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*June/July 2020 Newsletter*

## ***Who Is Your Neighbor?***



### **Luke 10:25-37**

*And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" And he answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live." But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?".....*

Living Hope High School has been busy helping their neighbors while in the midst of the Coronavirus. A heavy rain and rushing waters destroyed homes of graduates, students and neighbors during a recent flood. They put their heads together and decided they needed to do something to help those in need. Nick a past graduate, and who was skilled in construction and who knew how to get a construction crew together went to work. Also many in the U.S. donated funds for materials. Each family had a heart moving story of losing everything, their homes, contents and crops. They went to bed with no roof over their heads, sleeping on cold damp floors with no beds or blankets. Families with little children went to bed with tears crying, I am cold. That is no longer, LHHS, family and other volunteers have come to the rescue. Much more work is needed to be done, but HOPE came with helping hands and big hearts.

### **Stories from Mum Marilyn and those they helped:**

*Joseph Wekesa's family. We got word about a month ago that the mud house with a grass roof had been almost destroyed by the wind and the floods. There were ten boys sleeping in that house." Living Hope Construction" sprang into action along with Joseph's brothers and we tore down the old house and over the next month we built them a new house. We finished it about two weeks ago. The boys were very happy and thanked God for your help. They had a nice house but were still sleeping on the new mud floor. A friend of the family said he would build them a decker bed for \$50. That is much cheaper than we can get it made. That was one bed for four kids and 6 without a bed. Joseph has written his sponsor, Destry Daniel to see if he can raise money for three more beds. The mattresses are \$60 for two mattresses that will be \$200 for beds and \$480 for mattresses.*

*The Next project was Immaculate Step mother's house. Immaculate was staying with her step mother, her brother, 3 little step brothers all sleeping on the mud floor in one room. The roof was leaking, the floor was wet and they had no blankets. It was a sad situation. Once again 'Living Hope Construction sprang into action and put a new roof on the step mother's house, we gave them two beds with mattresses, we bought everybody new blankets and two new mattresses. They were thrilled and praising God for the blessing. We also got her teacher to come in everyday and teach the whole group until school starts.*

*Lameck (the LHHS Cook) got word that Sharon Ngutuku's house had collapsed. We went there to check it out and it was a mess. Very little of the old house remained. The latrine had collapsed into the hole and could not be replaced. The Latrine was full of water. So, we decided that the only thing to do it was to build a new house. This project was the most expensive because we had to buy everything. We have been working on her house for a month and waiting for the mud to dry to finish. Sharon's and her family are overjoyed and so thankful.*

*Jackline Barasa our next door neighbor, needed serious help, they were all sick and the house needed major repairs. We repaired the house, sprayed for bedbugs, bought everybody new blankets, enlarged the garden, got the cow and the family healthy and her story is another miracle.*

*Our latest project is anew latrine for Lameck, our cook. We had extra bricks left, so we gave them to him. We had two doors and the iron sheets from an old latrine that we tore down. He got sand in a wheelbarrow from the river, and we gave him 3 padlocks that had lost one key, Nick my 2013 graduate donated 3 days of work and by tomorrow Lameck will have a new latrine, Praise the Lord!*

***Continued Stories will be posted in next month's newsletter, please share it with your church, family and with friends. There still is a need for funds for beds, blankets and other items the families lost during the flood. You can donate to Riverton UMC P.O. Box 23, Riverton, WV, 26814, please ear mark the donations with Flood Recovery.***

### **Several Students Who Need Sponsors for College**

*Students who graduate from Living Hope High School, go onto to help in their communities and make Kenya a better place. When there is spare time many of the graduates return to Living Hope because they consider it their home away from home. They come to help build, work in the fields and help the students that are still there as well as see Mum Marilyn who they consider a person who has helped make their dreams come true. The school has given them Hope, dignity and a place full of LOVE! Here are some of the students and their stories who need help! We pray some will be moved to help them. Contact Helen Markwell if interested- **Helen Markwell** –[helenum@spruceknob.net](mailto:helenum@spruceknob.net) 304-567-2254*



#### **Josephat Wanamo-**

I am Josephat Wanamo, a 2013 graduate of Living Hope High School. I have 7 brothers and sisters. We are a very poor family, and I am often hungry. Living Hope High School gave me the opportunity for a high school education. I would never have been able to go to high school if it wasn't for my sponsors during the 4 years. My dream was always to cultivate God's creation. After 4 wonderful years of high school, I applied to a local college here in Kenya in Agriculture. Two West Virginia Methodist churches partially sponsored me the first 2 years, but since then I have had to withdraw from college due to lack of funding.

I returned back to Living Hope and am working as the night watchman now for several years and help with all the agriculture on campus. I would love the opportunity to return to a college campus to complete my degree. I hope to someday to be a manager of an AgroVet, after I finish my degree. An AgroVet is similar to the U.S.'s Southern States. I feel God has given me a special talent to work with plants and flowers.

I have 4 remaining terms (1.5 years) to complete the coursework in Agriculture. Each term will be \$1050. I am praying that God will make a way for this to happen so that my dreams become a true reality.



### **Mercy Injete**

I have been part of Living Hope High School since my 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. I arrived without any parents and without any help. I have always been a hard working student. I always do my best. I graduated LHHS in 2019. Since I have the desire to take care of people and interested in medicine, I applied to El Doret Technical training institute and was accepted into their Medical Social work program. I attended one term. I had a sponsor whom paid for this, but they can't continue sponsoring me. I am in need of \$350 to help with my 2<sup>nd</sup> term. The full amount per term is about \$1000. I have 11 terms.

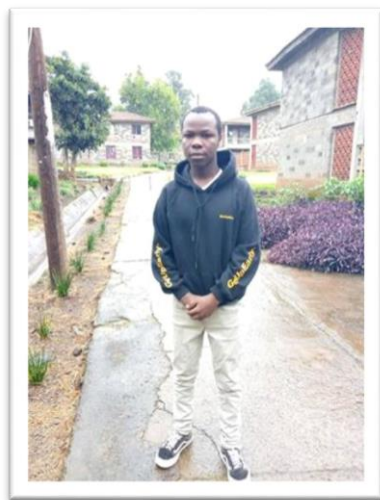
I have been helping LHHS's nurse, Catherine, for the past couple years. I have also nursed Mum Marilyn with many medical problems. I have been the person in charge of the Healing Hut when Catherine isn't on campus. In my work here at Living Hope, I have saved several lives. I pray the Lord will make a way for me to serve him with a nursing career.



### **Benjamin Wafula**

I am Benjamin Wafula. I graduated from Living Hope High School in 2019. I was #1 in my class. I have been accepted to the University of Nairobi. My course of study that I have chosen is Advance Sciences. I have been at Living Hope this past year since I have graduated. I filled in for Biology, Physics, and Math this past year while Mum Marilyn was looking for a new teacher. I believe this was God at work as Mum Marilyn says I have done a great job teaching the students.

My fees will be \$1450 per semester. I have 2 semesters per year. My degree will take 4 years. I hope to teach in a secondary school upon completion. I don't have any family support. My parents are divorced and I stay with my Aunt. We are poverty stricken, and I have nowhere to turn but to a United States sponsor. I know with God's help my dream will come true.



### **Caleb Kaburu**

I am Caleb Kaburu. I graduated Living Hope High School in 2018. I have an elderly sponsor who helps me when he is able. His help is intermittent. I need to find an additional sponsor who will be able to continually sponsor me. I am currently attending Egerton University. I have completed almost 2 semesters. I have 6 semesters left. Upon graduating I will have a Bachelor of Science in Math, Physics and Chemistry. My expenses per semester are \$1250. I am a diligent student. My grades at Living Hope were B average. My grades are doing well now too here at Egerton University. I am praying for a sponsor that will take over the major part of this to ease the burden of my elderly sponsor.

# *New Living Hope Program to Help the Hungry- Buckets of Hope*

*By Mum Marilyn*



*Buckets of Hope*

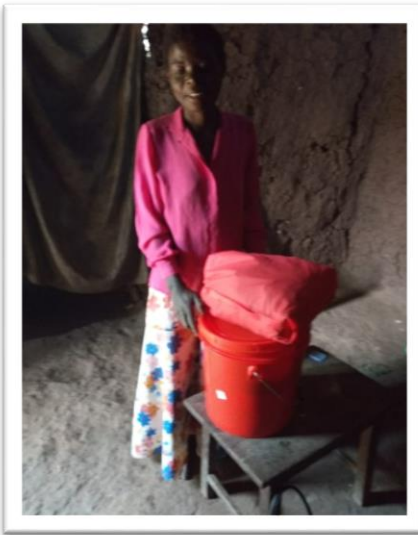
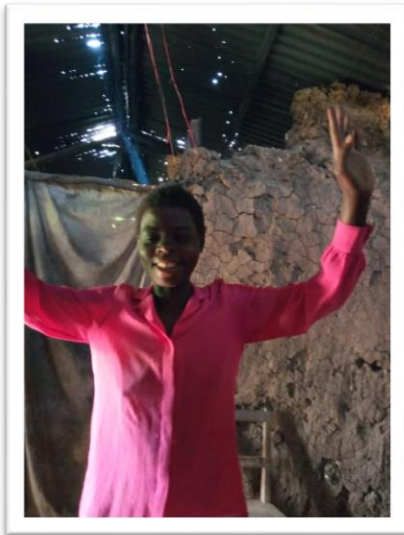


With the Corona Virus in full swing here in Kenya, many people and students need help. The families have reached the end of their rope and their money. This is usually called the starving time between planting in March and harvesting in August. This year has been especially bad because the floods wiped out a lot of crops that had been planted. The rains also destroyed lots of the food that people had in their

homes. The Living Hope students have started a program to help the truly starving students and people in the community. As we find them, we see if there is any space to plant something to eat. We have a variety of greens in our seed beds that can be planted and eaten soon. We also have 2000 eucalyptus trees that were part of the form four agricultural project. We plant them for shade and firewood in the future

So far we have given away about 50 buckets of food and personal items. They are worth about \$30. We also try to help them put in a garden to become more self- sufficient. It costs us about \$15 more. Each one has been a gift of hope to the families. Many people have never received a gift! They know that God has not forgotten them and their prayers have been heard. Some families break out in prayer, some in song, some cry with happiness. The Living Hope students know that they are doing God's work.

If you would like to donate to our BUCKETS OF HOPE project, please send your donation to Living Hope High School, Buckets of Hope Project, PO Box 23, Riverton, WV 26814. God bless you!



**Praising God for the Bucket of Hope with a Hallelujah, she now has food and items for her family. Items packed in the bucket. LHHS helpers packing the buckets. A young lady who was spared from starving with food and bucket items.**

Jambo! My name is Immaculate Wekesa. I am a form three student at Living Hope High School. You might remember me from several years ago when my mother committed suicide. Your prayers and donations gave me hope for a future.



## Immaculate in the middle and her siblings

My brother, my little sister, and I went to live with my grandmother and grandfather. All was well, until I went for Christmas break last year. When I went home, my grandmother had made arrangements for me to marry a man in the community who was 52 years old! He had already paid her the money. When I was told of the plan, I was in a rage and I refused to marry this man. My grandmother beat me pretty bad and I ran away to the neighbor's house. I called Mum Marilyn at Living Hope and she sent Enos, another student, to rescue me. He took me to my aunt's house where I was safe. I had to leave my brother and sister at grandmother house.

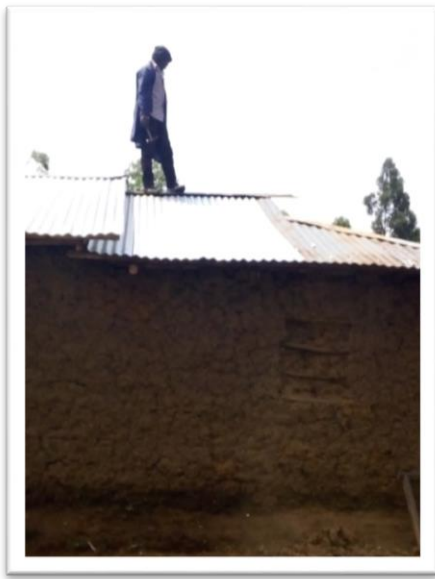
Life at my aunt's house was hard. She was not able to feed me or provide for my basic needs. I tried my best to be helpful, but it did not work out. No one was happy. Then the corona virus put me in lockdown. My step mother wanted to take Sam, my brother, and I to live at her house. It was a miracle. My step mother was very poor and she had three kids of her own. We were squashed into one bedroom with no beds or blankets and we all slept on the mud floor. The roof leaked and it was miserable. Then Mum Marilyn heard about our situation and sent the Living Hope Construction Crew to our rescue. They put in windows and a door and put a new Iron sheet roof on the house. They brought a bed for me and stepmother and a big sheet of black plastic to put under out new mattresses for the boys. Whenever they came to work on the house, they always brought good food. All of the people in the neighborhood came to watch and could not believe that a bunch of high school kids could work so hard and build such a wonderful house!

All of the kids and I needed a teacher to help keep us going on our education. School won't open until September, by that time we won't be able to remember anything. So stepmother found a teacher for all of us and now we are studying every day and will be ready for school to start.

All of these miracles in my life have happened because God had a plan for my life. The sponsors and donors have blessed me and made it possible for me to get through many problems. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping me. God bless you all.



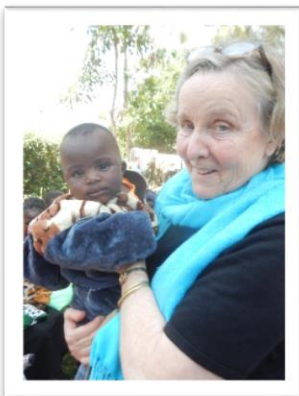
**Making space for new windows. Immaculate carrying mud for bricks!**



**Putting new tin on the roof. Murunga mixing mud for bricks. Below: The new updated home.  
What a happy family!**



### ***Someone needed to take Helen Markwell's place at Living Hope***



Helen Markwell is Marilyn Uhl's sister and has been such a blessing to Living Hope High School since its creation. Helen helps out with getting the sponsors for the students and has traveled many miles to share about Living Hope at Churches, Women's events and where ever she can. She has also made several trips to Kenya to the school to teach and do many other things. She is now looking for someone to step in her shoes. She would be glad to mentor a person who would like to take on this task. Now with the Coronavirus, most of the job will be for now online and phone calls and mailings. It is a volunteer position. You will work with several others, who would include Marilyn Uhl, director of the school, Lavonne Hamlet, treasurer and Sandy Binotto, Team Leader and Newsletter person and David Rhineheart- webmaster. If interested please contact Helen Markwell at: [helenum@spruceknob.net](mailto:helenum@spruceknob.net) 304-567-2254

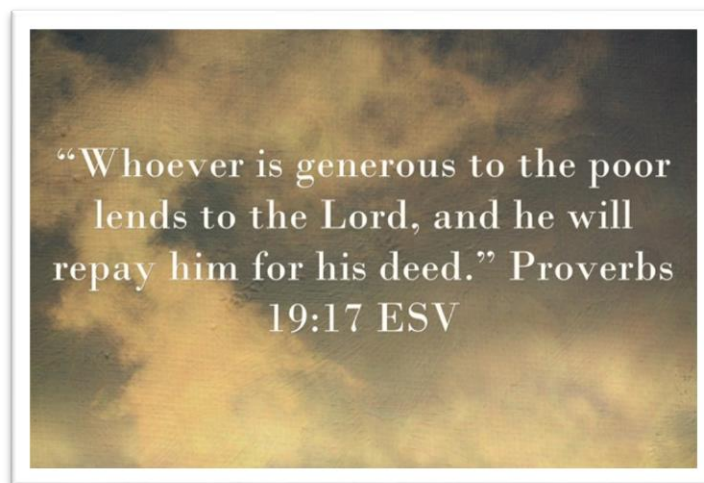
It is a very rewarding position!

This is a time in our lives when things seem a little out of hand with the Virus and other things going on. May we decide to build up instead of tear down? People in our communities and neighborhoods need help, hope and faith, too. Yes we do need to help those around us but many in our world don't have the programs or opportunities to get help like we do in the U.S. So may God move your heart to help, give and pray! God Bless all those who have prayed and donated! We send a BIG THANK-YOU! May our Lord bless you abundantly with His Goodness and Mercy!

## **July 13, 2020 Update from Living Hope**

*Living Hope Students won't return for classes until January 2021. There will only be form 1, 2, 3 students there. No seniors. They will start all over with classes from last year's lessons. Please continue with your sponsorships and LH appreciates all the donations that have been given to help the students and those in need. Nairobi just opened up so people could travel outside the city limits to other towns. While waiting to get back to a somewhat normal life, LH is busy helping students whose homes have fell due to the weather. They are now helping a freshman student who has been living in half a home with mud everywhere since January. It was just brought to their attention.*

*Continued prayers appreciated.*



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