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And just like that, the coldest season in Kenya – summer – has come to an end. Some of us were able to relax during this period, while others served themselves and those around them. But God’s work continues, because it is He that makes all things new, who saves, and who changes the lives of people. The construction of the church is coming to an end, the academic term is finished, and our kids are growing incredibly quickly and delight us with their successes. And we thank God that in these daily activities and concerns, we see His miracles.



Beloved Guests

Summer is known for being a time of holiday. This is true even in missionary life. It is in summer that long-term missionaries return home to see family and friends, partners in ministry, and of course, to rest. This summer, only two of our long-term missionaries were left for the summer break. And, as always before a break, we all prayed, worried, that the work here would not be affected due to the absence of people. Plus, it is nice to have good and trustworthy people in our



team! There are people who have become like family in our home, because over the years they have come to help exactly when we need them. And so you can’t even call them guests. This summer we were visited by Dima and Dina – who fell in love with Africa a long time ago. Dima and Dina helped us with just about everything they could: construction, school, home groups, and home visits. It is always a pleasure to just talk with them as well. Another invaluable help was Andrey – he has also come to serve with us a few times over the years and we are always happy to see him – there is always plenty of men’s work. Julia came to help us specifically in the summer time, knowing that there was a deficit of peo-



ple. She has already served here, in Kenya, for a period of three years. Julia took responsibility for the organization of the school and led Sunday school lessons for the kids. We are grateful from the bottom of our hearts to all who serve with us. Your labor is not in vain before God!

An Ordinary Miracle



We are often asked if we see the fruits of our labor, if the people are changing, and if we see miracles. Honestly speaking, not always. Oftentimes you just do something knowing it's the right thing to do, and you don't see the fruits of it for a long time. The following story – it is God's miraculously deep changes in the heart, a miraculous transformation led by the Holy Spirit of the innermost man.

Allow us to introduce you to one family. Dorcas and her husband Martin – members of our local church. They have 6 children, including 2 orphans which they have taken to raise. Dorcas leads a home group from our church and prepares food in our school 3 times a day for 100 people. It is obvious that she gets worn out, but she is always in a cheerful mood (you will never hear her complaining). After work she goes home to deal with her home affairs: carry water, hand wash clothing, and prepare food for her family. She has happily worked with us for a very long time, and in the beginning it was hard. Many years were spent teaching her not to take school groceries home, and to just establish a relationship of trust. But at the current moment, this is a person that our team can rely on.

Allow us to introduce you to yet another family. There are six in their family, plus their parents. When Maria brought three month old Kaitano to our school, he was very sickly and thin, and couldn't even cry because he didn't have the strength to. One of the students brought a plate of Ugali (a traditional Kenyan food that is hard on the stomach) and began

feeding Kaitano, and he eagerly swallowed the food. The missionaries that were there began scolding the kids since this kind of food was dangerous for him, to which the kids calmly replied: "What? He's hungry." And so began our friendship. At that moment, Kaitano's dad was sitting in jail, and mother giving birth to the next child, simply didn't want to feed him as she was constantly drunk. In fact, Maria, his older sister, became his mother, a very happy and good girl. Maria, at 9 years old, didn't go to school as she had to look after her brother. We invited her to come to our school with her brother, and we would look after the boy while she was in class. Our employee Dorcas agreed to feed him with store bought baby formula, change him everyday, and wash his clothes. Gradually, Kaitano began to gain weight, he is washed, and he even began to smile. Maria gladly came to classes and has even become an example of mercy in class. If someone inadvertently falls or gets hurt, she makes the whole class say "Po-leh" (in Swahili, this means "very sorry"). After a few months, the dad was let out of jail, for which our local employees were very happy – in their words, the father was more or less responsible and will take care of the kids. But unfortunately, a change did not occur. The father went to work, but drank away all of his money.



And then something happened that we simply just cannot understand. The mother left, just left, and no one knew where she was. The first few weeks, we waited for her to return, but then we just did what we could. The kids ate with us at a project or the school, Maria was responsible for making sure the homework was done (2 of her brothers also study at our school), and sometimes a girl from our church youth went to help her. There was no sense in buying anything for their home, as the neighbors could 'borrow' it without returning it, but we helped with shoes and clothing. There was also one more big problem – jiggers (worms living under the skin). Our missionaries would constantly pull out jiggers from the whole family, but after a few days the parasites would quickly return. They were everywhere: on their feet, on their fingers, and even on their elbows. This was because the whole home was covered in jiggers. For this reason, we decided to treat the home with a special solution. It was unsafe to be in the home for a period of three days after the treatment, and so the kids were divided among local family homes. Dorcas agreed to take Kaitano and Maria. This is how the kids spent the Easter holiday, in a home filled with care. But after the three days, Maria and Kaitano did not return home, but stayed in Dorcas' home. One time Maria came to school barefoot. When we asked her where her shoes were, she answered, "At home." Then we asked, "Maria, where is your home?" She



of Dorcas' natural born children gladly take care of the boy, and after a few months in their home he learned how to walk. Now Dorcas has a new goal: "I want to have 12 apostles in my home. I am still missing two more," she said. At first glance, this is a sad story. But at the same time, looking at these kids, you feel good; talking to Maria, you are recharged with positivity; and looking at Dorcas, you are filled with pride. Although a collective of 8 people lived in 12 square meters and it's hard work to feed her family, she simply accepted two more kids into her home, without any worries or questions or even asking for help. Of course, only Jesus Christ can give this kind of love. Because it is He who said He will not leave us, even if our parents abandon us. Heroes of faith are all around us. They simply do well when no one is looking and without expecting any thanks. They probably won't be shown on the news and we won't see them in the ratings of the most influential or famous. But I believe that when we come to heaven, we will see how God honors such people. After all, He has a completely different focus and priorities.



dropped her eyes, smiled, and said, "At Dorcas'." And even Dorcas herself joked that she now has 8 kids, and then seriously said that she wants to take these kids in. Now Kaitano is everybody's favorite: all

A Future for the Hopeless



Once again we have great news regarding the ministry “Embrace a Street Child”! Eight more boys have gone to school! It is difficult for any of us to understand how this news will change their lives. Each of them once ended up on the streets, although for differing reasons. There, with terrible living conditions, constant violence from older boys, and hunger, there is still one even more frightening, factor – lack of a future. The prospects are simple: glue, begging, theft, diseases, or jail.

We want to tell you a story about one of our newly sponsored school boys, Brian. It’s worth noting that this is a typical story for street kids.

Right now Brian is 7. Earlier he lived in the Kip-songo slums with his family: his parents and two sisters. He explained how his dad would beat his mom and treated her very badly. Because of this, one day she ran away from home, leaving the kids with their dad. A grandmother took in the youngest sister, and soon after that, Brian ran away from home to the streets. From there, he came

to our center in the beginning of January. Brian was not yet too affected by street life, and so he looked for care and acceptance that he didn’t get at home. He quickly became one of the group; the older boys loved him and he became like a little brother to them. But after a few months, Brian disappeared. His friends said that he decided to return home. Of course, the story doesn’t end here. In May, the boy returned to us once again. He said that he couldn’t stand his father, who drank and raped his daughter.

Later, the neighbors called social services, and Brian’s dad is presently in jail. Brian is currently a part of our big family. He was diligent with his work at Embrace, studied, helped out, and really wanted to go to school. And now he is a first-grader! We are so thankful for all that support our boys, and who helped send Brian to school. The Lord said that He gives a future and hope. And often He does this through the hands of His children.



One More “Mzungu”



In Kenya, there is now one more light-skinned Kenyan. A Kenyan girl, to be exact. Please meet Sofiya Vladimirovna Yaroshenko. She was born in Kitale on August 22, 2016. Our whole team congratulates Vova and Vika on the birth of their daughter and bless their whole family. And, of

course, we bless Sofiyka! May her life be full of God's wonder and grace, for she has a special destiny from God. Guys, we rejoice with you!



Our plans and needs

In December we would really like to move into the new building. However, we still have a lot of work to do, and there are not many hands. Pray for God's oversight, and even better, come visit us!

“hot season.”

We need school uniforms for our graduates. This year in our nursery school “Heart of Help,” we will have 35 graduates that will go on to first grade in a public school. Because our students come from poverty-stricken families, the parents cannot afford the cost of the uniforms. And without the uniform, you simply won't be allowed into school. We are in need of an answer to this open question.

We also ask that you pray for the future of the kids that live with us. Pray for God to give them the opportunity to receive a good education and profession, so that they would be able to work with their hands and be secure in their future.



We also pray for God's hand in the organization of our holiday from school. The issue is that because of the elections, the kids and youth finish school at the end of October, and won't return until the beginning of January. This means that they will have a lot of free time, and we would really like to effectively spend this time for Christ with the youth and kids. We are planning a camp for the youth, street kids, and many others. We are in need of God's help, so that we can properly, and more importantly, effectively, spend this

