HEALING HANDS
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

"God's Healing. Your Hands."

Issue 1 2019

On the Cover:

Oyaro:
The Road to Transformation

Oyaro:

The Road to Transformation

Our first step was to send Ebenezer Udofia, our African Director of Agriculture, and his wife, Regina, to visit the group. On this first visit, Regina was able to do some skills training to give them ideas of other items they can make to sell in their local markets. Soon after, Chris Gingles and I visited and saw their water source, firsthand. As we stood by the pond watching children and cattle drinking side by side, Frederick made an appeal that forever changed us. When asked if he could request anything from God for his community, his response was this, "Water is life!" (visit our website at www.hhi.org to see Frederick's heartwarming answer)

"Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress..."

As we walked along the dirt path to the current water source of the Oyaro, Kenya community last fall, this verse from James immediately came to mind. Because of the prevalence of AIDS and HIV in the area, this community has a large number of widows and orphans. Survival is truly the focus for these people who walk miles to a dirty pond where animals also drink, bathe and defecate.

Though resources are few, they make the most of what they have. The Oyaro Community Church of Christ has formed a Widows and Orphans group that makes baskets and bags to sell at market. Their opportunities are limited, so they asked their preacher, Frederick Munga, for help. Frederick is a World English Institute student who immediately asked his instructor, Frank Wheeler, for help. Frank knew about the Women of Hope ministry at Healing Hands and introduced us to this beautiful community that has now captured our hearts.

As a partner in this ministry, we are thrilled to share with you the plans we have for the Oyaro community! Just last month, Ebenezer returned there to conduct a two day food security workshop in which 52 were trained and many have already begun planting their own gardens.

Margret (pictured above) has been a widow for the past 15 years. She is now 60 years old with ten children. Margret was one of the participants at the Oyaro community workshop. She said, "I have been depending on the land to care for my children and myself for the past 15 years but unfortunately, the yields from my farm have always been very small and not enough to feed us. I now believe that the soil lacks fertility and this new method of compost manure will help boost my harvest!"

This summer, we plan to drill a well, answering the beautiful prayers of Frederick and the 4,000+ people in this region who have never had access to clean water. Much like the story we shared with you in 2018 of the people in Kisii, total transformation is on the horizon for the people of Oyaro and we want to invite you to be a part of their story!

Written by:
Jana Owen, VP of Operations

KJ's Water Well for Kenya

Amidst all of the publicity surrounding the NFL these days, KJ Wright is a player who is truly seeking to make a difference in the world. Wright had a dream, "Ever since I was a kid I wanted to visit Africa." So, in the offseason last year, this dream became a reality, "We visited the Masai Mara in Kenya and were amazed with how beautiful this place was! While there, we visited a school in which we provided books, footballs, and soccer balls. The experience was one of a kind."

Though he had a great time, Wright was also deeply moved by the needs he saw there, "At one point during our visit, I noticed a young girl with a water bottle that was filled with brown water. I was saddened when I saw this and asked the people at the school if they had access to clean water. They said it was many miles away. At that moment, I knew I had to do something. I had to find a way to provide them with clean water."

Wright returned to the States fired up to make a difference for that girl, her school, and her community. Through a family connection with HHI's driller, Curt King, Wright contacted us and a relationship was born. Since then, he has raised enough funds for one well and is well on the way to the second! Plans are being made for Wright to visit Kenya again in June, 2019 to witness the drilling of these wells and the fulfillment of his dream.

In his message to those who are supporting this effort, Wright said, "Having access to clean water means having the opportunity to a better life." We couldn't agree more! That is why at Healing Hands we say, "It all begins with water."

To learn more or give towards KJ's campaign visit: https://www.hhi.org/campaign/kjwright

A SIMPLE GIFT MAKES A LASTING IMPACT

To those of us who are blessed with earthly belongings it is hard to imagine that many go without basic needs being met today. My goal is to fill M.A.G.I. boxes with quality items, such as hair brushes, toothpaste, a toothbrush, beautiful new and handmade clothes, toys, a stuffed animal to hug, and a precious bar of soap. Yes, precious soap! When a 3 year old little girl opened her M.A.G.I. box in front of me, what I saw and heard touched my heart forever. She picked up the bar of soap and showed it to her mom while rubbing it on her skin excitedly she said, "me momma, clean, me momma!" A simple bar of soap was precious to this child. She knew her momma would love the gift, too.

As we delivered M.A.G.I. boxes to the Colonias, the poorest neighborhoods in Texas, children were shy to come over and receive them. I witnessed the local preacher, Brother Jose Cabello, kneeling down and gently inviting them over to receive their gifts from Christians who love them.

M.A.G.I. boxes are truly delivered with the love and servant heart of Jesus Christ. The local church working directly with the children and their families use M.A.G.I. boxes to open

> **"...what I saw and heard touched my heart forever."**

doors and hearts for Jesus Christ. If soap can bring joyful smiles to a 3 year old, then a shoe size gift box can introduce a family to the love of Jesus.

Submitted by:
Jan Cates, M.A.G.I. Coordinator, McKinney, Texas

YOUR IMPACT IN 2018

5,040 people trained to Feed Their Families For LIFE

25,541
M.A.G.I. boxes delivered

Celebrated
1,000th
well drilled in our history

100 women trained through Christian Business Women's Conferences

To view our full 2018 Annual Report, visit www.hhi.org

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Millions In Need: Partner With Us!

You have seen the heartbreaking photos of the millions whose lives have been devastated by the cyclone in Southern Africa. And what about the hundreds of thousands of Venezuelans who are without food and water? The good news is, HHI has partners in each of these areas who are already being the hands and feet of Jesus to their communities. By donating to our Disaster Relief fund, you allow us to provide the specific needs in each nation, empowering the local church to be a beacon of light and hope in their own communities! Will you partner with us today? Visit: www.hhi.org/relief-2019

WOMEN OF HOPE

> **"So be strong and courageous all you who put your hope in the Lord."** Psalm 31:24

The 11th annual Women of Hope Conference did not disappoint as hundreds of sisters gathered to celebrate the Courageous Hope we have in Christ! Representatives from 10 states and 74 congregations came together for a time of worship, fellowship and fun.

Keynote speaker, Rita Cochrane of Nashville, Tennessee, kicked off our event Friday night with inspiration from heroes like Gideon, who faced their fears with the courage of the Lord! JL Gerhardt of Round Rock, Texas, wrapped up the weekend by reminding us that we are Kingdom people and nothing on this earth can shake that.

We had the privilege of honoring Elizabeth Yakubu, founder of the *God's Will Training Institute* in northern Ghana. Many of the students at Elizabeth's school are sponsored through the Women of Hope program. Some of the students become Christians while there. Upon graduation, most of them return to their home towns empowered with the skills and tools to start their own businesses, but also to share the Gospel! (See the story of Akosua below).

Begin making plans now to Rejoice in Hope with us at the 12th annual Women of Hope conference: March 6-7, 2020!

Akosua wearing a new dress provided by the HHI Dorcas ministry.

Akosua's Life Forever Changed

Like many of the students at God's Will Training Institute (GWTI) in Northern Ghana, Akosua came as a 13 year old girl escaping a difficult situation with nowhere else to turn. You see, her family had promised her to a man old enough to be her grandfather, because they could not afford to care for her. By the grace of God, Akosua's older brother wanted more for her, so he loaded her onto his motorbike and delivered her to GWTI praying that she would be given the opportunity to make something more of her life.

Two years later, Akosua has graduated with a certification in hairdressing. She has returned to her home town and set up shop, and she also takes time to train four apprentices. Best of all, Akosua is now our Sister in Christ! At the Women of Hope conference, we extended the invitation to become a monthly sponsor and be a part of changing lives like this one!

For more information about how you can become a Woman of Hope, visit www.hhi.org/women

Annah Feeds Her Family For LIFE

In 2018, we invited you to help us Feed Families For LIFE and you responded so generously. As a result of that campaign, you enabled us to break a record, empowering over 5,000 people with the skills and tools needed to feed their families. More importantly, each of these families had the opportunity to learn about the Bread of LIFE!

Just one example of this is Annah Esroni from the Kisii region of Kenya. She has been a widow for the last 10 years and has two orphaned children in her care. When she participated in a recent food security workshop, she left filled with hope that she now had what she needed to provide for her family.

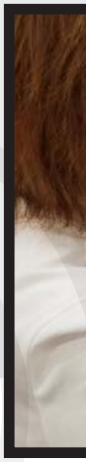
Will you help us make 2019 another record-breaking year?
For more information visit: www.hhi.org/feed-family.

Hygiene Kits Open Doors

In early 2018, two of our HHI staff visited the Namwianga Christian Secondary School in Zambia to deliver a precious gift. Hundreds of feminine hygiene kits were passed out to the girls, some who had never seen them before. These kits were lovingly sewn by Dorcas groups all over the U.S.

A few months after the trip, we received letters from the Vice Headgirl and the Deputy Headmaster of the school that touched our hearts and reminded us that God uses the small things of this world to make tremendous impacts. In the letters we read that many of the girls had previously been unable to complete their exams before receiving these products, but this year they were able to do so without challenge! They also request that we send more!

Find out more about our sewing ministry at www.hhi.org/magi/dorcas



Boost Your Short Term Mission Efforts!

Register Today for the Hunger-Fighting Workshop: May 2-3

In this 2 day event, we will empower your short term missions team with the simple skills of survival gardening that can then be used on the ground to empower your local missionaries to open doors for the Gospel message!

Register online at www.hhi.org/fighting-hunger/workshop or call 615.832.2000

Included in the cost:

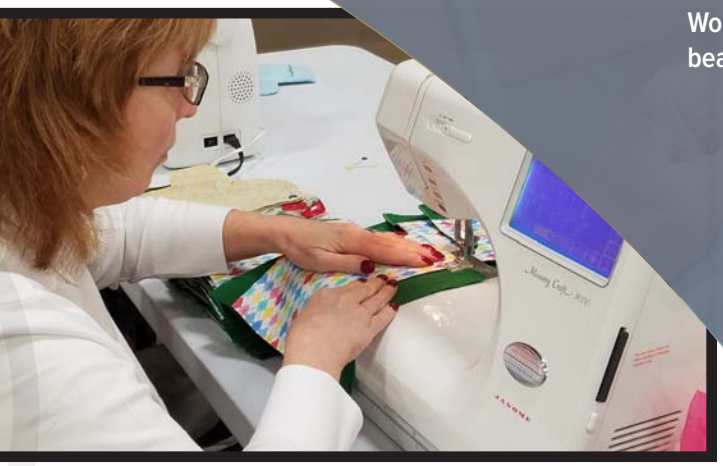
- lunch
- gardening resources
- videos
- t-shirt

Use Your Gifts To Change Lives!

Register Today for the Dorcas: Sewing for Jesus Workshop May 9, 10 or June 6 in Nashville, TN

Make new friends, learn new patterns, and share your best tips and tricks! Register soon...space is limited! To register visit: www.hhi.org/magi/dorcas or call 615.832.2000

Women across the U.S. are learning that they can use their talents to make a beautiful impact in the Kingdom!



#ITALLBEGINSWITHWATER

Gillian Kelley
Coordinator Spotlight

Gillian Kelley (pictured on the far right)

Gillian Kelley is the Walk4Water coordinator in Tuscaloosa, AL. Her passion for bringing clean water to the world is evident in all she does! We asked her to share some of her thoughts with you...

Looking at it on paper, the world is huge. There are billions of people occupying this place. It would be impossible for us to meet and know every person on earth, but because God designed it to be so, there are still ways to connect with each other. That's what I love about Walk4Water. People who walk 4 miles on a Saturday in a park in Tuscaloosa are impacting the lives of farmers in rural Honduras. Folks who show up to walk around their church parking lot in Nashville can change the lives of kids in Haiti forever. The world doesn't feel so big when you think about it that way.

The world shrunk for me on a trip with HHI standing in a community in Haiti that I can't recall and couldn't pronounce if I could remember. Water was flowing from a new well. Adults came to drink and wash their faces. But the kids? They started a water fight. Because they're kids, and that's what kids do. Kids are kids are kids, whether they're Haitian kids, used to not wasting a drop of the water they walked miles to get, or American kids, standing there watching this take place, thinking about how lucky they were to be born American. One of my favorite quotes is from Bernard Baruch: 'We didn't all come over on the same ship, but we're all in the same boat.' People are people and kids are kids and the need for the gospel and the need for clean water are the same, in every corner of this big place.

I think it was part of God's plan to make the world so big and so small, all at the same time. That's why He told us to go into the whole world, but also gave us the church. No matter where you go in this place, you can find His people. I've seen His people in action all over this world, from Tuscaloosa to Titayen, from Cape Town to Cap Haitian. The beautiful thing about ministries like Walk4Water is that we can, in our small corner of the world, change this place, one step at a time. God sees every step we take, from us walking for water in Tuscaloosa to those actually walking for water in the mountains of Honduras. You can go into all the world, right from your local park or parking lot. And when you think about the impact that can have, you'll start to see that it really is a small world after all.

Do you want to join Gillian in bringing clean water to the world? Why not start a Walk4Water in your community? Visit www.walk4water.org for more information today.

WALK4WATER

UPCOMING WALKS

REGISTER @ WWW.WALK4WATER.ORG

APRIL

06	Decatur, AL
07	Marshall, TX
13	Old Hickory, TN
14	Byesville, OH
18	Columbia Academy, TN
27	Paducah, KY | Tuscaloosa, AL | Cookeville, TN

MAY

04	Troy, OH
09	Lewisburg Middle School, TN
11	Lancaster, OH | McKenzie, TN
18	Cedarburg, WI | Heath, OH

JUNE

01	Rochester, NY
28	Boyden, IA

SEPTEMBER

07	Leitchfield, KY | Livonia, MI
08	Nashville, TN (Bellevue)
14	Lawrenceburg, TN
15	Bowling Green, KY
21	Parkersburg, WV
28	Bradford, AR

OCTOBER

13	Austin, TX

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