



# COPE Ministry

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

- Matthew 28:19-20

## March 2021 Newsletter

### School Term Ends

The second term of school ended on March 17<sup>th</sup>. We are so proud of our students, teachers, and staff for all their hard work. We know that school has been especially challenging this year for the students because of their long break due to COVID. We appreciate the effort that all our students put forth and their positivity.

Our term ended on a high note as the 8<sup>th</sup> graders went on a school trip to the zoo. They saw many animals, did some fun activities, and enjoyed a special treat with lunch.



### Jesus Film Update

*The Jesus Film* is a video about the life of Jesus and the heart of gospel in the pokot language. This is the most efficient way we have found to spread the gospel in the area, and it has had life changing effects. When COVID precautions began about a year ago we stopped taking *The Jesus Film* out for safety reasons.

The Pokot administration team has worked hard to problem solve and find the safest way for us to continue evangelizing in our neighboring communities. A few weeks ago was our first trip out into a neighboring village with *The Jesus Film*. They brought masks made in the sewing house, provided portable handwashing stations, and set up outside. The film was projected onto the side of a van for a nearby village. Approximately 80 people from the village came and watched *The Jesus Film* that night. The team was able to take the film out again last week, and 90 people came to watch. Everyone is incredibly happy to be able to safely share the story of Jesus again.



## Security Wall Progress

Work on the security wall has continued. Depending on the amount of extra hands that are available, about 80-100 feet of the security wall are completed each month. It cost \$300 to build 10 feet of wall. There is still a need for funding for the security wall. The goal is for the entire compound to be surrounded by the wall. This would increase the safety of our compound and our children.



## Agriculture Program

Ag classes have been added to our school curriculum. We will be using part of the shamba (garden) behind the school to teach our students how to garden. This program may be helpful in teaching the next generation how to use their own piece of land to provide for their families. We are still working out the details on the best arrangement of the plots and the most efficient way to haul the necessary water for the Ag program and the Feed A Fish program. While there are still details to be figured out, we are excited at the prospects of another way to address food insecurity.

## Relief Food

Our Relief Food program currently feeds 509 people each week. The chief helps us determine who are the neediest in the community to comprise our list of recipients. There is a long waiting list of people hoping to receive Relief Food in the future. One way for us to be able to get more food to more people is for supporters of COPE to help. It cost about \$13 a month per person to distribute relief food. While that seems like a small number it adds up quickly when you consider the hundreds of people waiting to be added to the distribution list. If you would like to help fund our Relief Food Program, it is guaranteed to make a tangible difference in many lives.

## The Good Samaritan Program

We are still looking to expand funding for our Good Samaritan Program in the form of sponsors. One of the largest deficits in our budget for 2021 is our lack of sponsors for the children in the Good Samaritan program. The children in the program have been determined unable to afford to go to school. It costs \$40 a month to sponsor a child. This pays for their school fees, supplies, uniforms, meals, and medical needs. You also get to communicate with the child you sponsor in the form of letters. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, reach out to us from our webpage or email us.

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

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

## Church Connections

As things begin to open back up with safety measures in place, we are anxious to connect with churches. We would love to come visit with congregations, give updates on what is going on with COPE, and share our heart for the Pokot with

all of you. If your home church supports COPE Ministry and would like a visit, please let us know. If your church doesn't yet support COPE but is interested in learning more about our mission, please tell us about your church. We can schedule a time to share with your church leaders and mission board what COPE Ministry is all about.

The more people that come along side us as partners in spreading the love of God with the Pokot, the more we can accomplish. Please continue to pray with us that more people will learn about COPE's work and partner with us to reach the Pokot with the truth of the gospel and meet physical needs.

## Memorial

It is with sadness that we recently learned of the passing of staunch COPE supporter and former COPE Board member Scott Luallen. He passed away January 21 at his home in Salem, Illinois. Scott agreed to become a COPE Board member when the Board was still meeting in person. For him that meant two hours, 100 miles on mostly two-lane roads...JUST ONE WAY, to attend Board meetings once a month in Rochester, Illinois. He rarely missed. He never complained. His wife Donna accompanied him every month for moral support. Scott loved COPE. He loved what COPE



was doing in Pokot, Kenya. His family graciously named COPE as Scott's memorial. We pray for God's peace to surround Scott's family during this time of loss. Please keep his family in your prayers.

## James Ruto Graduated

James (Jim) Ruto Graduated from Business College on February 27<sup>th</sup>. We are so incredibly proud of Jim and all of his hard work. Jim grew up in COPE House. We know Barb would just be over the moon ecstatic about his success in college. Jim has chosen to return to COPE House and work on our administration team. He will help carry on Barb's legacy and accomplish God's work in his home village. Please join us in congratulating Jim!



## 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 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 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!

