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Contact Information

Global Hope
PO Box 1052
Broomfield, CO 80038-1052
720.887.4673

info@globalhope.org
www.globalhope.org

Living Letters: Healing Happens at Home - by Jacci Knight

A very "Happy New Year" to all of our friends and partners in ministry! We are excited to see what God is doing in the hearts and minds of our children, and what 2011 has in store. Our most recent mission trip to Arad, at the end of 2010, was a true faith-building experience, both for me, our Romanian staff, and our team members.

Debi Grebenik, a therapist and clinical social worker, is a child placement expert from Colorado. She places waiting children with foster families and then walks them through this critical transition. Debi presented to our foster parents as a group, and then we visited each family in their home and spoke one-on-one with them. We listened to their stories, their desires, and their challenges. In each home they expressed a personal calling from God to care for these children, and how they have sensed His strength and provision during the more difficult seasons with the kids. Debi was able to explain more about the damage that abandonment does to their little brains, and why our children behave and respond the way they do.



When a child has been abused or abandoned, healing is found in relationship. Everything you do, including discipline, will be successful to the extent that it is done in relationship with the child. It takes a lot of patience, a willingness to do and say things over and over again, and an ability to look beyond bad behavior to the wounds that motivate it; treat those first and then attend to the behavior. It is very much like the way the Lord deals with His children. He is slow to anger and abounding in love; He allows us to experience the consequences of our own sin while telling us over and over again how much He loves us.

Debi was amazed at how many of our house parents seemed to instinctively understand—or had figured out—how to meet these needs, even in ways that seem counterintuitive to most of us.

The changing needs are both humbling and exciting. The kids need tutoring; that means they are in school and they are passing! They also need extra-curricular activities to de-stress and get some exercise. It's especially important for kids who have suffered a trauma like abandonment to have an outlet for their emotion and aggression. The fact that we have this insight on how to more effectively help our kids work through their pain is itself a testimony to God's provision. Several team members and I also spent time serving in a local hospital, holding the babies who had no mother with them. In Romania, many infants from outlying villages are brought to the city hospital by ambulance when they have a cold or fever. The problem is: their parents, who cannot always provide food and warmth, don't come back and get them! Parents often think they are doing a good thing for their children. They don't realize the effects of abandonment on a child do far more damage than poverty ever will.

So, we were able to love on some sweet babies who were excited to have human interaction. Some of them stand up and reach through the bars ... like a child whose mother comes to pick them up from the church nursery, only we are not their mothers and these children had never seen us before. Some stayed in their cribs babbling to themselves and hardly noticing that we were in the room. Some of them immediately snuggled up and laid their heads on my shoulder as soon as I picked them up. Nearly all of them cried when we put them down.



During the cold winter months, hospitals in Romania often turn into orphanages.

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It is a drastic change after visiting our homes in Arad where the children are grown, cared for, and adjusted. They still suffer from their abandonment, but our foster parents are pouring love into those empty places in their hearts every day. To step outside our little Global Hope world and see that the cycle continues; to see that there is more work to be done and that the workers are few brings a flood of raw emotion.

Our foster families are wonderful, committed and very capable. I've been asking God to give us wisdom to prioritize; to know when to say "yes" and when to say "no." I am often fearful going into these conversations; afraid that the needs I will hear about will be beyond what we can provide. One of our foster families literally told me that they do not know how they will keep their house heated this winter. Even "potatoes," "carrots," and "firewood" were on their list.

Being blessed to spend an entire month on the ground, I feel confident that foster homes (or "placement families") are the most effective way to carry out our God-given mission to care for orphans in Romania. Despite all the EU has done to restore buildings and fill in potholes, life is still hard in Romania where the middle and lower classes of society struggle to put food on their tables. In His gentle and consistent way, God shows me again and again that He has gone before us.

The needs are great, but we will face them with courage, faith, and hope. And we will not worry about what we will eat, drink, or wear. For our Heavenly Father knows that we need these things.

To learn more about any of these options, write to us at info@globalhope.org.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ✓ Sign up to go on a mission trip
- ✓ Become a Global Hope Godparent
- ✓ Write and tell us how God is calling you to respond to the needs of orphans



People You Should Know... Meet Jennifer Phillips Lawrence

"Please don't send me to Africa!" might be the most common post script at the end of the "Lord, Send me!" prayer.



"Please don't send me to Africa!" might be the most common post script at the end of the "Lord, Send me!" prayer. But being a missionary on the ground—working together with local Christians and short-term mission teams—is a great experience. I see the needs first hand, and then I get to see those needs being met by generous donors and volunteers!

When I met Christine Wambui, Founder and Director of HOREC orphanage, she was discouraged and struggling to house and feed twenty orphans. Despite a clear sense of calling, worry and stress were written in the lines on her face.

Over the last three years I have seen HOREC grow due to the generous support of Global Hope and other organizations and individuals. I have watched the transformation of an orphanage struggling to survive become a home with land, clean

water, animals, food, and education. They are now able to house 29 children and with further growth they will take in more of the destitute children that are awaiting a home. And I have seen Christine become happy, hopeful, and strong due to her burdens being carried by many. This is an example of the progress that can be achieved by the body of Christ working together!

Jennifer and Jonny Lawrence, with their son and another baby on the way, are missionaries in Nairobi, Kenya.

Find Jennifer's latest blog at www.globalhope.org/news-media

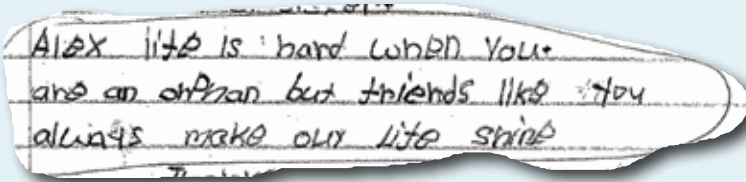
JOB OPENING FULL TIME DIRECTOR

WANTED a full-time, paid director position, tasked with faith-based development of the Global Hope community. If you are interested in seeing the job description, it is posted here: <http://www.colorednonprofits.org/board.cfm>, or you can email us at info@globalhope.org.

You Can Make a Difference!

God's directive to care for the orphan and widow are clear, but with over 143 million orphans in the world it's hard to know where to begin!


At Global Hope, we want to provide more than just food and clothing; we want children to know the heart of God and how much He values them—and we need your help to accomplish our mission! You can make a difference in the life of a child through our Godparent program.



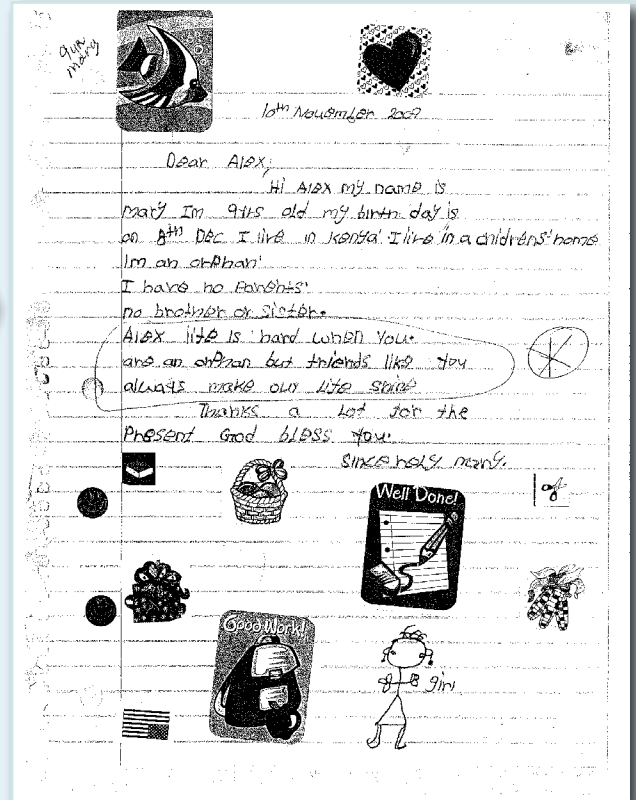
As a Global Hope Godparent, you can connect to an individual child in three ways:

- By developing an individual relationship through the exchange of letters, and by receiving quarterly updates from the missionary staff of Global Hope or from the child themselves.
- By providing a steady stream of funding to support the needs of the child as he or she grows. The amount you provide is up to you, so long as it is consistent.
- And by regularly praying for your child, as you would for one of your own children.



Your gifts, prayers, and letters will help provide a child with a sense of being wanted and loved. To learn more about how to become a Global Hope godparent, email info@globalhope.org. 


James 1:27 (NLV) "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you."



Year-End Giving Statements are Available!

Year End Giving Statements will be mailed to those who have contributed \$250 or more for the calendar year 2010. If you donated less than \$250, or you are not sure and would like a statement, please send an email to Scott French at info@globalhope.org.

Year-End Financial Report

We will be posting a link on the web page to our 2010 Year End Financial Report by the end of February. If you are interested, please keep an eye out for that. Also, feel free to contact Scott French at info@globalhope.org anytime for more information. 



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Please mail contributions to:

Global Hope
PO Box 1052
Broomfield, CO 80038-1052

Web Site:
www.globalhope.org

Contact Information:
info@globalhope.org
720-887-4673

Upcoming Mission Trips

If you've never participated on a mission team, we urge you to consider it. If you've served before, we'd love to have you join us again!

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well. 1 Peter 4:10

Romania 2011 - August

This team will partner with children and staff from Global Hope to participate in community outreach and service projects in and around Arad, Romania. Host families will enable team members to experience traditional Romanian hospitality and culture. The love and faithfulness of these previously abandoned children will inspire you. They are living proof of God's boundless love for His children.

Kenya 2011 – June 8-22

This team will serve at the 'Hope for Orphans Rescue Center' outside of Nairobi, Kenya. You'll be blessed for the opportunity to minister to these remarkable children and perform service projects at the HOREC facility. HOREC was founded specifically to care for children orphaned by the epidemic of HIV in Africa. The enthusiasm of these children and the majesty of Kenya will make this an unforgettable trip.

India 2011 – Late Spring / Summer

Searching for one to two adventurous volunteers to travel to Rajahmundry and Hyderabad India to connect with Peace Gospel International in India and to travel several hours to visit the Kathryn E. Larsen orphanage on the east coast of India. The goal of the trip is to establish a personal relationship with 20 kids and Pastor K. Zakkariah who leads the orphanage, explore opportunities for Global Hope mission teams, and discuss ways for Global Hope to provide support and to serve the mission there.

Mission trips have proven to be powerful, enriching, and transformational experiences for those answering God's call to serve. For more information about joining one of these teams, please email info@globalhope.org or contact Global Hope by phone at 720-887-4673.