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August 2020 Newsletter

Those Keeping Watch over the School during the Covidvirus



Living Hope continues on day by day but it has not been easy, says Mum Marilyn. People and kids have reached the end of their rope, money and hope. Students are praying they can make it to January 2021 when Schools and Universities open up. 109 private schools have close permanently, 158,000 teachers are out of work, and 39,000 kids will not have a school to go to. Since the schools closed in March, many schools have been vandalized and ruined. People have stolen the school cows, torn the latrine doors off, and used the desks for firewood. The government has not paid the watchmen so it is a free for all. Many squatters are living in the schools! People think that because the schools belong to the government, that they don't need to care about protecting them.

NOT AT LIVING HOPE!!!! Here at LIVING HOPE HIGH SCHOOL everyone has been working every minute to make sure the school is in good condition and everything is protected. The students have planted our crops and harvested some. They have repaired the fences around the soccer field, they have repaired all the buildings and trimmed the bushes. If the government said to open tomorrow, we would be ready!

Some things that have been going on during the Lockdown:

- Lots of singing, studying and praying!
- Milk cow, Hallie (short for hallelujah) Gave birth on July 4th to a beautiful girl calf. I tried to think of a patriotic name but nothing came to my mind. She was named Princess and everyone agreed it suited her. She is really growing and has the longest legs of any cow we have ever seen.
- Sylvia Biola has gotten a 100% scholarship to study mass communication in Ireland. We are so proud of her. She has all the paperwork done and is waiting to graduate. Praying that this Corona crisis will not interfere with her plans.
- Toilet Africa is building us a new girls' latrine. It is almost done. It will help because we only have 3 latrines for 43 girls when they all are here. Sometimes there is quite a line to go to the bathroom!

- The Bungoma Magharibi Rotary Club of Kenya and the Rotary Club of Tully New York have completed a proposal to give Living Hope High School \$5000 for new text books! What a wonderful blessing since many books will be lost or destroyed during the COVID 19 lockdown. All of our textbooks are paperback and don't last. Each book is covered with clear contact paper and it really helps to make them last up to 4-5 years! Bless **Gordon Howard** who came on the Janaury 2020 mission team and got his Rotary club to help!
- During the past 4 months, 4 houses have been built, three full gardens put in, 5 latrines built and we have delivered 42 buckets of food. This is up and beyond doing our work here at school. The students have learned to appreciate their blessings and how good it feels to really help someone in need.

Mum Marilyn and all the students would like to thank everyone who supported them and who helped them to spread the love of God during this difficult time.

The good, the bad and the Ugly



There is never a dull moment at Living hope, On Saturday, Sammy Wakoli, Form 3, was in a serious motorcycle wreck. He was rushed to a local clinic at Bukembe. He couldn't move or talk or hear out of one ear. He stayed there the whole day, he got stitches on his head and given some drugs. By Sunday morning, the pains and aches, bruises and stitches had become real. The good news is, by the afternoon, he was still a mess but he was discharged and we brought him back at Living Hope. Catherine the Nurse, took over and started nursing him back to health. He was taken to a different hospital so that he can get x-rays. The good news is he had no concussion, or broken bones. The swelling in his face, went down and he could open his mouth a little bit. We waited for him to be able to open his mouth so we can see the damage to his teeth. Then we call Ezekiel Wafula, our graduate dentist to see what needs to be done.

His original Hospital bill was \$120 and his x-rays was extra \$10. He has to get injections for the next 15days. He is eating through a straw, milk, yoghurt and protein drinks left by Paul Binotto when he was here on a mission trip. Thank goodness, that he is getting better, and was just messed up but not seriously injured. Sammy continues to recover and is doing better.

Anyone who would like to help donate for his hospital bills please send donations to Riverton UMC (for Samuel Wakoli) PO BOX 23, Riverton WV 26814. All prayers will be appreciated.

God is at work
Mum Marilyn Uhl



Mooooooooooooo!- Mum Marilyn



In Kiswahili that is Maaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaw! Living Hope High School in Kenya would like to introduce our herd of milk cows. They provide plenty of good milk for our students and for no extra charge they mow the grass, trim the bushes and give us lots of compost manure.

We lost one of our milk cows, Butterscotch, last March when she fell in the newly dug latrine. She broke her back and her body had to be retrieved by using a large tractor with a wench. It was a sad day for us and a big loss. But luckily we still had her sister, Hallie (sponsored by Sam and Kim Yokim from Seneca Rocks, West Virginia.) We called her Hallie because when she was born, I yelled HALLELUJAH! So her name was Hallie! She is a Freshen and is black and white and is a good milker. On July 4th, last week,

Hallie gave birth to our first female calf in eleven years! We named her Princess. She is running and jumping and making us all laugh!

After we lost Butterscotch, we bought our neighbor's cow. We named her Hope. Hope was skinny and had been tied up to a tree without food or water for a week. The vet saw potential and said with lots of grass and food that she would be a good milk cow. Now she is getting fat and sassy and came into heat last week. We bred her to the neighbor's bull. Hope is brown with a few white spots. She has calmed down and become very friendly and is part of the family.

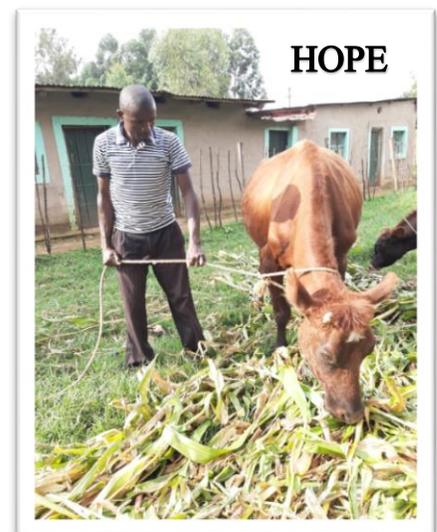
Here at Living Hope, we have had lots of rain. The two cows tried but couldn't eat enough grass to keep up. So we let one of our students, who had three cows, bring them to help out. The mother cow was milking which was wonderful and helped us out with milk. Everyone has had plenty to eat but they are still behind. They will go home when the dry season comes.

Keeping cows is a full time job. The students spray and milk and we hire a local man to cut the napier grass and watch them during the day and put them in their shed at night. He is also our substitute milker. His name is Tobias and he supports 4 children and his very old parents on his \$15 a week salary. He gets lots of exercise when the cows get lose or go into the wrong pasture. God bless him!

The costs of keeping our cows is as follows:

- Tobias salary \$15/ week
- Napier grass \$14/ week
- Dairy meal \$22/week
- Minerals and vitamins \$9/week
- Vet bills \$5/week
- Fence repair \$5/week
- Cow spray for tick's \$2/week
- Milking salve \$2/week
- Total \$74/week = \$3848/year

Any donations to help with the cows would be appreciated!





Lameck Juma and His Wonderful family

God is GOOD, all the time! I am Lameck Juma and I am one of the cooks at Living Hope High School. I take this opportunity to thank you and God for His mighty miracles in my life. Thank you Jesus!

I am 37 years old. I come from a family of 9 children. I am the first born. Both of my parents are alive but they don't have much. All of us children realize that there will not be anything left to divide. Father has only $\frac{1}{4}$ acre left. Several years ago my father gave me $\frac{1}{2}$ acre and I built a small mud house on it, Then I came to Living Hope and had to rent a small house for my family and me. One day I went home and found strangers living in my house. My father had sold my land without asking me. That left me with nothing!

My grandfather had given me a small bull calf. It grew up to be a fine bull. Last year I found $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land near the school. I decided that it was time to make a move. Paying rent every month was hard and my rental house was too small. I traded the bull for the $\frac{1}{4}$ acre of land but I have to pay \$5 a month to finish the debt. I only have 4 more payments and I will own the land! This will be wonderful! Mum Marilyn gave me enough to build a beautiful latrine. We finished it last week and Pauline, my wife, says it is beautiful! The school came down two days ago and we had a blessing ceremony for it. The rest of my land is planted in maize, which I will harvest in August. At my rental house there is no room to plant anything so I have to buy everything.

This morning, my neighbor wanted us to have a talk. He wants to sell me 12 ft. x100 to expand my plot. It will be a blessing and will give a little room for my future house and some garden space. I talked to Mum Marilyn this morning and she is talking to Stanley, the principal, this afternoon. I am praying that I can find a way to make the deal work. He wants \$200 but I only make \$15 a week.

God has been working miracles in my life. In 2012, I had two little kids, a wife, no land, no house and no job! I was worried for sure. Then my uncle told me that Living Hope needed a handyman. I applied and was hired to be the school cook. I had to learn on the job because I didn't know anything about cooking!

Living hope has changed my life. Having a regular job with a regular paycheck, has helped me to survive, pay my kids school fees, and stay healthy. Mum Marilyn has taught me the importance of saving each week even if it is just 50 cents. I thank God for this opportunity to work and to improve my English. Some of you might remember me from four years ago when you helped me. A bad wind storm took off the roof of my house. The rain and the wind destroyed everything. Mum Marilyn put out the word to the sponsors and I got enough to move to a better house, buy mattresses and replace my food. The help that my family got from America was amazing. I want to thank you again for your help.



New Latrine



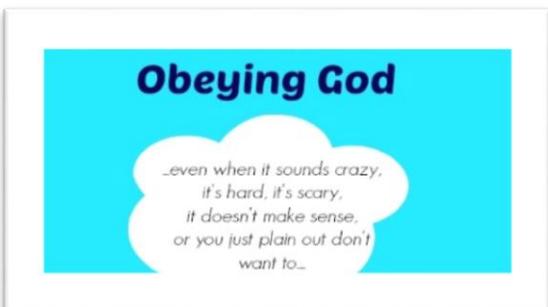
Old Latrine



Living Hope construction crew celebrating together.



Lameck's smile depicts how thankful He is.



Obey and Be Blessed! - Sandy Binotto

I have been so blessed to be a part of the Living Hope High School and have traveled there 8 times. Mum Marilyn, Helen Markwell, team members and the students are now a part of my family, and I love them all dearly. I have been thinking of Mum Marilyn and how she obeyed God's call to go to Kenya and be a Mum to so many and helping the community there. When she heard the call she obeyed! I think of how many times I didn't obey when the Lord spoke to me in my spirit to go and do. Like all of us there are many times, but

how about the times we do obey! We will become so **Blessed** by saying **YES!** Right now our world seems to be spinning out of control and we ask what can we do? We can do something! So think about who and how you can help those in need. Not only in Kenya but around the world. Have a little chat with Jesus in a quiet place and I am sure He will give you direction and wisdom on what He would have you do!

Please continue to pray for Living Hope, Mum Marilyn and the students. Also for so many who work behind the scenes to keep it running! For all of you who donate and sponsor a student whether at Living Hope or college, **YOU** are so appreciated! I am privileged to hear from many of the students with thank you's and appreciation for making their dreams come true or helping them through difficult times. My heart is saddened that a team probably won't be going back next year because of the virus, but you just never know how God is going to work. May we put our **TRUST** in Him and **OBEY!**

Be safe and God Bless You!

If you send in a donation, please make sure you earmark it for what you want or to whom you want it to. This will make it so much easier for the treasurer on both sides, here and Kenya.

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