



For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

- Galatians 5:14

COPE Ministry

February 2021 Newsletter

Loving Our Neighbor

A Devotion by Sue Kirby

A story of God's good neighboring was written on my heart some years ago when Barb received into her care a four-year-old starving child. Bite by bite, Barb attended him from deprivation to good health.

Sometime later, on a Sunday afternoon, Barb and the kids stretched out in the back yard. She said, "You kids have worn me out!"

Kiptoo piped up, "Do you want me to blow on your feet?"

Barb said, "And what would that do?"

"Make them feel better!" he said.

How our hearts like hearing a deprived child reciprocate, offering TLC for tired feet. But Jesus kicks it up a notch.

"Love your neighbor as yourself," he said to a rich young man, the fellow with deep pockets who failed to see the spiritual harvest in view.

Nor did the Lord's band of men who tried to shoo away those coming with tots for Jesus to bless.

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them . . ." Jesus rebuked them.

Good neighboring includes being a light to a neighbor, a friend, a wandering soul.

Share Jesus's heart for the lost and invite!

"Love your neighbor as yourself." Apostle Paul adds, "Love does no harm to a neighbor."

No harm in relief food to the hungry. No harm in listening to the injured, the sick, the heart-wounded, and victims of abandoned hope. There is great gain in offering compassion, that 'fails not', to the fallen all about us.

Praise be to God for those who help us look for lost keys, misplaced glasses, and cell phones! Hallelujah for hands reaching out to the lonely, the grieving, the marginalized. Thanks be for friendships old and new, greeting cards sent and received. Smiling faces. Fresh stories. Giving hearts.

Good neighboring rarely makes headline. It can and should be an unmerited kindness, a timely word, a helping hand, and an opportunity to move someone God loves from lost to found. Thank you, God, for COPE and the growing witness to your love. May Your love flourish on both sides.



Needs in Pokot

Our budget has increased greatly this year for many reasons. COVID-19 has brought many new costs and caused an increase in prices for others. There has been flooding and drought throughout the year which has caused the continued need for relief food and raised the prices for the food that is available. Kenya's Ministry of Education (MOE) has implemented a new curriculum, which has created the need for new supplies to meet the requirements. Many of these things you have read about over the past few months in our newsletters. You can review our 2021 budget on our website at childrenofpokot.org/documents.

In addition to our ongoing need for general fund, relief food and sponsorship donations we have some special projects that will only happen when they have been fully funded by designated gifts. For example, you are probably familiar with our chicken project, which was only possible because of a generous group of donors. All that is left is to purchase the chickens and we have funds in hand for that.

The following are items that are definite needs in the mission, but we felt fell outside the general budget this year. We do not want to interrupt our regular giving for these projects but if an individual or group feels led to give extra or knows of grants in these areas, we would appreciate your input.

School Projects:

Computer Lab - \$5656

The school is required to have a computer lab for its new curriculum. We would use the small library space we currently have until such time as we can build a room. If we were to build a room at some point to house the lab the additional cost would be approximately \$5000.

The lab would also be used by the teachers. Part of the requirement of the new curriculum is to track the progress of every student and upload the information to the MOE. Currently the teachers are borrowing equipment from Administration and it is a time-consuming process as teachers in the US can

attest. Remember, we do not have electricity, so part of the cost is for a generator.

Games Kits: Supplies for "PE" - \$1832

Story Books: extra books for each grade level - \$679

Other Mission Needs:

New roofing for all the buildings - \$3179

Administration needs new computers - \$1140

Showers: \$3894 - shower rooms around the compound were made of leftover roofing materials and need to be replaced by cement floors and block walls. We have the funds to build COPE House showers but need funds for 5 others.

Posho Mill: \$1746 - This was a project Barb had started working on. When we switched our relief food product to maize and beans from ground maize flour, one of the intentions was to eventually have a posho mill and be able to grind it ourselves much cheaper and still be able to provide people with the flour. We would be able to grind all our own maize and we would also be able to provide people in the community with the service of a mill for much cheaper than they were paying if they were even able to get to one. We had picked one out and were discussing placement options when COVID hit and our priorities and finances shifted. This is still on our list of projects.

School kitchen: \$2426 - Obtaining enough firewood has become a problem. We would like to purchase new jikos that burn much less firewood. Jikos also have chimneys so this would remove the smoke and make it safer for the cooks. The cost also includes new sufarias to fit the new jikos and renovations to the kitchen to allow for fit of the new equipment and some clean-up.

Thank you, everyone, for all you do for us. If any of these projects are of interest to you or your group, please contact us and we can provide more detailed information. Please keep these projects and our regular ongoing needs in your prayers as we move forward in 2021. There are always so many needs and we pray for wisdom in knowing what our priorities should be and that we are good stewards with what God provides us.



Kitchen renovation would add a chimney



Example of Jikos



Sufaria



Current showers made of iron sheeting from damaged roofing material

Sponsorship Needs

We have had a few new people come along side us and sponsor children this month and we are so thankful! We are continuing to work towards getting every child that meets the criteria to be in our Good Samaritan program partnered with a sponsor. Please consider sponsoring a child. \$40 a month pays for their school and essential needs. You receive a short bio and a picture of your child. The child you sponsor will write you letters or draw pictures to stay in contact with you. It is an incredible experience for both child and sponsor and helps us reach our goal! Go to www.childrenofpokot.org to learn more.

Prayer Request

- Individual in Pokot community needing to see specialist for eye issues
- Wisdom in when and how to travel to Kenya
- Students being able to get back in the rhythm of school
- Sponsors needed for the Good Samaritan Program

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

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

Connect

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

www.childrenofpokot.org

Facebook: COPE Ministry

Write us a note at:

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

email: childrenofpokot@gmail.com

Monthly Giving

Monthly giving can be conveniently set up to automatically withdraw from your checkings 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 prayer requests and 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 anytime.

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!