



Challenging God's Family To Live Out Their Calling

# INHERITANCE

## World Ministries Inc.

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### HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR AFRICA MISSION TRIP!

Before I go any farther in this writing, I want to say THANK YOU!

Thank you for all you did in allowing God to work through you in supporting me and our team both financially and prayerfully and in many other ways as well. So again, THANK YOU!

I've been serving and leading mission teams for over two decades and I must say that this trip will stand out as a very special time for not only me, but for many that went to Kenya as well.

Our team left on July 8th, but God had a plan and was working through you and others even before we left for the airport.

Our team while serving in Kenya usually performs both construction and ministry as part of our mission. The Haven on the Hill Children's Home were we stay

and work is the center of our mission, but we also serve and help in other ministries while in Kenya.

One of the main projects we wanted to work on at the Haven was to begin construction on the combination dining hall / community center building.

Those plans were delayed though because of a lack of funds. God however had other plans.

Just days prior to us leaving for Kenya, Janice one of the founders of the Haven contacted me to tell me that a local church had offered a \$10,000 grant to go towards the construction of the Haven if they could find someone to match the funds.

After reviewing our budget for construction and where we stood overall our Inheritance ministry was able to supply \$9,000 of those matching funds and some-

one else another \$1,000 giving the Haven \$20,000 to start that building for the children and the community. All this was possible because of people like you with a heart, that were willing to give.

Because of the late change we were not able to start the building as we hoped, but there was still much we had to do on our schedule and as you read this the foundation for that building has already been completed and the walls are soon to come.

Let me share with you some of the construction we were able to accomplish in serving our Lord:

- We ran over 700 feet of electrical wire in conduit and installed a new float switch to allow the pump to supply water to the home.

- Our team moved, cleaned and

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Some Of Our 2017 Team Wire Brushing All The Solid Block In Preparation For Laying The Retaining Wall Behind The Kitchen.

### This Month's Focus On Ministry

#### The Heartbeat Of The Mission!

This year's trip was much different than the trips we had done in the past. Not so much in the format of our mission, but in the commitment we made to be more attuned and open to Christ and to just let God work through us!

Below are excerpts from a story that one of our team members

shared with me after the trip that better communicates just how it is God was working in our hearts!

Dear Dave,

*I went into the trip thinking I knew what to expect. At the time, I thought it was simply because I had been there 7 years prior. Same place, same leader, same mission, just different people. I did not realize it at the time, but really I had put God in a*

*box. Nice, neat, and wrapped with a bow, I did not anticipate anything too big to happen on the trip. Don't get me wrong, I was excited, I was ready, and I was expecting God to move. For some reason, however, I was expecting him to move in ordinary ways. Little did I know, he was setting the stage to move in extraordinary ways within me.*

*Days before the trip, I started to*

*get "inside my head" in a negative way. I thought, I'm not going on this trip. It's not happening. There's too much to do here and I would be irresponsible to go. I had ran through every excuse in my head, but that's all they were, excuses.*

*I knew I was going, but if it were up to me, I would not have. Thankfully, I was not in control, but God was.*

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## This Month's Focus On Ministry (continued)

I remember thinking and praying prior to the trip mostly about my interactions with people and making the most of the trip. I prayed something like "Lord, I pray that this trip challenges me and acts like an ice breaker for me, pushing me into new territory. I want to do things that I have never done before and I want to do them on this trip."

My biggest fear going into the trip was that I would waste it. I was afraid that I would hide in my shell and not take advantage of the opportunities placed in front of me. This pertains mostly to dealing with people (especially that team). It is more natural for me to keep quiet and to myself than to reach out to other people especially people that I do not know. This can make building new relationships difficult. By the grace of God, that was not my experience at all on the trip. By his grace, I was catapulted from day one into building interactive, edifying relationships with several members on the team....

....At one of our meetings in preparation for the trip, we went through each job that would need to be filled and volunteered wherever we thought we would fit. One of the roles I chose was VBS (Vacation Bible School) leader. The way you described the position was people to help set up and coordinate VBS. I remember doubting and thinking, "Why am I volunteering for this. I'm not creative, I'm not crafty and I am okay with that. I'm good at other things. Surely, I would be better somewhere else and someone else would do a better job in this position." I continued to pray and still felt God was leading me to do this and there was a reason for it. That night at the Chestnut Hill Diner, as we discussed ideas for VBS, I just kept thinking "What in the world am I doing here?" As many times as I wanted to back out, I decided I would follow through simply because God wanted me to do it.

So now we are in Kenya and we have another VBS meeting. At this point, I am still wondering why I am included in this. Then, as you were making sure all the positions were covered, you came to the end and asked if anyone would be interested in doing the final Gospel presentation. There it was, the reason I was there. Sure, there were people who needed to hear the Gospel, but more than that, I needed to do it. That was something that I had never done and I had limited myself from doing it. Also, being a leader gave me an opportunity to share with 10 older boys from New Vision which was an amazing experience in itself. These are the main reasons God included me in VBS. There was incredible growth for myself in all of it and once again God proved himself faithful. Once again he showed me that he does not call the equipped, but he equips the called. Once again he showed me the importance of faith and trust. Once again he showed me his patience, his grace and his love.

That was my experience on the 2017 mission to Kenya all in all. I hope that I was able to explain that adequately. I can see how someone on the outside might look at this whole experience and ask, "what's the big deal?" The truth is it is a big deal and God's hand is always at work. I know you know this, I just wanted to share one small experience with you....

...(In reference to visiting the Kibera Slum) Prior to our arrival in Kenya, that was one of the things I was looking most forward to doing. I'm not sure why, I just know I was excited. The whole experience really takes you outside of yourself. I mean, how could someone leave a place like that and complain about "life" when they go back home. It was a swift kick in the butt and a nice dose of gratitude that's for sure. So were walking through Kibera on our way to the feeding center. You know what it looks and smells like, I don't need to explain it. Then we get to our destination. The light in the darkness. We walk in and sit down for a presentation the children prepared for us. That was hands down the best part. Singing, dancing and holding the children was an unforgettable experience. Again, the old James would have just sat in the corner and observed.

By God's amazing grace, however, I got into it and was so incredible blessed because of it. The revelation came as we exited the feeding center. As we opened those doors and stepped outside, I realized, at that moment, that I had forgotten where I was for the last hour. I had completely forgot about the pain, despair, poverty and hopelessness on the other side of the wall just feet away. It was an incredible experience that God used to show me his power, his protection and his provision. He showed me that even in the trials of life, his peace and love conquers all. That feeding center, as I saw it, was much like the eye of a storm. Chaos and destruction all around, yet peace within. I am so grateful that God allowed me to experience it.



Installing The Electrical Conduit & Wire



Movie Night Set Up Team

## SOME OF THE PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR'S MISSION TRIP TO KENYA!



Miracle & Victory Children's Centre



Local School Vacation Bible School

## Highlights Of Our Africa Mission Trip! (Continued)

stacked around 600 solid cut stone block for the construction of the retaining wall behind the kitchen.

- Dug out and moved tons of dirt by hand to allow for the footers for the retaining wall.
- In addition we painted, welded, and performed many electrical, plumbing and other repairs as well as fixed the washer that had been broken for several years.



The Kibera Slum

### On the Ministry side of things:

- We led a one day Vacation Bible School at a local school to 330 children.
- Hosted another VBS at the Haven for another children's home with approximately 40 children and provided them with help from the Haven, blankets and other gifts to help make their day and life better.

• We visited the Haven of Hope baby home and loved on the babies.

- We drove into Nairobi and to the Kibera Slum we spent time with the Children at the Miracle and Victory Children's Center and our dear friend Monica and we were able to gift them with funds to provide sweaters for all 350 children there.
- We spoke at the local church and I had the opportunity to preach on "Surviving and thriving through the train wrecks of life". A topic appropriate to encouraging those present as the pastor's son of twenty-one years had just died days before.
- We met on two different occasions with missionary friends and helped supply funds to support their efforts.
- We did local house visits, praying for the people there and providing much needed things like a Bible, blankets and such.
- We hosted an outdoor movie night to over 200 people on a large screen, showing the Jesus Film in Kikuyu which is the native language to that area and shared the Gospel and encouraged many to come to Christ!



Children's Home VBS

There were also many smaller moments of ministry, not just among the staff at the Haven, but among team members as well and in those quiet moments with God.

Thank you so much for all you have done! We could not have done it without you!

God bless you richly for you prayers and your support!

Dave

Moving All The Stone Block



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray:

- For the Haven family and for all their hard work and that they might stay strong and encouraged in all that continue to do! Please pray also for God's favor in obtaining permits for building as well as favor when working with government officials.
- Please pray for Phil Wagner (co founder of the Haven) as he is back in Kenya right now. Please pray for safe travel as well as God's favor in all he has to do while there in Kenya.
- For the Miracle & Victory Children's Centre and for Monica that heads up that ministry. Please pray for continued ongoing support so that the children would have all they need to live and to know Jesus' love.



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Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. (NIV)

James 1: 27

## OUR MISSION

*As part of the body of Christ, Inheritance World Ministries is to reach out to the unsaved, to establish the care for orphans and the brokenhearted and to train the church to do the same by equipping them through the application of the Word of God through direct teaching and missions both at home and abroad.*

Thank you so much for all you do in helping us minister to the children of Kenya and to others. Your prayers and financial support does more than you know. You may not know this but it has been our goal from the beginning that no one serving at our ministry take a salary so everyone that is ministering through Inheritance World Ministries volunteers the gifts God has given to them. Because of this fact almost all of the funds we receive go towards the children and people we minister to in the name of Jesus!

So thank you again for all you do both prayerfully and financially. Together we are making a difference for all eternity!

For the least, the last, and the Lost ~ Dave Dowling

