

Dear friends of Hope's Promise,

In John 1:43-49, Philip excitedly tries to tell Nathaniel about a new friend he's met, Jesus. I imagine the words tumbling over one another, met by Nathaniel's skeptical expression. Finally, Philip gives up on words and simply says "Come and see!" Recently, a team did just that – they traveled to Kenya to "come and see" what God is doing in the hearts and lives of orphans and their caregivers. I hope these travel journal entries and photos can give you just a glimpse into what the team experienced, that in a small way you will feel that you were able to "come and see" along with us.

Colleen Briggs

Director of Orphan Care  
Hope's Promise

**Hope's Promise Kenya Short Term Mission**  
**March 28-April 10**  
**Travel journal**

***Part 1: The team***

On March 29, twenty-nine Americans converged in Nairobi, Kenya. Some were returning to Africa, some had never before left US soil. We represented five states and twelve churches and ranged in age from ten to sixty-seven. Over the next eleven days, we served in partnership with Mathare Worship Centre (MWC) in Mathare Valley slum, home to half a million people living in abject poverty; at Mother Teresa's Home for Abandoned Children, an institution for 125 residents; and at Sanctuary of Hope (SoH), Hope's Promise's ministry to 23 orphans now safely home with indigenous house-parents Pastor and Mama Karau. Throughout, we witnessed first-hand and wrestled with the plight of orphans. We asked God how He would have us to respond.

Just a glimpse into the "good works prepared in advance" by God for this team to step into:

- Seamstresses taught sewing skills to members of Taraja, a MWC ministry for HIV+ single mothers
- A glass fusion artist created pendant designs with a talented young MWC artist
- Nurses presented a workshop on basic hygiene to Mathare teachers and parents

- An Early Childhood Development Specialist shared her expertise with Mathare teachers and parents
- Team members constructed a wall for the SoH #1 compound
- A woman who cared for her elderly mother for many years deeply encouraged SoH staff and MWC caregivers during workshops on prayer and caregiving
- American men met with MWC leaders for small group discipleship of one another
- Small teams visited Mathare homes under MWC leadership to pray for and encourage the sickest of the sick
- A pastor gave the Easter Sunday message at MWC and rejoiced as people responded to Pastor Karau's invitation to receive Christ
- Children at Mother Teresa's, often overlooked in the crush of providing basic needs for too many, received extra attention and prayer
- A seventeen year old partnered with a young Kenyan to teach dance lessons to children of the MWC school
- Team members pooled their arts and crafts talents to host an Arts Camp for the SoH children
- Team members taught VBS with *Art for the Nations* kits at the MWC school

Most importantly, through it all, relationships forged and hearts knit between brothers and sisters living half a world apart and in very different circumstances, but bound together in the grace and love of Jesus. And, each of us pressed just a little bit deeper into God's heart for orphans and for the world.





Experiences varied, but none could leave unchanged. Pete Joy, who with his wife brought their three children ages ten to seventeen, reflected on his most vivid encounter with Jesus during the trip: “Seeing my children respond to an emotional and mentally challenging day (of ministry at Mother T’s and Mathare Valley) was used by God to help me

see a small glimpse of His heart for His children. God allowed me to feel and see how He also groans and weeps for His children forgotten by this world. For an analytical thinker, seeing God's heart more clearly was very hard and very good, shaping my heart to be a little more like His."

