



# COPE Ministry

He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

Revelation 21:5 NIV

## January 2021 Newsletter

### Successful Reopening of the School

Tapadany Academy opened to all students January 4. Before that could happen safely, Pokot Administration, Tapadany Head Teachers and Teachers, COPE Maintenance, and COPE employees all had a lot of planning and work to do. Kenya required many of the same protocols the US school system required. Pokot just had less infrastructure and fewer amenities to help them get there. Masks were ordered and desks were redesigned to allow for social distancing. Because indoor space was limited, classes had to be divided in half and many had to be moved outside.

Availability of water for handwashing had to become a reality. Hand washing stations were built throughout the compound and stocked with soap and sanitizer.

Protocol had to be made. Temperatures of everyone entering the mission grounds had to be taken; everyone, every time, every day.

All the hard work was rewarded. On January 13 the Kenyan Ministry of Education Department of Quality

Assurance Standard visited Tapadany Academy to perform an Assessment Report. They looked at numbers of students, teachers, and classrooms along with availability of water, thermometers, and facemasks among other things. We received a report from Kweli and Head Teacher Moses stating, “The team was impressed with level of preparedness on COVID-19 pandemic.” Tapadany is being held up as the standard. God is good!!! This could not have happened without God’s blessing, the hard work of COPE employees, and everyone’s prayers. Thank you all!

Although this is great news, no one is slowing down. Pokot continues to move forward dealing with changes in school curriculum, COVID, famine, disease, etc. The COPE Board continues to look forward to the time when we can safely get back into the churches and organizations that support us to talk about what God is allowing to happen in Pokot, and the issues that continue to need the help of our faithful supporters. We continue to beg for your prayers as we move forward together.





## Help Us Reach Our 2021 Goal! Sponsor A Child Today!

Our goal for 2021 is to match 50 children in our program with sponsors. The Good Samaritan Program has been growing over the past few years. There are currently approximately 160 children in our program and only about 50 of them have sponsors.

The suggested pledge amount is \$40 a month. This will cover the child's school fees, books, uniforms, supplies, meals while at school, and any medical attention the child may need.

Many of the children that are waiting for a sponsor are in single income families with many siblings. Some of the children do not have parents and live with older siblings, grandparents, or other relatives that cannot afford to send them to school.

We desperately want to see these children have the opportunity to succeed. We want them to have a solid education and grow into healthy, kind, goal-oriented individuals who love Christ. Please help us take care of these kids!

## Struggles in the Pokot Community

Many of the same hardships we are experiencing in the US because of the pandemic are hitting the Pokot Community. The lack of work and income across Kenya has caused a new hardship in the Pokot Community.

Our administration team in Pokot has an overwhelming amount of people coming to the mission almost every day asking for some form of help. Much of the time, all they can do is listen. We do not even begin to have the resources to provide aid at the scale that is required to make a difference in the lives of these people.

It is an extremely hard reality. We have no answers. We only offer the love of Christ and the dignity of a listening ear.

Please know that the need is real, and we need to be praying so fervently for the people of Pokot. Our mission has more demands on it than ever trying to meet the needs of the community. We have more individuals coming for relief food, more children needing help with school costs, more projects and repairs needed around the compound, and more people looking to us for help in their time of need. We know God loves this community even more than we do. Even when the need feels overwhelming for the Pokot community, we know our mission is Christ's mission and Christ's mission cannot fail. With your help we will continue feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, caring for the orphans and widows, and spreading the love of Christ. Thank you for your support, prayers, and love.



We loved receiving pictures of all the COPE House kids on the first morning of school this January! The kids are ecstatic to be going back to school. We are so thankful for all the hard work that made it possible for the children to return to a safe school!

## Grade 8 Exam Results

We have the results for the end of term 2 exams for grade 8. The maximum score is 500. (it is difficult to score above 400). Below 250 is failing. Our highest score was 406 and no one scored below 250. Our average was 325. The students did well especially considering they were out of school so long and had to get back into the routine.

Reminder: this school year will be different. This is Term 2 for most students, but it is Term 3 for Grades 8,4, and High School Seniors since they came back in November. This means they will be taking their final exams to move to the next level in March. Please keep them in your prayers as they must work extra hard this year to get back into their studies amid extra hardships.

## COPE Board Update

Alia Burton has completed her term as a COPE Board member. We would like to thank Alia for everything she has done for COPE these last 3 years. Officers were also voted in for the new year. The current board for 2021 is as follows:

Joan Buckles – President

Josh Turney – Vice President

Patty Werths – Secretary

Leslie Gwozdz – Treasurer

Paul Boatman

Vicki Porter

Steve Kotteman

Devane & Michaela Amalla – Interim Directors

### Who We Are

COPE was founded in 1997. The organization's headquarters is located in Lincoln, IL. The African Mission is located in Tapadany, Pokot, Kenya. The purpose of the organization is to provide a Christian education to the children of the Pokot Tribe. The ultimate goal is to bring each of the Pokot children and adults into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Since 1997 the mission has grown and developed and become the center of the community teaching Christian beliefs and ethics. For more information visit [childrenofpokot.org](http://childrenofpokot.org) or COPE Ministry on Facebook.



## 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](https://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 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!