

FALL 2016

# Reflections

Reflecting God's heart in the lifelong journey of adoption and orphan care



## Celebrating

# Family



Jackson, born March 2016

# Hope's Promise

Fall 2016 Volume 12 Number 2

## Adoption & Orphan Care



David in 2006 at his home before joining SoH



Bennet, born March 2016

### In every issue

#### 3 Ministry Update

From the Director

#### 5 Around the World

#### 7 Adoption Legacies

### Features

#### 4 The Miracle of Family

#### 6 A Beautiful Entrustment Ceremony



Anson, born October 2015



Front cover: Pastor Karau with Faith & Stacy N

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Reflecting God's heart in the lifelong journey of adoption and orphan care.

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# Ministry Update

## From the Director



The word “family” can have a multitude of meanings. One definition of family provided by Google that resonates with me is “people related to one another and so to be treated with a special loyalty or intimacy.” It doesn’t matter how these people come together, but once they are connected and develop that loyalty and intimacy, they are family. I truly believe that. At Hope’s Promise we are blessed to have an amazing staff that feels like family. We work closely together and are devoted to the common purpose of transforming lives through the Christian ministry of adoption and orphan care.

As all families do, the Hope’s Promise family is once again changing and growing. We recently made some changes in staffing positions. At the end of July, Sarita Enyeart made the difficult decision to leave her role as director of adoptions in order to stay home full time with her two young children. Her last day in this position was July 27, 2016. She will remain on staff as a home-study caseworker conducting home studies for families whenever possible.

*... Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

I am excited to announce that Rachel Bates, who has served as a caseworker for Hope’s Promise for the past eight years, has accepted the position of director of adoptions. For those of you who know Rachel personally, you know that she is incredibly equipped for this role and will do an amazing job.

Liz Melia, who has served as our office manager for the past eight months, has accepted the position of full time caseworker for the Castle Rock office. Liz came to us with a Master’s Degree in Social Work and previous experience working for an adoption agency, so she is highly qualified for the position. We are so thankful for her willingness to put a foot in the door with the hopes of transitioning to the role of caseworker.

Kate Burwitz was recently hired as our new office manager. She comes to us with nine years of experience in the field of orphan care. We are happy to have her join our Hope’s Promise team.

It is amazing how God prepared each of these women for the future He had in store for them. It reminds me of Ephesians 2:10 (NIV): “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” I am humbled by God’s continued provision for Hope’s Promise and honored to be a part of the Hope’s Promise family. Please keep us in prayer during our time of transition.

With a grateful heart,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Beth Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Beth Woods, MA  
Executive Director

# The Miracle of Family

by Colleen Briggs



In so many ways, they are just like any ordinary family, albeit a rather large family with twenty-four children under age eighteen, plus mom and dad and assorted extended family members. Younger sisters taunt troublemakers at school, "I'll tell my big brother." They celebrate one another, like when Sammy won good behavior certificates until the school stopped giving them, because it was always him. Or when the entire family celebrated Maureen's and Geoffrey's acceptance into high school with a giant cake. Their parents, Pastor Jepson and Edith (Mama) Karau (Hope's Promise [HP] Kenya country coordinators), teach the Bible faithfully, knowing it is the foundation for their children to balance all other aspects of life; yet like so many other parents, grieve when peer pressure undermines the truth. They are a community knitted together with individual attachments. George, age fourteen, watches for and eagerly engages older "brother" Steve Kariithi (the Karau's son and HP Kenya associate director) as soon as he arrives for a visit. Janet, age fifteen, borrows older "sister" Diana Mutuma's clothing (the Karau's daughter and HP Kenya administrator). Like any family, they laugh and cry together.

And yet, in monumental ways, they are a family unlike any other. Few are biologically related to one another. In fact, in a country where tribal differences catalyzed the loss of over one thousand lives in 2008 post-election violence, they hail from vastly different tribal cultures.

Even more challenging, though, are the traumatic experiences during the first few years of the children's lives that created formidable barriers to healthy holistic development.

David, for example, spent his early years locked alone in a slum shack. His single mother wandered the streets, drinking. When she stumbled home in the early hours, he foraged for food wherever he could find it. On the day Pastor Karau and Mama took him home to the Sanctuary of Hope (SoH) family, he asked, wide-eyed, "What is moving?" as the car carried him to a

life he could never imagine before. When they arrived and children surrounded him, clean, smiling, and singing a welcome, he stood shell-shocked. He resisted removing his filthy, ragged clothes. And when they placed a steaming plate of food before him, he scooped it, barefisted and furiously, into his mouth before prayers even began. Only later did he learn how to use a spoon.

As Mama Karau explains, "There was much intercession for the children because of their backgrounds. The Word of God helped us go the extra mile." SoH caregiver, Purity Muthoni, describes feeling overwhelmed when the children arrived, "Where do I start? I prayed, 'I am nothing. I don't know anything. But God you are the One. Help me to give them something.'"

As caregivers celebrate SoH's ten-year anniversary, their faces unanimously alight at the thought of Esther K. Esther was born undersized and weak in Mathare Valley. Mama Karau, co-founder of Mathare Worship Centre with

her husband Pastor Karau, describes receiving multiple phone calls from members of the church, "Hurry! Esther is dying!"

Somehow, Esther defied the odds and survived. However, at age five, she still could not walk or speak. She rarely, if ever, smiled and her eyes were terribly vacant. Moved by her plight, and with the support of HP friends, Pastor and Mama Karau brought her home to SoH in 2010. Not long after her arrival, she took her first steps to the gleeful cheers of her new family. Today, she thrives in a special education school. Just this past June, Esther's siblings helped her learn to skateboard.

It's tempting to romanticize this extraordinary rescue operation of twenty-four former orphans. And yet, as the SoH caregivers describe the highs and lows of ten years of merging into a family, they agree during morning devotions that "The Word of God is with us. And thus far, we are." In reality, they are simply ordinary people just trying to take one step of faith at a time. And perhaps therein lies the miracle, as each step adds up to the creation of a family deeply invested in one another's lives.

Steve Kariithi sums up the essence of SoH, of family, this way: "Their victories are your victories."



SoH family in 2007

# Around the World



## Zimbabwe

### The Prayer of a Young Boy

David's mom learned her employers planned to retire and would need to discontinue her employment with them. The unexpected news struck hard at her thoughts. What would she do? How would she provide for her two children? David too understood the implications of his mother's job loss. They would lose their employer-provided cottage, a place they called home since before the death of David's father. Without a home and an income to buy even basic necessities, his mother would likely search for work far off from where they lived, and if they moved away it would be difficult for him and his sister to continue to go to school.

But David knew where his help would come from. When they attended church service the next Sunday, he added his mother's name to the prayer list. A few months later his mom's employers informed her she could stay on the job because they had found a new way of earning an income for themselves. Now there is much rejoicing in David's household. Hope has been restored through the power of prayer . . . the prayer of a young boy.

## Nepal

### A Dedicated Student

Lalita was orphaned as a toddler when her father died from a stomach infection. The illness could have been treated had they lived closer to a hospital. But they were farmers in rural Nepal and had no access to basic healthcare. Lalita's mother became a widow and the sole caregiver for her children. She was unable to provide for the family. In Nepal it is not uncommon for a widowed woman to find herself destitute and on the street. As with orphans, social customs deem widows as outcasts. It's hard to find a job, and Nepal has no unemployment benefits. Without family to take them in, many turn to begging or even prostitution.

At five years old, Lalita was welcomed home to her House of Living Stone family at a time when she was eager to learn. She has thrived ever since. Lalita excels in her studies and received As in all her classes last term. Parents, Puspa and Bijula, shared with us that Lalita and her sisters were recently preparing for their math final exam. One night, they all stayed up late, practicing and studying until 10 p.m. After everyone was in bed, they suddenly heard someone talking very loudly—it was Lalita, fast asleep, reciting her multiplication tables. Now that's dedication!



## Vietnam

### Thankful for a Family

Ha Bon is growing by leaps and bounds. When Ha Bon came home to his Home of Hope family three years ago, he was malnourished and had inflammation in his liver. Now he is healthy and extremely active. When asked how we can be praying for him, he responded, "Please pray for me to grow up fast!" Ha Bon is always playing outside, and he

absolutely loves to play soccer. He describes himself as very sporty, adding that his dream is to play soccer professionally when he grows up.

Ha Bon's story was not always so sweet. His biological mother was the victim of severe domestic abuse and escaped with Ha Bon and his older sister one day when her husband was intoxicated. She fled to relatives, where she left the two children in order to find work in a different province. The work

was inconsistent, but she sent money back when she could. In 2013, she sought the help of Hope's Promise, and Ha Bon and his sister joined Song and Thuy's family. Now, three years later, Ha Bon's mother has remarried and lives in a province far away. Sadly, because of tribal customs, when a parent remarries, children from a previous marriage are often not brought into the new marriage. So Ha Bon and his sister have not seen their mother in over a year. Thankfully, Ha Bon is well adjusted to his Home of Hope family and loves them very much. He recently shared with Hope's Promise staff how thankful he is to God "because He gave me parents to take care of me and to teach me what is right."

## Sponsorship

Sponsor a child placed in a Hope's Promise family in Nepal, Vietnam, or Kenya for \$40/month. Or provide educational scholarships to children in Zimbabwe for \$40/month. Please visit the Child Sponsorship page on the Hope's Promise website [www.hopespromise.com](http://www.hopespromise.com) or email [hannah@hopespromise.com](mailto:hannah@hopespromise.com) for more information.

# A Beautiful Entrustment Ceremony

by Julie, an adoptive mother



ourselves for the news that Sophia had chosen another couple. That same day, we received a call that Sophia and Joe wanted to move forward with us, and we had about ten weeks until the baby was due.

Those following ten weeks were a bit of a blur! We had several meals together, and they even came to our house to see the nursery and meet our pets. During this time, we learned that weather had delayed their ability to meet with their caseworker on several occasions. We also told them the story of our journey and all of the delays in our process.

The morning Sophia went into labor, she sent us a text message, and a very nervous Joe called shortly after to let us know she was being admitted to the hospital. We rushed to the hospital and spent the next nine hours with Sophia and Joe and their extended families. When Jackson arrived, we were invited into the recovery room to hold him and to spend more time with Sophia and Joe. We spent the next four days at the hospital with Sophia, Joe, and Jackson. We handled the diapers, feedings, and overnight care. Between feedings, Sophia and Joe and their families took turns holding Jackson. This provided plenty of opportunities to spend time getting to know everyone and learn more about Jackson's family.

On the fourth day, immediately after Sophia and Jackson were discharged from the hospital, we held an entrustment ceremony in the hospital chapel. We opened the ceremony with a prayer. Sophia and Joe then held Jackson in the center of the room, and we took turns standing



over them and bestowing blessings. Next, Jonathan and I held Jackson while the families took turns doing the same. Sophia and Joe then joined us in the center of the room, and we blessed Jackson and the relationship between his two families. There was not a dry eye in the room, and Jackson remained happy and at peace throughout the entire ceremony.

After more than an hour, and a lot of hugs, we left the hospital with Jackson, knowing that his story included so much love!

Since leaving the hospital, we have seen Sophia and Joe regularly. Joe's mother has been able to visit Jackson already, and several of Sophia's extended family members are planning visits in the months to come. From the "J" name to the timing of our final home-study meeting, God had a plan for Jackson. The things we saw as hurdles ultimately put us on the right timeline to be able to be Jackson's family. And we are so blessed to have an amazing second family with which to share in Jackson's story.

My husband, Jonathan, and I had a long road when it came to getting ourselves through the initial part of the adoption process. It was close to two years between our application and the approval of our home study. There were lots of reasons for the delay: job changes, insurance changes, caseworker changes and just some slowness of our own doing. During that time, family and friends would often inquire as to what was taking so long. We had no excuse for the extra time things were taking. We just didn't feel a rush, even though we were anxious to welcome a little one into our family.

In December, the day before our final home-study visit, we received an email from our caseworker asking if we would look over an expectant mother's profile and pray about whether or not we would like to send some basic information to the couple. We didn't even have a profile book started, but we talked about the situation and ultimately decided that we had no reason to say no.

Just ten days later we heard from our caseworker that the expectant parents, Sophia and Joe, wanted to meet us. Our match meeting started with a lot of nerves and some much-needed direction from the caseworker. But once we all settled in, the conversation flowed like we were old friends exchanging stories.

As we were standing up to leave, Sophia said she had one more question: she asked if we had any baby boy names we really liked. We told her and Joe a quick story of all of the "J" names in our household; we also let them know that our favorite name was Jackson. Sophia and Joe spent most of the time listening to our story with an odd look on their faces. When I finished talking, Joe looked up and explained that at Sophia's last ultrasound, she had looked at the screen and when Joe called the baby Alexander, she responded by saying that wasn't his name—he needed a "J" name. No one could deny the amazing number of "coincidences" that were evidence of God's hand in bringing our families together.

After exchanging a few text messages and meeting for another dinner, there were a few weeks of silence over the holidays. We started to prepare

# Adoption Legacies

## Family Album



Danielle, adopted from China



Bennet, born March 2016

Alex, adopted from the Philippines



### *Welcome Home*

Bennet daughter of Matthew and Elora  
Jackson son of Jonathan and Julie  
Alex son of Jeremy and Jessica  
Jakob son of Branden and Amanda  
Grace daughter of Mike and Beth  
Bella daughter of Nathan and Mariesa  
Daniel son of Kevin and Amanda  
River son of Nathan and Gara  
Maria daughter of Mike and Miriam  
Mateo son of Mike and Miriam

Julian son of Michael and Megan  
Dario son of Michael and Megan  
Tatiana daughter of Michael and Megan  
Lia daughter of Levi and Amanda  
Allison daughter of Austin and Alana  
Everleigh daughter of Michael and Casey  
Jadon son of Jake and Kristi  
Wilna daughter of Brian and Elsa  
Lovence son of Brian and Elsa



Jackson, born March 2016



Allison, adopted from China



Everleigh, born August 2016



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Hope's Promise serves orphaned and abandoned children in Kenya, Nepal, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Your snaps make this possible. You can help give hope by following these simple steps.

To register go to [snapbooster.com/start](http://snapbooster.com/start) or text the word "Earn" to 343434

Enter this information at the Registration Page:

Program or School You're Supporting	Hope's Promise
Program Code (if known)	HOPESPROM
Student/Athlete You're Supporting	LEAVE BLANK
Relationship to Student/Athlete	Other

It's a snap!

- STEP 1** Shop at ANY retailer and save your receipt
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- STEP 3** Text the word **SNAP** and the photo of your receipt to 343434
- STEP 4** The more you snap, the more kids you care for!
- Tada!** The retailers you love give to Hope's Promise

It's that easy!



For questions please call Hannah at 303-660-0277 or email [hannah@hopespromise.com](mailto:hannah@hopespromise.com)



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## Ways to Give

**Grocery Shopping:** Did you know that Hope's Promise Orphan Care will earn 5% back every time you reload your Hope's Promise King Soopers or Safeway gift cards? Pre-load your reusable gift card and use it for all your grocery shopping . . . it works at the gas pump too! Don't have a registered gift card yet? Contact [Hannah@hopespromise.com](mailto:Hannah@hopespromise.com) to sign up.



**Amazon Smile:** AmazonSmile will donate .5% of the purchase price when you select Hope's Promise as your charity. Visit [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) to select your charity, and then shop on AmazonSmile using your Amazon login. It's that easy! This also works for Amazon Prime members.



## Hope's Promise Calendar

### Adoption Information Meetings

Thursdays, 7 to 9 pm

Castle Rock

Hope's Promise  
309 Jerry Street #202  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

October 6, 2016  
November 3, 2016  
December 1, 2016

Colorado Springs, Grand Junction, & Ft. Collins

Scheduled on an individual basis. Please call 303-660-0277 for more information.

### Adoptive Family Training

October 14 & 15, 2016

Castle Oaks Covenant Church  
826 Park Street  
Castle Rock, CO 80104

### 2017 Kenya Connection Team Trip

May 25, 2017 to June 5, 2017

For more information, visit [www.hopespromise.com](http://www.hopespromise.com) or email [beth@hopespromise.com](mailto:beth@hopespromise.com)

Hope's Promise is a member of the following organizations

