. I already had money in a savings account at my church; I had other fundraisers planned-why is this happening? I'm still not sure why the Lord held us back other than safety reasons, but it didn't stop me from raising money. I just told them to sign me up for 2018! Well, then I met the love of my life and Mrs. Louise asked, "Are you still going with us?" My response, "YES! He isn't stopping me!"----- "Yes ma'am, I have already discussed it with him, but we will talk some more." Brian, was all for me going back. He loves my heart for children and my work of the Lord.

The time comes, summer 2018 was here. I am planning a wedding, going to Kenya, and getting everything ready for a new school year. So many emotions are going through me. Our first flight from Columbus, MS to Atlanta, GA I spotted a rainbow. I knew the next 14 days were going to be joyful. JOYFUL does not begin to describe the trip. I felt like I was at home. The people at Brackenhurst and LCC remembered me. They had been praying for my return. I was in my element, I kind of knew the

ropes, but also knew we had some new projects. New projects grabbed Jenny by the arm and then me! What in the world God??? What are you getting us into? He was blessing us as we blessed the people of Limuru and surrounding communities.

The home visits and school visits blessed me beyond measure. Julius was not afraid to get us out of our comfort zone. Going in the homes of families around the Limuru community was eye opening. These families have very little, but are so joyful and live by prayer and faith. Planning a wedding and dreaming about a life of luxury and then going in to these homes stopped me in my tracks. Why is our way of living so EXTRA? If we lived by prayer and faith like the people of Kenya we would be so much happier and joyful. These families touched me by their smiles, their faith, and way of living. The children made the best of their life. One by finding wire on the side of the road to build an airplane and another child read two bible stories to us from a children's Bible he received. Then a sweet girl danced and shared her beautiful voice with us. My prayer is that Global Connections can continue to help support Julius and his home visits. It was so uplifting to visit these families and pray with them. I could not ask for a better second trip across the world!

- Kelly Cosby is a Kindergarten Teacher from Batesville Elementary in Mississippi. This was Kelly's second trip to Africa.

CLIMB

In February 2017 I drove from Louisville, Kentucky to Columbus, Mississippi to be trained as a Chaplain at the YMCA. During this time, I met a number of people that had been to Africa with the locally funded ministry Global Connections. I was in the planning stages to climb Kilimanjaro in the summer of 2018 for my 50th birthday. God laid it on my heart during this week to combine an African mission's



trip with the climb. This began a year and a half of planning and connecting to four different ministry groups that I was able to serve this past July.

Global Connections was the group that listened to what I wanted to accomplish during my time in Africa and helped coordinate with me a full 18 day agenda. Not only do they support some amazing ministries in Limuru, Kenya; they also work with groups and individuals to plan unique missions work and cultural experience opportunities. I had a list that consisted of the Kilimanjaro climb, connecting to the work of the Kenya YMCA, and helping Global Connections in their many amazing programs. Global Connections helped me in all of these areas and provided information about air flights, the visa process, and set up travel and accommodations. They connected me with ACTS (African Christian Tours & Safaris). What a great organization which uses locals in the tourism industry. They handle all of the team travel and accommodations in Limuru, but also can plan Safaris and any type of other African tourist experience that is desired. So they planned with me my Kilimanjaro climb.

During this time, I also began creating relationships with the Kenya YMCA staff leadership and learning of their amazing work in Limuru and also in the Kibera slums in Nairobi. I wanted to get a rural Kenya and big city Kenya experience. Then about 5 months

before I am planning to leave on my trip, I get a call from the Columbus, Mississippi YMCA staff and Christian Mission partner Stephanie Gibson saying that she was headed to Limuru to train Kenyans on Journey to Freedom. I was trained in Journey to Freedom about 4 years ago and they wanted me to help them connect to the Kenya YMCA. I did and 10 YMCA leaders were introduced to this amazing group program designed to help people take an honest inventory of their lives and make positive changes. I also carried over 100 Journey to Freedom books for these new groups when I traveled. I was able to facilitate a new partnership between the Kenya YMCA and Global Connections in Limuru. To meet Pastor Julius in Limuru and know that he was planning groups for the YMCA College of Agriculture and IT staff and students was a real blessing. And to know that this YMCA college would be a new opportunity for some of the Global Connections orphans was a real blessing.

Thank you, Global Connections, ACTS, Restore Small Groups and the Kenya YMCA for an amazing time in Kenya and Tanzania.

- DENNIS ENIX

SEEING HER SMILE

AND UPDATE FROM TESNI

Dear Friends,

We are so thankful that God has seen us through the last few months and all are healthy and growing. I had the opportunity to travel to Germany for two months, and spread the word about the baby home, as well as spend some precious time with donors and friends of the baby home. I even got to visit one of our babies who was adopted four years ago. What a joy to see him with his family, in his home, and to witness how loved and well-cared for he is. God richly blessed my time away, and I'm so thankful that He was our protector both in Kenya and in Germany. While I was away, we had a wonderful team visit and serve at the baby home. What a blessing! They not only spoiled us with new clothes, blankets, medicine, toys, books etc., they gave of their time to care for our staff, and give all our little ones an extra dose of love and attention. Thank you so much to all who were involved in making it such a special visit.



We are thrilled that three of our babies have gone for adoption in the last few weeks, and several are being matched in the next two months. It is always such a highlight to see our babies in the arms of excited and loving parents.

Thank you for your friendship, support and prayers!

- Tesni Anderson

SEEING HER SMILE

As Christians, we are called to love everyone the way Jesus loved. Sometimes in life, we come in contact with people who are more difficult to love than others, but sometimes we meet people who make loving them so so easy. For me, while I was in Kenya, that was the case with everyone I met within the two weeks I was there. Every kid I met was filled with so much joy, so much happiness, and always had the biggest smile on his or her face. All, but one.

On the first Tuesday that I was in Kenya, we went to a day school called K-Branch. When we first got there, we went inside the classroom and practiced the alphabet with the kids until it was time for them to have their snack break and have some time with us outside before we went back inside to give a lesson. As they were all playing, I noticed a little girl bundled up in about four layers of blankets on her back, who was all alone off to the side. I asked teacher David who she was, and he told me her name was Jerry and she lived next door, but was too young to go to school here so, she just hung out during the day while her mom was at work. I walked over to her and she was very hesitant to even come over to me, which was strange considering every child I had met so far had wanted hug all over me. I sat down on the steps and she slowly walked towards me. Side note: this little girl would not smile. She was the saddest child I had ever seen in my entire life. She had burn marks on her hands and her face, so in my head, I was assuming the worst about her life. She let me pick her up and just hold her in my lap. While I was holding her, some of the kids from the school were playing with my hair and bracelets, while Jerry just clung to me in my arms. When it was time for the kids to go inside, I decided that I wanted to stay outside with her. I was holding Jerry and rocking her and slowly, she peacefully fell asleep in my arms. It was in that moment, while I was along with Jerry outside, that I felt a love unlike any love I had ever felt. I was overwhelmed with a feeling of God's presence and a whole lot of love in my heart for this little girl. I just wanted her to smile and laugh and be happy, and my

heart hurt because she just looked so sad. I loved her so much after only an hour of being with her.

After rocking her for about ten minutes, I put her down and we went over and got a jump rope. She slowly started to try and jump rope. She couldn't do it, but she was starting to get happier and happier. By the time we were getting ready to leave, she was playing with the soccer ball, jumping rope, and even smiling. Seeing Jerry's smile was one of the most fulfilling things i have ever felt in my life.

I got the opportunity to go back to K-Branch one more time before I had to leave Kenya. This time, Jerry still looked sad at first, but she came up to me and let me walk her around and she was more willing to do things. she let me feed her porridge, help her with a project, and even push her in the swings. Before I had to say goodbye to Jerry for the last time, I had a baby doll to put on her back because of the first day we went and all of the blankets on her back. As the van pulled up to get me, I placed the baby doll under her coat on her back, gave her a hug, and said bye to the little girl who had stolen my heart. My experience at K-Branch with Jerry was one that I'll hold with me forever. Jerry and I never had one conversation, but that's just proof of how love can connect people even when they don't speak the same language.

- Allie Brown is a sophomore at Harding University studying business and Spanish plans on going to law school. This was her first trip to Africa, but plans on going back.



JUST CALL IT TUESDAY

JOINING THE FAMILY



The more times we visit Kenya, the more I struggle with explaining to people why and where we are going. Most people automatically name it a "mission trip" or I inevitably end up just calling it that to move forward in my conversation. Several years ago, it really quit being that for us. We go with a list of things we'd like to do, but by the second day that list is normally torn to shreds because God has captured our hearts and put us on His path, not our own. That is the most glorious thing about our visits. We can plan, but it never goes as planned. I've matured a lot from my first trip to my most recent trip. Now that I fully understand this "Kenyan rhythm" of life, the goal is now to apply it more fully to my life daily. When others ask us "What did you do on your mission trip?" now we often respond, "It wasn't

JUST CALL IT TUESDAY

a mission trip, it was just a trip to Kenya to visit friends and family". When I try to parallel this experience to my normal life in the US, I see God working in all areas of that statement. Bob Goff says it best, "We don't need to call it "ministry," just call it Tuesday. Love already has a name." Isn't that the way we should live daily? I think we make it too hard to minister to others. My first trip took me on an adventure of a lifetime where I thought that I would be such a big help. My latter trip and those in between taught me that I was being helped and that the goal wasn't a mission, it was just to love others. We do have goals of intertwining our cultures for the greater good, don't get me wrong. Where we always find advancement in that goal though is when we truly let God lead the path. It's the same thing we need to do

in our everyday life, but sometimes we always want more control don't we? It's human nature. I think Kenya teaches me more so each time to relinquish control, leave the details up to God, and trust in His path. The more we do that the greater the adventure becomes. I'm thankful every time we visit Kenya. It teaches us such powerful and valuable lessons that I think at home, we are just too busy to learn. So our goal each time is to bring the rhythm home and hold on to it for a little longer each time.

- Katie McCrary is the Health and Safety Coordinator at McCrary West Construction in Columbus, MS. She just finished her fifth trip to Africa.

JOINING THE FAMILY

We are forever thankful that our oldest son, Nash (11), got to join us in Kenya for the first time this year. Seeing Kenya through his eyes was like seeing it again for the first time. He taught us so much. The things I feared for him, he was not afraid. The differences I thought he would notice, he did not. I feared for lack of sleep and different food...all the normal travel fears. Not one bothered him. He enjoyed his trip to the fullest. We were able to visit a school in Kibera this time. I've not been in Kibera yet, so we all experienced that together for the first time. Lu and I were hyper aware of our surroundings and scenery and smells made a huge impression upon us. While inside the school, the younger children were released to visit with our group. I will be brutally honest. I narrowly avoided a panic attack. There were so many children in a very small courtyard, in such an unfamiliar place wanting to play with my child. I watched as he immediately started to play tag with such a LARGE group of children chasing him. I eventually calmed down and I realized he was

not alarmed at all. Later in the van, he could tell that I was a little more nervous than usual. He then replied, "Mom, why are you so freaked out? Kids all over the world all play the same. You don't have to translate tag". Another moment this past trip that my child surpassed my love and my knowledge. He did it so many times that it humbled me to my core. I mean, I've been there like 5 times now. I know love, I know how to do this right? Absolutely wrong. I'm thankful for the teacher he was to us this trip in so many ways. My only regret was that we didn't bring our 6 year old along, but he will for sure be on the next one! I will say how thankful I am that he is getting a "global perspective" on love. I didn't grasp it until I was older. I am so very excited to see how it shapes his life from a young age. Learning that love looks the same no matter where you are, where you live, what language you speak, or what you look like. That is probably one of the most valuable things that we could teach our children. I really hope it's one of those that 'sticks'.

- Katie McCrary



LCC AND HOPE4COLUMBUS



THE LCC FAMILY

Five years ago, I joined the LCC family and I fell in love with the kids and everyone. It has been an amazing journey. The children and babies changed my life. I pray that God will give me all it takes to serve them. When I thought I had seen and heard enough, more needy and wanting cases come up. This gave me the drive and passion to be a vessel that God will use to serve them. We have amazing Advisory Board members being led by our Chairman, Patrick Mungai. The management have been doing a tremendous job. Our staff are so dedicated to their work. We have 43 boarders and 20 babies. We admitted a special needs loving boy from very far as no home agreed to accommodate him due to his condition. Emmanuel

has Cerebral Palsy and so far, he is doing very well. All the love he received from the staff and everyone has changed him positively. Patrick Kungu joined Utalii College to pursue a course on hospitality while Charles Kagwe joined KHIBT College to pursue a course on plant mechanic and plant operation. The G.C team really motivated our staff with the Spa day and the staff family get together party during their July visit. Our boys are all grown now and they visited Duncan's place. They are all looking forward to spend time there during the December holiday. Duncan has a programme for teenage boys. We had housed two boys at LCC, John and Christopher. Christopher was assaulted by the uncle because of playing with his bicycle. The cuts on his head were too deep and he was also traumatized.

After counseling one thing remained, he so much wanted to own a bicycle. I contacted a Pathologist friend, whom I had met when we lost our babies. He is very friendly, but according to him he has never donated to a children's home. When I pushed him he involved his friends who told him to buy the bicycle while they bought the food and other items for LCC. When they came to deliver the blue bicycle it was joy in particular for Christopher and for everyone! The bicycle brought so much joy to him. Keep our candidates in prayers as soon they will be sitting for their KCPE and KCSE exams.

May God bless you all as you continue to support the LCC. Proverbs 19:17

-Libian

IT IS SOMETHING TO SEE WHEN A CHILD COMES HOME...

Our first Saturday in Limuru was extra special. Florence was our event planner for a fun day with all the LCC alumni that could attend. Wish you all could have seen the children you have supported for 15 years. Wow, it was so rewarding to see them as young adults coming home to visit. We have all prayed, loved and cared as Patrick and LCC staff raised these children (many there the first year LCC began). My heart was overflowing with joy as I watched them love their little

brothers and sisters at LCC now. You would have been so proud to see your Godchild jump rope with the little ones, play futbol, (the younger boys could not stop smiling with excitement) and the guys even held babies. I truly cannot say it enough - you should be so very proud to be a part of this family! Job well done as your child has moved on to make another home - yet never forget the home you help provide for them! Thank you Patrick, LCC staff and Global Connections family!



HOPE4COLUMBUS CHAPLAIN JOHN ALMOND

Having successfully finished the first session of practical training in the gang riddled area around Sim Scott park, Hope4Columbus is forging ahead developing it's team and fleshing out its vision to unite efforts to serve our community.

They've gained access to the juvenile detention center and adult detention center in Columbus and are ministering there.

In conjunction with the International Fellowship of Chaplains and K Love they brought Critical Incident Stress Management and debriefing training for 66 students in the area.

Chaplain John Almond is headed to The Dream Center in Los Angeles to more clearly understand how this organization has so effectively impacted the people in their area. It is Hope4Columbus' mission to bring the Dream Center concept to Columbus, MS and effectively implement it to the benefit of the Golden Triangle Area.



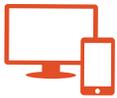
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Hello everyone!

My name is Joseph Huho and here I have decided to share my life story. I was born in the year 2000 in Kiambu County. I was brought up from a very poor background – reason being that my mom and my dad broke up in their relationship. My mom got employed for three years but her salary could not serve the basic needs for us. Two years later she became very sick and this is when troubles started filling in my tank of troubles for my younger brother and I. From then I started losing hope at life and I could just go to school because my friends were in school.

One of my mum's friends had a talk with Lilian, Agnes and Patrick at the LCC and we were accepted. We were warmly received by both staff and children. My mum then passed away and this

was our most painful moments for my brother and I. Lilian took me for guidance and counseling to recover and then I did my KCPE and I passed. Now I am a grown up boy here at the LCC and life is moving on. I'm in Domus Marae School (2nd year in college) where I am studying and focusing on my future.

After school I would like to be a friend and at the same time a teacher and when this dream comes true I promise to take part in helping the LCC. This is just a short story of my life experience but otherwise I love the LCC as my home and for many I love you all. Don't forget to pray for us at the LCC as a family and also other children's homes.

May our almighty God bless us all. Amen!

- Joseph Huho

“Don't forget to pray for us at the LCC as a family and also other children's homes.”