



# Global Connections

Fall 2025 Magazine

Stepping Outside  
of My Comfort Zone

The Goodness of  
Godparents

Experiencing Grace  
in Unexpected Places



Serving and learning from the orphaned,  
widowed, poor and oppressed.

# Stepping Out of My Comfort Zone

By Rachel Story

It didn't hit me until three days before that I was about to board a plane to head to Kenya knowing only one other person. "Nervous" was an understatement. I didn't know what to expect as I took a big leap of faith in coming on this trip. The only thing I knew was that Allie Brown loved her Kenyan family and was always finding her way back to Africa. As I now leave, I full-heartedly see why.

When I stepped foot into Kenya, my first impression was the love that radiated through each individual. Their mindset is not what can be done for me, but instead what can I do for others. My first day we did home visits to take supplies to families in need. Some teenagers from LCC, whom at the time I did not know, joined our vans and came along. When we pulled up to the first home, they hopped out and immediately went to work.



They cut grass, cleaned dishes, carried supplies, and swept the path for an elderly woman who now watches her grandchildren. Never once did I hear a complaint from a mouth. They worked hard, full of kindness and compassion with a smile across their faces. Little did I know that would only be a glimpse of the two weeks to come. While they may not have the monetary things to give, they give so much more through their hearts and actions.

I really clicked with a sweet 7-year-old girl at LCC. She has two sisters and is the middle child. I am also a middle child with two sisters. She is the definition of true beauty. Outward beauty, inward beauty, and everything in between. She shows the tenderness of God's love. Sometimes I would look at her precious smile and wish more for her, but then I was reminded she is way richer than me. She carries the fruits of the Spirit and walks with a gentle fierceness that I have never seen before. Each child at LCC has shown me their own unique attribute of Christ. I could speak about the specialness in every single heart for days. I don't know how anyone could not love them.

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One of my favorite programs I learned about while in Kenya was the feeding program for a preschool in Limuru named K-Branch. This school is filled with children who come from poor families. It broke my heart to hear that many of them may not eat over the weekend while they are at home. You would never guess that through their joyful spirits. They made you wish you had thirty hands so that you could love on them all. They loved to sing, play, and just be kids. They are not selfish or impatient, but just kids trying to survive. What great work this feeding program is doing! Not only are they fed physically, but I watched these teachers feed them spiritually.

Leaving the last day at LCC was one of the hardest days of my life to be quite frank. Those sweet children truly fill you with the love of Jesus. When Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these," holds no truer meaning than the kids at LCC. I had built a sweet friendship with a little 3-year-old who I happily carried around the entirety of the trip. His smile and laugh was contagious – he instantly steals a piece of your heart. That last day he kept running up, jumping in my arms, smiling, and asking to take a picture together. I'll forever be thankful for those sweet selfies. I thought to myself, "How in the world is a 3-year-old comforting me as a 23-year-old?" and then the answer became clear. Jesus Christ so evidently radiates through his heart that the impact feels like no other. I could say the same for each child. The Lord shines bright in Kenya, but especially at LCC. I will sing the praises of the work accomplished at LCC until I die.

**"There is a God, He is alive, In Him we live and we survive; From dust our God created man, He is our God, the great I Am."**

As I leave Kenya, I am filled with love, joy, and gratitude. I not only see why people keep coming back, but understand the deeper emotion tied to it. I will always be thankful God called me to step out of my comfort zone. Never once did I feel alone – it's an impossible feeling between the GC team and Kenyans. Kenya has a piece of my heart forever!



# What's the Tea?

By Kristen Barnett

"What's the tea?" is a common question for today's younger generation. What they really want to know is, "What is going on?" "Give me the scoop." So, I'm here with the "tea" about the Educational Tea in Limuru.

Having gone on multiple international mission trips in my life, I was expecting Kenya to be quite similar to those in Asia. I was wrong. Nothing in Kenya was like anything I had ever experienced (except for maybe the bathrooms).

On day 7 of my trip we had handed out hygiene kits at the local school and my emotions were already all over the place. I didn't arrive with everyone else, so another teammate and I rode with Nila (Reach A Girl, Fikia Dada), to the tea fields to deliver blankets to a newborn set of twins (other team members had already been). Just another afternoon of plans changing because the "tea" had changed. This is what I wrote that day in my group chat:

"After Fikia Dada, Rachel and I were able to go with Nila to the tea fields...this is modern day slavery. The tea field we went to has 86 families living on it. No running water or electricity. The workers are paid on the weight of tea leaves they pick. They generally make \$0.75 to \$1.00 per day. We went because a woman just had twins and needed blankets for them.



“ The real “tea” is to listen to the Lord. Obey Him in all you do. He has a plan and is asking us to do the work, be the hands and feet of Christ, and take the “tea” to all the nations.”

When we arrived, we had some soccer balls and jump ropes for the children. We also had empty plastic bottles our team had used this week. The children were fighting over them. They use these bottles to collect water from the creek - for drinking, washing clothes, and everything else. When they bathe, it's usually in the creek at night.

GC started a feeding program for them last year. The landowner only allows Nila to come once a month to feed all 86 families. These families cannot read or write. Their children do not go to school. They are the future workers for the tea fields unless something changes. Y'all, I have never felt the Lord move in a moment like I did today. This shook me to my core. Please join me in praying how I can help make a difference in their lives.”

Fast forward about seven days back in America. The Lord would not quit nudging me about the children in the tea fields. I had been outside pulling weeds and playing with my three-year-old son. It was hot. I was sweating profusely. Zero make-up, tank top on...the Lord said, “Now, Kristen.” I fought it for a few hours. I was able to get my son in the bathtub, then I went to my chair and just did it... without asking anyone at Global Connections, without practicing, without having exact numbers. I went live on Facebook asking for money to support 15 children of Tea Field workers. ONLY JESUS!!!! That night, I raised enough money (\$160 per child per year, plus almost \$900 in back fees) to put 15 children in school for a year. WHAT?!?!? Jesus. He did that. You see, as a daughter of an educator and an educator myself, I know the importance of being able to read and write and how that correlates to a successful life.



These children are now in school, new uniforms, multiple meals a day, underwear, soap, backpacks, their parents get to go to work, and we are potentially breaking a multigenerational poverty cycle - just through reading and writing.

The real “tea” is to listen to the Lord. Obey Him in all you do. He has a plan and is asking us to do the work, be the hands and feet of Christ, and take the “tea” to all the nations.

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim the good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness the prisoner.  
Isaiah 61:1

# The Goodness of Godparents

By Nancy Hoang



In a world where many children face the harsh realities of life without parental guidance, the role of godparents through Global Connections has been transformative for the children at Limuru Children's Center (LCC). The Godparent Program focuses on sponsoring children where funds cover school fees, pay for room and board at LCC, take care of medical needs, and account for other personal expenses that may arise. Godparents serve as a beacon of hope and support for those who need it most. As a sponsor for more than a decade, I have experienced firsthand the profound impact this program has on the lives of children in Kenya.

Three years ago, I had the opportunity to meet the two children I have been sponsoring. This experience was not just a moment of joy; it was a revelation of how deep the bond between godparents and their sponsored children can be. Many sponsors may never have the chance to travel to Africa and meet the children they support, relying instead on updates, emails, and newsletters from Global Connections. However, those who do travel on this journey witness the tangible effects of their generosity.

Having been to Kenya for three summers, I was truly blessed each year to see the children as they opened letters filled with love and encouragement. Their faces lit up as they looked through the pictures, each snapshot telling a story of connection and care.

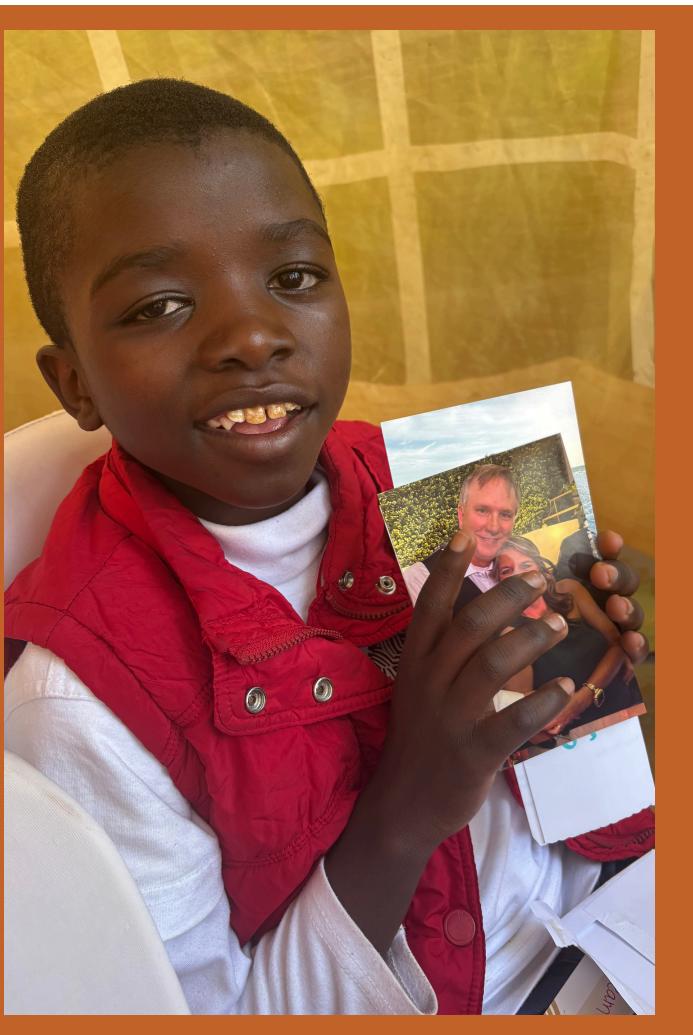
Having been to Kenya for three summers, I was truly blessed each year to see the children as they opened letters filled with love and encouragement. Their faces lit up as they looked through the pictures, each snapshot telling a story of connection and care. These children definitely know their godparents. They cherish the letters, keep the pictures close, and take immense pride in being part of a family that extends beyond geographical boundaries. The bond formed through this program is something they hold dear, illustrating the incredible power of human connection.

The financial support provided by godparents goes far beyond covering school fees and basic necessities. It fosters a sense of belonging and security, which are crucial for a child's development. The knowledge that someone cares for them, believes in their potential, and is invested in their future makes a world of difference. It is not just about the money; it is about the love, prayer, and encouragement that accompany it.

The Godparent Program offers more than just material support; it creates a community of caring individuals who are committed to nurturing these kids. The goodness of godparents is evident in the smiles of the children at LCC and in their eagerness to share stories with others. They proudly show off their letters and pictures, bridging the gap between continents and cultures.

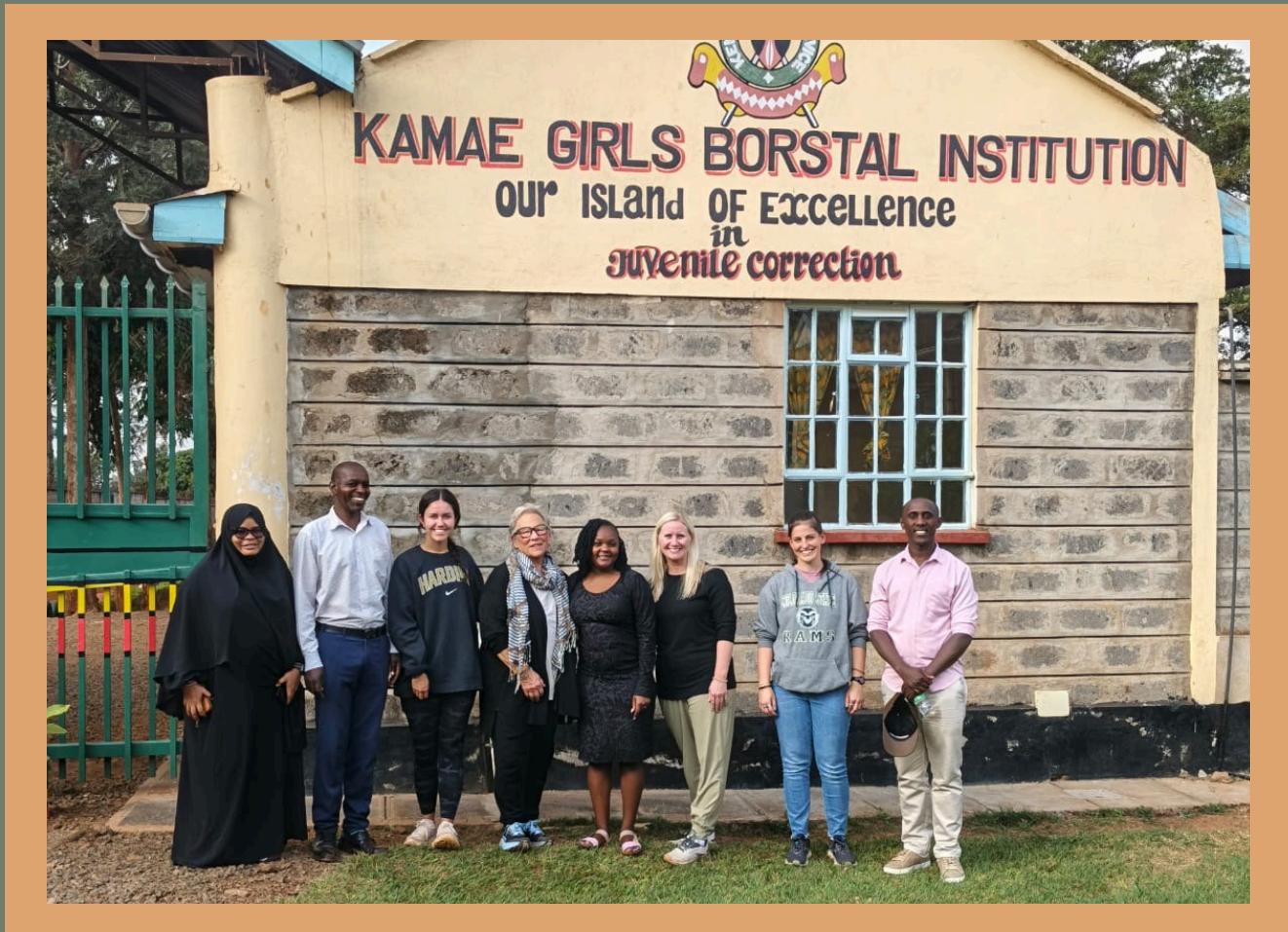
Being a godparent is about so much more than writing letters, sending pictures, or making monthly payments. It is about forging connections that transcend distance and circumstance. The blessings that come from this relationship are immeasurable, both for the children and the sponsors.

Witnessing the goodness that godparents offer to children of all ages at LCC has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It is a testament to the power of compassion, and it reminds us all of the profound impact we can have on the lives of others. Through Global Connections and the Godparent Program, we can continue to spread love, hope, and positive change, one child at a time.



# Experiencing Grace in Unexpected Places

By Rachel Story



Being a law clerk in the United States has allowed me to visit many different jails and talk to many different people. As I start law school this fall, this is a topic that greatly interests me.

A message popped up in our GC group chat one day asking if any of us would be interested in visiting a girls prison with Julius. I immediately responded with a "yes."

Upon arrival to the prison, we entered a room full of beautiful girls all seated in a circle. When I turned to my left, on the wall was, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" from Psalm 139:14. To see that on a prison wall gave me chills.

This would not end up being the only time chills would land on my body that day.

The girls started by singing songs of praise in Swahili to us. It was almost as if you could feel Jesus in the room sitting right in the middle of us all. They didn't sing to sing, but they sang to praise.

Afterwards, Kristen gave a devotional about how they were going to write the rest of their story of life. She wanted participation from the girls asking, "What is one small change you can make today?" and many gave great answers. I will never forget this one girl who was sitting in the corner, with her head down, doodling on a piece of paper. She raised her hand and with her head still down said, "Forgive myself." How powerful, how raw, how true.

I felt the spirit leading me to raise my hand and say something. I broke into tears as I spoke of the redemption of Jesus Christ. Jesus died to cover all our sins, for we all have sinned and we all fall short of the glory of God, but His grace is sufficient. There is power in his blood. One of my most enriching and humbling experiences. I pray I left a sliver of an impact on those girls as they left on me.

You could tell from interacting with these young ladies that Jesus meant a lot to them. I had to relook within myself leaving there. It was evident they knew His power and Sovereignty.

I need to rely on Christ in my hard times as much as they do. I am so thankful for the work that Julius does at that prison. In Matthew 25, Jesus preaches the importance of caring for those in need, including those in prison. When we do so, we also are caring for Christ. Julius' work is an example of living out scripture. He does so many great works, but this one felt special to me. He is changing lives and I feel blessed that I got to experience it.

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# Hope in Action

Global Connections is grateful for the opportunity to partner with Fikia Dada to address the challenges of period poverty.

The reality is that lack of access to menstrual products goes far beyond hygiene—it affects a girl's ability to attend school consistently, impacts her emotional well-being, and limits future opportunities. Without support, many girls are left isolated and vulnerable.

By providing menstrual kits, education, and encouragement, we are helping to restore dignity and open doors for girls to pursue their education and dreams.



## YOU CAN HELP US PUT HOPE IN ACTION!

Give today to support the programs at Global Connection. All donations are tax-deductable and 100% of the funds are used for the program YOU designate.



This resilient mother of six has endured years of poverty in a crumbling home that left her family cold, unsafe, and feeling forgotten.

But recently, that story has changed.

Thanks to the support of our Global Connections partners, Empower To Transform has built them a new home—bringing not just shelter, but healing, peace, and renewed strength. Thank you for seeing the unseen, loving the forgotten, and lifting the weary.



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Our team had the joy of attending a powerful graduation ceremony at the Empower Communities Outreach Center, where students completed 6-month courses in sewing, computer skills, and cosmetology. Every graduate represents a story of hope and transformation — living proof of the center's mission to see the unseen, lift the weary, and love the unbroken.

With plans to add woodworking and construction, the impact is only growing. Every session is full — and still, many must be turned away. The need is great, but so is the opportunity.

Meet this incredible 22-year-old. A tragic motorcycle accident left him paralyzed, but his strength and determination inspire us every time we visit. With each check-in, we've seen real progress—and real hope.

Thanks to the Homebound Program, he receives a monthly food package that not only supports his recovery but also eases the burden on his family.



Ever wonder what it takes to feed over 50 kids every day?

Here's a behind-the-scenes look at one of our amazing team members lending a hand in the Limuru Children's Centre kitchen. Alongside the dedicated moms and incredible cook, they prepare three full meals a day.



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