



LIGHTHOUSE
— MINISTRIES INT. —

Enabling Christians to serve their communities

Newsletter - 71st Edition - Winter 2025





www.lighthouseministries.ca
PO Box 341, PO Main.
Elmira, Ontario, N3B 2Z7

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- By Cheque to:

Lighthouse Ministries International
PO Box 341, PO Main
Elmira ON N3B 2Z7

- Sign up for monthly contributions by Automatic Funds Transfer. Provide a void cheque with the contribution card included with the newsletter

Our Vision

Enabling Christians to serve their communities.

Our Mission

We provide a conduit for resources to flow from our communities to needy recipients.

With these resources we support local programs in education, health, and community building, with a primary focus on children and youth in Africa.

We are passionate about sustaining local ownership of projects and programs and mitigating unnecessary dependencies.

Our desire is that all activities facilitate the growth of God's Kingdom on earth.

Our Programs

- Education
- Medical
- Community Care
- Child Care

For more information feel free to contact one of the board members.



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BOARD REPORT

Greetings to all in Jesus name,

Time rushes on and we see winter approaching already again.

In February we had traveled to Ghana and thought you would find some things interesting that stuck out to us as a first timer in Africa. From our rented house in a little village it seemed there would be some things we could learn from these people. Throughout the day the village was quiet with many people obviously gone off to jobs in a bigger town, and children off to school. Later in the day there were some folks carrying water to their homes, even children with big pails on their heads helping along. Although there was no sign of “toys” around there were children having fun! As you can see this young boy running his tire down the road with 2 sticks to prod it along. In the evening we had gone out for a stroll in the village, the streets were bustling with people laughing and talking, small stores open in front of their homes and little charcoal BBQs going with roasted kabobs or sausage for sale. Some boys took us aside and wanted to show off their friend’s acrobat skills , he ran up the road and did several flips in a row then proceeded to do them backwards! We took a ride on a “tricycle” as they call them, the driver was bursting with pride that the “whites” would chose his old rig and took us for a cruise around town. Anytime he would see his friends he would yell and point in the back



to make sure no one misses these important moments!

Retiring that evening I had to think that living in a little hut with little or no technology and a healthy bustling village looks like it may have some pros over our villages here where people have a much better relationship with their TV then the people next door.

On the other hand there were many things that were less than ideal. Most women need to go to work every day to keep bread on the table. The youngest children get dragged along to the jobs with little babies strapped to their mother's backs. As soon as they are several years old they get sent to school where they are in daycare until they are school age. We visited a school where the young children were crammed in a little room tighter than we are allowed to house animals, it smelled like 50 little children who didn't have a bath for a long time and the entertainment they had was a phone set at the front playing children's songs.... It didn't smell or look ideal from my world-view.

The most pathetic scene we saw was in the fishing village where the houses looked like outhouses. Our tribe was obviously not the ordinary, and I saw some mothers dressed in rags with some dirty children around them, their eyes were darting around it reminded me of a scared animal looking for safety. It was the saddest thing I had seen. Multiple children

came up to Sylvester with their stories, their dilemmas written on a scrap of paper and pleading to enroll for help through him. In that moment I was more thankful than ever that we can partner with locals to determine who is the most needy! I would have had no idea.

As we draw to the close of the year we say THANK YOU for all your faithful support! I am thankful to God for the faithful Christians that we can partner with who are zealous in serving their communities. May God's name be honoured and more souls enter His kingdom. May you be blessed as you serve in your community and also as you give to needy brothers and sisters around the world.

On behalf of the board,
Jeremy Wideman



The Power of Transformation

(As related by Marvin Weber at the Oct 2025 fundraiser supper.)

I want to share with you a story. This is not a new story. The theme is in fact quite familiar to all of us. The content might be different; the character is different but the theme is very familiar. This is a story of the power of transformation. It is a story about a life without Christ, it involves a journey, and then the contrast of a life with Christ. Sound familiar?

“so please if you will, travel with me back in time ... to 1999 , on the continent of Africa, in the country of Kenya , in the capital city of Nairobi, in the city region of Kibera , in the middle of the world's 3rd largest slum, there was a tavern. This tavern was a place where they sold alcohol. Lots and lots of alcohol. Alcohol by the barrels. This was the most popular tavern in Kibera.

The person that owned and operated this tavern was a woman



named Hannah. Hannah was a single mother with 11 children. Life in the slum is hard! Life as a single mother is hard, and life without Christ is incredibly hard !

Now if you live in this slum, the objective is to survive. I see Hannah as a very determined woman. Perhaps she took on the mentality of desperation. Desperate times call for desperate measures. She had 11 growing children that depended on her. So either in her desperation, or in her opportunity, she resorted to brewing beer to make a living, and in time became very good at it. Soon she became known as one of the best brewers in Kibera, and her tavern became the most popular tavern in the region.

Now , she was not only surviving, but she was thriving. She raised 11 children and paid for their full education, all from the revenue of her tavern.

So now, how does one look at



that? Do we view that as success ?

You see, the men and women that went to her tavern had worked hard for their money. Many of them should have been using their money to support their families, but instead they spent it on alcohol for themselves , and then most likely stumbled home to their hungry children. The alcohol that was served there did what alcohol still does today, it ruined lives. It ruined homes, it ruined relationships.

That all changed one day when Hannah became ill and was diagnosed with spinal cancer. I have never been diagnosed with cancer, but I can imagine that it is true when they say “life flashes in front of your eyes like it never did before”. For Hannah , it shone a spotlight onto her empty heart. And this cancer did what cancer so often does, it involves a long dark journey, and it was through

this journey that Hannah found Jesus and accepted him as her Saviour. And Jesus did to Hannah what Jesus still does today, He transformed her life and gave her a brand new heart. A brand new life with brand new meaning.

Now as she observed her tavern, she saw it as darkness for the first time. And she said “This will not do. Look at all the hurt, the suffering and the pain that I caused. This has to STOP!”. And she said, “What shall I do to amend all the pain and suffering I caused?. What can I do ease the hurt?” And she saw all the hungry children and said “I must feed the children! I must feed the children!” And so that old tavern got a transformation that reflected the very heart of Hannah. From a tavern to a feeding center for children.

Out went the kegs of alcohol. Out went bar stools and greasy wall

art, and was replaced with bible verses and instead of the sounds of cursing and drunken stupor, came the sound of singing children. The power of transformation!

And she fed the children and fed the children, and the more children she fed, the more seemed to come . And the children kept coming , and coming, and said, “What shall I do ? These children need to be occupied. In fact, they should be in school ! They should be learning to read and write, they should be learning life skills that can take them places far beyond the next meal. They should experience the the opportunity to learn to read the Bible!”, and so the transformation continued to evolve, and by 2007, with the help of her children, they had turned it into a full fledged school . and today there are over 200 children that attend this school, that are taught by 13 teachers. They range from ages 3, called the play

group, all the way to grades 6. And the goal is to expand to grade 9 someday but the building is maxed out so I expect we will have some big decisions ahead of us.

Today the school is managed and operated by Hannah's son Edward and his wife Jane, who are carrying on the legacy of Hannah.

They still feed the hungry children. They are served porridge in the morning , and a meal such as rice and vegetable for lunch, because as you know, children can't learn on an empty stomach, and for some children, this is their only meal of the day. There is a great deal of focus on providing nutritious meals. The porridge for example is packed with vitamins.

The hall area where the meals get served is 12 ft x 50 ft, which accesses 6 classrooms , a library, and small office. The kitchen and 3 additional classrooms are in an adjacent building. There are some



tables for the little ones but it's not nearly enough space so most of the students go back to their classrooms to eat.

There is no outside playground space, so as you can imagine, the noise level during recess is for real. Once a week, they go to a play area which is about a 10-15 minute walk away.

There are perhaps some differences from our schools, but also many similarities.

Kenya is a British commonwealth so the main curriculum is in English.

The singing that comes from the classrooms are many of the same songs that are heard in the classrooms in our schools. The Bible stories are from the same books we use in our schools. And the light in the eyes of those children is the same light that we see in the eyes of the children in our schools.

The children are very happy. To them, it is much more than just a

school. It is community. It is a place where they can feel safe.

So when you consider the power of transformation. What is your story? You see, this school wasn't born despite adversity, it was born through it! Jesus transformed the life of one person, and how many lives are being impacted? There are hundreds of students year after year. Some of the teachers grew up in the slum and attended this same school, and now have turned around and are giving back, dedicating their lives to helping others! So the question remains .. how many lives are being impacted?

God is still counting..He is alive! He is at work, and He is still counting. And through your continued support - He continues His counting. Thank you for your support, and thank you for your attention. God bless you.

- To be continued in the next newsletter....

