

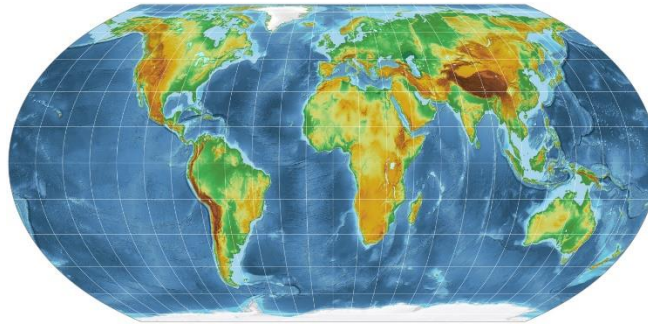


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May 2020 Newsletter



The Coronavirus 19

It seems as the world is turned upside down with the Coronavirus upon us. Who would have ever thought something of this magnitude would put such a halt on our lives. It has affected the whole world. We pray and try to make the best of this terrible situation. For many of our Living Hope High School friends and family it is a challenging and hard time as it is throughout the world.

The School continues onward with a small number living there. They continue with planting crops which will be harvested soon. The cows still need care as well as the chickens. Those that are there continue to learn, have bible study and do the daily duties. Some are making money killing rats and mice and an occasional snake. Marilyn pays .50 for a mouse, \$1 for a rat, and \$1 for a snake. The mosquitoes are back with the rain and they are fighting them too. They have been busy transporting bricks from one area and brought back to the school for future building. Like many of us here, they have been cleaning and organizing, just waiting for the go ahead to start the school up again.

Praise the Lord. Martin Omenda, a 2019 grad was in quarantine but tested negative. He is in Nairobi. Martin got out and his apartment was ok and intact. He has no job, no money, has not paid April's rent (\$50) and no family. Marilyn sent him \$20 so he wouldn't starve. If anyone would like to help him get back on his feet, that would be a life changing blessing. He is in the worse shape of all the kids. There have been no signs of the locust but many parts of Kenya are having severe floods. People are digging through the mud with Corona masks on. There was a severe hail storm and four houses and the school in Bukembe lost their roofs.

Murguna and Marilyn took Carol to visit her children. Carol is the cook and dorm mother. They took the family a chicken. Coming home, they got seriously stuck in a muddy ditch. It took Murunga and about 20 men 2 hours to get us out. It was quite an adventure Marilyn said and so much for social distancing! Just another day in Africa!

A Prayer for Hope Lord, I maintain my hope in You and I hold onto the assurance that what I am praying for is already accomplished in the name of Jesus. Your Word promises "no good thing does He withhold from those that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11). I wait upon You for Your definition of the "good thing" You will not withhold from me. As David prayed in Psalm 18:1: "I love you, Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."



Please pray for a good harvest of crops for Kenya and Africa. People are not allowed to cross to other counties to purchase food. Most of the food they purchase is fresh. My sponsored student told me they don't have refrigeration and funds like we do in America for survival. When food runs out people become desperate. We pray for safety and calm in these trying times for so many.

The students are having drills on safety and what to do if something should happen. They now have someone to guard the cows and chickens at the school at night for fear of having them be stolen.

Isolation, Depression and Sadness

Almost all the students were sent home except for a very few. The colleges and universities were closed. Students were stranded in their apartments and not allowed to leave except for food and some essential items. Many started to get depressed and needed some hope. Money was running out and they didn't know what to do. Below is a letter sent out by Helen Markwell as to how you can help them if you can. Many went home to only find things worse.

Greetings in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy.

Of course you all know that the government has closed all schools in Kenya. There are about 11 students at the school with Marilyn and service personnel. Since that time about a month ago, I have received an email almost daily from previous students pleading for help regarding the circumstances in Kenya. Very similar to here, they are in lock down. Many of their families rely on taking to goods to market or serving wealthy people in town, this has all been stopped. So now there family incomes have come to a grinding halt. Of course Living Hope High School can't afford to give them help of any kind.

So I am contacting you to to see if the Lord might lead to financially assist these families. All donations would still need to be sent to Lavonne and she would wire the money to Marilyn on the 15th of each month. Marilyn can distribute to the families in need when she gets it. Please put the name of your current/ former student whom you sponsor(ed) in the memo line AND COVID-19. This way Lavonne and Marilyn can track the donations and give to those families specifically.

Please mail to Living Hope High School c/o Riverton United Methodist Church Po Box 23, Riverton, WV 26814

Living Hope High school is fine. Very few COVID-19 cases in Bungoma. We are praying that cases stay low.

Praying that God blesses and keep you safe and healthy and filling your heart with bright hope for the future. Thanks in advance for any donations. Call me if you have any questions. 304-567-2254

In Christ,
Helen

We will keep you updated as things progress and change at Living Hope High School. Please continue to pray for Marilyn as she has a big task ahead of her when the students are able to return. Pray for her safety and health as well as those with her. So far everyone is well and not sick. Pray for the staff who was sent home and many now don't have income like here in America.

As to a 2021 mission team, that is still up in the air until we find out how things will go with this virus. I end with this. Lyrics to a song.

You Are My Hope- by Skillet

Times are hard, times have changed, don't you say?

But I keep holding on to You

It's hard to keep the faith alive day to day

Leaning on the strength I've found in You

You're the hope of all the Earth

You are my hope, You are my strength

You're everything, everything I need

You are my hope, You are my life

You are my hope, You are my hope

Far beyond what I can see or comprehend

Etching Your eternity in me

Nations stream and angels sing, "Jesus reigns"

And every knee bows down

You're the hope of all the Earth

You are my hope, You are my strength

You're everything, everything I need

You are my hope, You are my life

You are my hope, You are my hope

Carry on and I sing of how

You love and I love You now

All the times that I start to sink

You come and You rescue me

You are my hope, You are my hope

You are my hope, You are my hope

You are my hope, You are my strength

You're everything, everything I need

You are my hope, You are my life

You are my ho

You are my hope, You are my
strength

You're everything, everything I need

You are my hope, You are my life

You are my hope, You are my hope

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