

His Hands Support Ministries Kenya Trip Newsletter and Update

September, 2022

An Amazing Experience and Trip!

We finally had our chance to get to Kenya and what a trip it was! Our team of four had spent two previous weeks working in the East Africa sponsorship program and the trip ended with our 8 days in Kenya. We had long days traveling from school to school or from home to home to see the children and widows. For each widow we saw, we brought a bag of food. Many people donated money before the trip for us to be able to bring the food and we greatly appreciate it! The money also helped purchase some mattresses, solar lights, medical help for the various needs we came upon.

We were amazed that when we were in one hut visiting a widow, that her son and daughter in law provided a meal. We ate traditional African food in a hut in the bush! Was an amazing experience and humbling as they honored us with this meal.

A support group for widows started by Bishop Richard and Everlyn met together and we had an enjoyable time with them. Sharon shared her testimony of her losing her husbands and we helped pass out a bag of food to each woman. The main thing is that they receive support and fellowship on a regular basis. Their stories were heart breaking, and yet they worshipped in joy.

We had a half hour of air time on a radio to share about why people should take care of widows and orphans. We were able to share scripture and encourage people to help their neighbors and love them. On Sunday morning we participated in the worship service by teaching Sunday School as well as Sherry giving the sermon. It was an unforgettable experience. Also, one of the most goosebumps producing moments was when Sharon told a widow that she would be her sponsor. Rosa fell on her knees and Sharon immediately got on her knees too and spoke love through this.

Many of the sponsored widows thanked God over and over for the help they've been receiving. The parents and children thanked God for the funds to be able to attend school. The sponsorship money really makes a difference to each of them. One joyful visit was to a widowed mom of five. She is sponsored, as are all five of her children so she was just beaming with gratefulness! The website is now updated with the widows and children who need sponsoring. We pray that all of them be-



Walking in the bush to each widow's hut and bringing food...



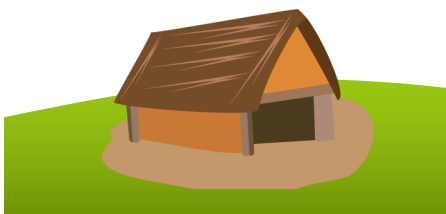
Sharon & Rosa rejoicing

Sharon's thoughts: My trip to Kenya was truly amazing! I have a special place in my heart for the widows program. Even though many are struggling, the women and children are so friendly and so full of praise for the Lord 🙏 They are so appreciative of us bringing them food, and just visiting and praying with them. They are such beautiful people and

my life is changed meeting
and knowing them ❤️ I
can't wait to go back, God
willing 🙏



Everlyn, Sharon, Sherry, Marilee
and Bishop.....Team Kenya!!



Thoughts on My Time in Kenya (Sherry Grunder - Sept 2022)

So, by the time most people reach my age, their adventures are past and they are starting to look earnestly at their savings to see if they'll be ok during retirement. God had a different plan for me.

At the age of 58 God whirled me into an amazing adventure of firsts; My first mission's trip, my first passport, my first set of travelers inoculations, my first contemplation of traveller's insurance, my first time to leave the North American continent, my first time to fly over the ocean, my first time dealing with customs, first visa, first foreign money, my first real introduction to another culture. The culture of East Africa and Kenya.

Though I had never been on a missions trip, I have long been a supporter of missions both financially and with prayer. So, in a theoretical sense, I was prepared for what we would see and experience. There would be jet lag. (And how!) I knew the food and bathrooms would be different. (They were!). I knew there would be abject poverty such I had never witnessed before. (There was.) I had been warned that I would want to help everyone I saw (I did!) I was told folks would see me - the rich white person - and ask for money. (Some totally did.) I was prepared for the fact that other countries run on a less rushed and scheduled timetable. (Cue the "hurry up and wait".) I was sure the people would be hospitable - sometimes even to their own hurt. (They were WONDERFULLY welcoming and hospitable!). I was aware that our partners might ask us to teach in the churches and pray with the poor. (2 sermons, 2 Sunday school classes, 1 radio broadcast, and more prayers than I can count!). So, as you can see, I was ready. I was prepared, both spiritually and practically.

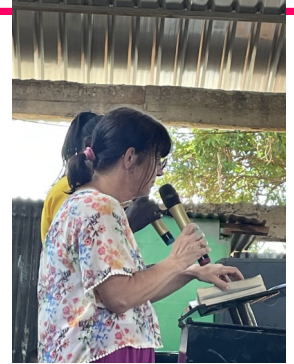
But, there was one thing - one consistent theme throughout the entire trip - that I was NOT prepared for; the hearts of our partners. Again and again and again I was brought to tears and conviction by their words and actions.

After ministering in Rwanda and Uganda, we came to Kenya to work alongside Bishop Richard Ogol and his beautiful wife, Everlyn. Oh my, what a blessing! We had almost a full week to daily see their love poured out for us. They took SUCH good care of us and made sure all our needs were met. But their love for the widows, for the churches under their oversight, and for the people in general just undid me. They drive out long distances on a regular basis to teach and encourage the widows, to minister in the churches, and to deliver food. When I asked if they get tired of all the going and doing Bishop said, "It is the ministry God has given us..." very matter-of-factly. No thought of self clouded his thoughts on the matter! Their home in Kisoro is another example of their giving hearts - 15 children live there with them!

And they were so open to helping anyone in need. They did not exclude widows or children that went to other churches. Christ wants us all to be ONE body! They taught the widows to share with one another and help one another as they were able. Their love and generosity spoke such volumes to me.

Because of our partners in Rwanda and Uganda and Kenya, I want to press so much closer to the heart of God. I want to KNOW His Word, live it and share it freely and frequently. I want to always have my eyes and ears open to the needs of others in the church and in the community. I want to love like they love!

Will I go to Africa again? I hope so, but that is in God's capable hands. Even if I don't, I pray God will be able to use me more fully where He has placed me. It's all for HIS glory!



Sherry hugging Wilfrida and preaching the word!

Many widows need new floors (cow dung floors cause chiggers). New roofs (holes in the metal), new huts as they are crumbling, new latrines....can you help?



Sponsored widow Emily and her five sponsored children! Check out her smile!

Elizabeth, a sponsored widow, received a letter from her sponsor. She was so thrilled and she said she would treasure it always because she had never received a letter before! If you'd like to send a letter to your sponsored widow or child, please just send it to in an email at Marilee@hishandssupportministries.org and I will get it sent right away to our partner in Kenya and Bishop and Everlyn will make sure they receive it! You can scan a handwritten letter or type one up. Note: most of the widows are illiterate so they will not be able to write back, but I know they will be thrilled to hear from you!

The funds are wired every three months for the sponsorship program. If you'd like to be invited to the HHSM Kenya Facebook page, send me an email. This is a good page to keep up with the happenings in Kenya as our partners there post frequently.



The group of widows at the support group. (left)

Newly sponsored widow Mary who has over 10 children living with her..... her orphaned grandchildren. Many of the kids are listed as urgent on the website. (below)

Please contact Marilee Colpitts, the Kenya program coordinator with any questions. We can't do a sponsorship program without sponsors and we THANK YOU for your help and your part in making a difference in their lives! Marilee@hishandssupportministries.org

Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself

