

As you may have noticed we have had many changes within His Arms, one being our official name. Last year when I gave my annual report I let you know we were facing many challenges. Little did I know what 2019 would bring to His Arms in Kenya.

During this year of intense challenges I have been in contact and asking for guidance from Pastor John and others at Peace. Bruce and I met, as did Rich Carlson, Amy and I many times. So decisions made for His Arms were not made alone plus the GOOD LORD guiding our steps.

In February we had a medical group go and put on medical clinics for over 600 patients including serious issues, like major infections, near death children and teens that had been raped. It was a difficult experience at times, but one we knew God had chosen us to be there to do what we could. During this time though it was apparent we were having many things stolen from our program. The children even seemed frightened when we met with our His Arms kids. We knew God was opening our eyes to things causing us great alarm.

Diane Pottratz (a fellow USA Board member from His Arms) and I felt led to plan to stay much of the summer in Kenya to "figure things out administratively." That was so needed. We actually confronted Florence, our former leader who in the end admitted to stealing the property with all buildings and even the van. All was now in her personal name. We had nothing. We met with an attorney and decided not to pursue criminal charges as in corrupt Kenya it would be long costly project which might mean actual danger to our children. So we chose to "pick up our sandals as God says and shake them off" and move on. While there Diane worked hard training our staff we continued to work with and rehire. We met with Val Atieno and Bev who we chose to be coordinators moving forward. We also worked many hours with them training and illustrating how going forth only 100% transparency would be accepted. We both felt that we could trust these two young women and our new staff. During the summer we built our relationship up and had even happy kids again at our meetings with our children.

We rented a space at a school where our children would continue to meet happily together again. We began applying as a NGO in Kenya (non governmental org) that complies under Kenya rules with 100% transparency. Now we know the official rules and will follow them. It has been a long and expensive process costing about \$4500 with attorney's help, but will be finalized when Nancy returns in Jan, 2020 to sign paperwork with Val and Bev.

This whole process has taken much money to start over. The land will be \$10,000, the building initial stage at \$20,000 and the van about \$15,000. At the beginning it sounded insurmountable but thanks to many fundraisers, letters for support and the continued Benevolence gift from Peace Lutheran we are getting closer to meeting those initial goals. You have continued to support us wholeheartedly which we so appreciate. We have our 147th child now sponsored even after 7 sponsors left no longer wishing to take part. That meant we found new sponsors to step in for those children as well. We now will have 44 in high school this year which is a huge amount of funds earned to cover. And we have one of our girls graduating this year from the University. We are proud parents!

All this could not have been done without the great support from day one from Peace Lutheran. As we say Asante Sana/ Mungu awabarikie.....Thank you and May God bless you all!