



**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”**  
**2 Corinthians 5:17**

## **COPE MINISTRY**

### **April 2021 Newsletter**

#### **Spring Transformation**

Spring is here and we are seeing new life around every corner. Spring is a time of transformation. The birds are singing loudly in their excitement over new babies and the plethora of worms available after so many April showers. Trees are budding and every plant seems to be reaching as high as they can to get as close as possible to the warm sunshine. There are also weeds everywhere, mud to get your lawn mower or favorite pair of shoes stuck in, worms aren't overly pleased at their homes becoming waterlogged and giant birds around every corner. Such is the nature of all times of transformation. There is beauty and mess so intricately intertwined that removing one would undo the other as well. You can't have the flowers without the mud and rain, and you can't have the happy birds without the unhappy worms.



Romans 12:2 ESV says, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”. Transforming into the reflection of Christ is not easy or painless, no matter how beautiful it is. Sometimes the most meaningful and beautiful things we do in our lives are the hardest and most painful. We have to let go of our attachment to the things of this world and turn our eyes towards the Son. Basking in His glory is one of the most fulfilling and life changing things we can do. This is exactly what COPE is trying to accomplish everyday. In our board members, employees, students, and each and every interaction with the Pokot people. Please pray that we will be transformed by the light of the Son and be able to share this beautiful life bringing transformation with the Pokot people. As we pray the same thing for each of you!

#### **Dr. Steve Kottemann Travels**

Dr. Steve Kottemann is a member of the COPE Ministry board. He has been extremely helpful by giving guidance and advice as the Pokot administration comes to us with people with medical issues. Dr. Kottemann left last week to Kenya. He arrived safely in Nairobi. He will be visiting a medical mission just a few hours from the Pokot people in the hopes of making a meaningful connection. He will also be visiting the COPE compound during his time in Kenya. We are excited to have someone from the states visiting our team in Pokot. Please keep Dr. Kottemann in your thoughts and prayers. Soon after he returns from Kenya he will be leaving for Haiti on another mission trip. We are so blessed to have someone like Dr. Kottemann on our team and working to better COPE Ministry with us!



## Grade 8 Exam Results

Grade 8 had their National Exams last month. We got their exam results recently and are so pleased! They all scored very well! COVID has made these exams exceedingly difficult. There have been long gaps in between time spent in the classroom and the information has been condensed in many ways. For the Grade 8 exam results to be so good is a testament to the hard work of the students and teachers. We are so proud of them!



## Relief Food Update

We have switched back to giving ground corn flour, rather than whole corn this month for multiple reasons. One of the benefits of this is that it is slightly cheaper and allowed us to add 25 more people to the number we are feeding every month. We are now feeding over 600 people every week. Relief food costs about \$11/person per month. There is a long waiting list of people hoping to receive relief food. We were informed by our admin team that this month is hard financially for many of the

Pokot people because it is planting season. This means they had to spend their money on seeds to plant and cannot afford food. The hope of a harvest is a good thing! But for the Pokot people they often must choose between food now or food later. This is a hard choice and part of why it is so important that Relief Food continues and grows. If you would like to contribute to our relief food efforts you can donate online and choose Relief Food fund at [www.childrenofpokot.org](http://www.childrenofpokot.org), or mail your donation with "Relief Food" on the check or in a note to PO Box 903 Lincoln IL 62656.

## The Good Samaritan Program Update

We have had several people step up and request to sponsor a child in the past few months. We are so thankful for each one of you! This has made a meaningful difference in a child's life. The Good Samaritan Program is still one of the most taxing programs on our monthly budget. As we wait to find sponsors for the children, we absorb the cost to send the children to school who qualify to be in the program. We don't want children to have to wait to attend school just because we don't have sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring and making a meaningful connection with one of the children in Pokot, let us know! We recommend a donation of \$40 a month to cover the costs of the children going to school, their meals, uniforms, and any medical needs they may have.



## Thank You Vickie Porter!

April is Vickie's last month as board member. Vickie has been amazing! She has faithfully managed our mail and deposits every week without fail. We are so appreciative of everything Vickie has done for COPE Ministry!

## Welcome Cassandra Willoughby!

We are so excited to announce Cassandra Willoughby has joined our board. Cassandra graduated Magna Cum Laude from Illinois State University College of Business. In Cassandra's free time she enjoys spending time outdoors with her husband and reading. Cassandra is excited to be able to plug into a nonprofit and use her talents to further God's kingdom! Starting in 2022 Cassandra will be the acting treasurer for COPE Ministry.

## COPE House Children Spotlight

There are over 70 children living in the COPE House now. There are a variety of reasons why children come to live with us in COPE House. Over the next several newsletters we will share some of their stories with you. The stories will be anonymous to protect the privacy of our children. But will be able to give you a glimpse into the lives of our sweet kids!

Dear Michaela and Devare,  
How are you? hope you are fine as I am here in pokot.  
I would like to tell you that I am [redacted]  
I'm sixteen years old, I have recently completed my primary education.  
I joined COPE house in the year 2012 after my father passed on, so I had no one to pay my school fees.  
I like to thank the cope sponsors very much because I have been here for long while being sponsored, more so, I am getting all the needs I request, so I'm grateful for doing so.  
Also I like to tell you that, I am putting more efforts in my studies so as to give hope to my sponsors, also as an appreciation to them.  
In future, I would like to be a doctor and in my prayers, I know God will make me to be so.  
I ask you to continue doing this and God will bless you. Thank you.

## Thank you to our generous donors and sponsors!

We have had many very generous donations come in this month and we are very thankful! Continuous giving has helped us make great progress on our security wall! One highlight of our month was the funds to buy a posho mill from a very generous donor! The posho mill is used to grind corn into flour. It takes a lot of work to grind corn by hand, and if it is unground the elderly and very young have a hard time eating it. Having a mill on our compound will allow us to grind relief food corn and offer the service of grinding to the community as well. It is expensive and a long trip to get corn ground. Being able to do it cheaply and being nearby is a huge blessing to the community. Thank you so much to everyone who is helping further our mission by stateside contributions. If things do not continue to grow stateside, they cannot continue to grow on the Pokot side. We deeply appreciate everything you have done for the Pokot people! They tell us often to thank all of you!

## Prayer Requests

Concerns:

- Safety and health for Dr Steve during his Kenyan visit
- Covid concerns in Kenya
- Pokot girls seeking refuge from forced marriage
- Guidance for high school and university graduates
- Strength and guidance for COPE Admin in their day-to-day work and decisions

Praise:

- Good marks for Form 8 KCPE grades
- US donors!!!!
- US donors for Sponsorship
- US donor for the Posho mill
- US donors for the security wall
- US donors for relief food allowing us to add 100 more people who will receive food every week
- Vickie's willingness to serve on the US side via the COPE Board
- Cassandra's willingness to join the COPE Board and serve with us

## How You Can Get Involved Today

### Angel Catalog

The Angel Catalog is our online store where you can shop through some of our regular expenses and fund the costs of those things. You can buy a teacher's weekly salary, breakfast and lunch for a child for a week, medical supplies, school supplies, the costs of showing the Jesus Film, and more. This is a great way to get your children involved in giving or to give things in honor of a loved one's birthday, anniversary, or other special occasion.

Check out our Angel Catalog today!

[www.childrenofpokot.org/online-store](http://www.childrenofpokot.org/online-store)

### Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is an option on Amazon that allows you to choose a nonprofit that Amazon will donate to when you shop online. All you have to do is add our AmazonSmile information onto your amazon account and it will automatically make contributions to our mission while you do your routine, online shopping!

Use this link to set up Children of Pokot as your charity of choice on AmazonSmile!

[smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1367560](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1367560)

### Connect

Learn more about Children of Pokot and connect with us on our webpage or on social media!

[www.childrenofpokot.org](http://www.childrenofpokot.org)

Facebook: COPE Ministry

Write us a note at:

[childrenofpokot@gmail.com](mailto:childrenofpokot@gmail.com) or

PO Box 903 Lincoln, IL 62656

### Good Samaritan Sponsorship

Sponsor a child for \$40 a month. You will cover the child's school expenses, meals, medical costs, and uniforms. You also get to create a personal relationship with a child in the Pokot community! To learn more about sponsorship or request to become a sponsor check out our webpage or send us an email!

[www.childrenofpokot.org](http://www.childrenofpokot.org)

email: [childrenofpokot@gmail.com](mailto:childrenofpokot@gmail.com)

### Monthly Giving

Monthly giving can be conveniently set up to automatically withdraw from your checking account. You can easily start and stop your monthly giving from the donate page on our webpage.

### Planned Giving

Are you aware that you may help COPE through your will or estate planning? Your generosity would bring God's blessings to you and to COPE. To include COPE as a beneficiary, the correct address is Children of Pokot Educational Fund, P.O. Box 903, Lincoln IL 62656.

### Prayer

We need prayer partners that can be prayer warriors on behalf of Children of Pokot Educational Fund Ministry. Almost every newsletter has points of need in them that we would love for you to take up and cover in prayer for us. This is one of the best ways to support us from anywhere at any time.

### Share

Please tell others about COPE Ministry. Tell your church, family, friends, coworkers, and businesses about COPE and how they can help make a difference in the Pokot community today! It is hard for us to spread what COPE Ministry is doing by ourselves. We need your help!