



ALAMO CITY MERCY FOUNDATION DECEMBER 2018

GOD MAKES A WAY WHERE THERE SEEMS TO BE NO WAY “A RAM IN THE THICKET”

“Abraham looked up and behold, a ram caught in the thicket ... and he called the name of that place ‘The Lord Will Provide.’” Gen. 22:13-14

In the August newsletter, I told the story of our church’s prayer ministry coordinator laying her hand on my shoulder as she prayed, **“God, take Kristi up to the mountain and reveal Yourself to her, and enable her to offer up her Isaac.”** Immediately I knew it was in reference to the *Jesus. Hobbs House of Hope Children’s Home* since the Lord clearly spoken to cease all financial support and no longer partner with the African overseers of JHHH. I assumed that also meant we would have no further connection with the children. **Quite literally it was as if with knife raised, tears flowing, the sacrifice was imminent.**

BUT GOD MADE A WAY WHERE THERE SEEMED TO BE NO WAY; HE PROVIDED A RAM IN THE THICKET!

This provision came in the form of Billy and Darleen Honc, longtime friends of mine and Billy’s. The Honc’s served on staff with us at Alamo City Church before moving to Kenya in 2011 to live and serve full-time in their NGO ministry, *AHKI, Intl.* **They have been a vital part of JHHH since the inception 12 years ago; traveling with me to Kenya in 2006 shortly after ACMF purchased the property and construction had just begun. They have also organized several mission trips from our church, so have been a part of the JHHH children’s lives since the beginning!**

Billy and Darleen have also walked closely with ACMF during this difficult time, and since they live in Kenya, have been a great resource. **After months of talking, praying and then brainstorming together at their home during my September trip to Africa, we believe the Lord is calling them to partner with the Mercy Foundation in taking care of the older children who are no longer living at JHHH.** Thus allowing us to continue supporting them in their education and fulfilling their life purpose, ensuring they do not fall through the cracks.

In the past the Mercy Foundation wired funds for the children’s educational fees, school supplies, incidentals, transport etc., to Peter and Jemimah. In this new partnership with the Honc’s, we will now be transferring the money through their ministry, *AHKI*. They will in turn take care of all financial needs associated with the children. Not only will they step into the logistical management of ensuring that our kids school fees etc. are paid, but **the Honc’s heart and calling is to invest into the children’s lives in a guardian/mentorship type role. They will hold the children accountable in their schooling, as well as disciple them in the Word and the Ways of Jesus.** This is the part we are most thankful for!

Our prayer has been for the hearts of the children to recognize, despite the actions of some, that God has not changed; He still loves them and puts people in their lives who care and want to see them do well and flourish. We believe this prayer is being answered through this “ram in the thicket!” Please pray as we follow the Lord’s leading in this new venture. **Below are pictures taken with the high schoolers a few months ago when we told them this news. They were so happy and hopeful, as are we!**



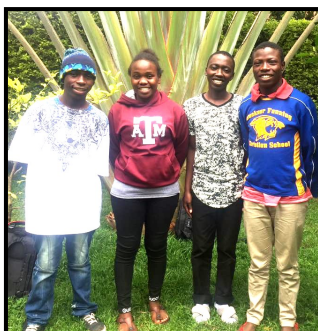
SEPTEMBER TRIP TO AFRICA — NOT THE LAST!

I had the opportunity to go back to Africa in September with my friend, Catherine Reyna. At that time it was uncertain whether this would be my last time to love on, play with, pray over and bless the JHHH children who have become like my very own. But as reported here ... God has made a way!

There is such joy, and gratitude both to the Lord and the Honc’s for making a way to continue in relationship with these kids!



Brian M, Brian N, & Nicholas



Ezekiel, Faith, Peter & John



Billy & Darleen Honc



Brian N, John, Samuel & Gladys

Personal Word from Kristi Hobbs ... The End of a Chapter, but not the End of the Book

Earlier this year ACMF Board Chairman, David Walker told me that if/when our involvement with JHHH were to end, the Board would like me to continue as the Executive Director, overseeing the Mercy Foundation. He continued, 'God may put another passion in your heart, perhaps for refugees or another part of the world.' At that time I had no desire whatsoever. Quite honestly, I wanted to give up and quit ministry altogether. In fact my answer to him was that I was thinking more along the lines of getting a temp agency job. Deep down, I knew that response was coming from a wounded heart. Even in forecasting this final newsletter, I was prepared to tell all of you to cease giving to ACMF since there was no longer anything to donate to now that the JHHH chapter has come to an end. That is where my heart was and what I truly believed at that time.

Until ... on July 5th during my quiet time when I read in *Jesus Calling*, "I long to make your life a glorious adventure, but you must stop clinging to old ways." Tears flowed as I felt something rise up within my spirit. There was a sense of adventure and anticipation about the future. I felt God was speaking to me to remain as Executive Director of the Mercy Foundation and trust Him to lead. With hands raised I began speaking, "*Hineni — Here I am, Lord, send me!*"

I shared this with the ACMF Board and they agreed. Although we don't yet know what God's plan is, there is a strong sense that He has something MORE for the Mercy Foundation ... more "mercy opportunities" both locally and around the world; a new chapter in this book.

As the 2018 giving season comes to a close, I have struggled with how to ask for your continued support of this ministry since there is no clear direction, only a sense that God is in this and will use the Mercy Foundation for His Purpose. I shared my dilemma and the desire to be transparent with Sammy and Tex Tippit. Sammy reminded me that when ACMF began in 2002 there was nothing concrete, only a vision that Billy and I had to extend mercy to the 'least of these.' And people responded! They bought into the vision. Then the vision moved to practical implementation. We began to travel around the world preaching the Gospel; first to Africa, then to India and Brazil. Sammy went on to say that even after Billy died in 2004, people continued to give because of their love for him and trust in me. Those gifts allowed me to continue to minister Internationally, going again to Brazil with Sammy Tippit Ministries, then to Turkey twice and Iran three times. Then in 2006, God called ACMF to establish the JESUS. Hobbs House of Hope Children's Home in Kenya. And again, vision turned into implementation and the provision continued.

Looking at the pictures below, remembering mine and Billy's time in these countries, ignites vision and brings a sense of gratitude to the Lord and to you, our partners. We are trusting God once again to turn vision into implementation. If you would like to continue to support this ministry, we welcome the first fruits of the next chapter. We appreciate your partnership over these past years. You have made an eternal difference in countless lives!

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