

Extending a Vision of Hope Through Hands-On Christian Love

Living Letters

Ordinary Miracles by Jacqui Knight

But the only letter of recommendation we need is you yourselves! Your lives are a letter written in our hearts, and everyone can read it and recognize our good work among you. Clearly, you are a letter from Christ prepared by us. It is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on stone, but on human hearts.

— 2nd Corinthians 3: 2-3 (New Living Translation)



Sometimes I get to work each morning, pull into the parking lot and realize that I've been on autopilot for the last 10 miles...just driving down the highway, thinking about something probably not so important as the road in front of me. I park my car, pull the key from the ignition and wonder how I made all those left-hand turns without even thinking about it. Am I the only one who does this?

I was challenged lately to think about how many ordinary miracles happen around me each day; things I miss simply because I'm not paying attention—like on my drive to work. The sun rises every morning, flowers grow, birds lay eggs that eventually hatch into little birds that instinctively know how to flap their wings and fly away. They seem like ordinary things, until I remember that it is God who tells the sun to rise. He says to the sea: "Thus far you shall come, and no farther," and trains eagles to build their nests on rocky cliffs, where they can look down to spot their next meal.

I see Him in nature, but how often does God intervene in my own life and I don't even notice, let alone say "thank you"?

The near misses while I'm driving to work without thinking about driving to work. (Occasionally, He lets me rear end someone just to get my attention.)

Money mysteriously shows up in my bank account for a mission trip. A stranger stops to help me change a tire. Or a gentle whisper in my spirit warns me, "don't go that way." The ordinary intervention of God.

This year God performed an ordinary miracle in the life of one of our little girls, and we would be remiss not to stop and give Him all the credit. Last August we asked you to pray for Ioana, who suffers from severe scoliosis; so severe that she could no longer sit up straight or walk without pain.

Our Romanian director, Romica Iuga, met a doctor from Vienna who agreed to see Ioana if we could get her to him. Just months before, we had secured a passport for Ioana—for an entirely different reason, so we thought—a process that took nearly the entire year due to her status as an abandoned child. With her new passport we sent her to Vienna with the hope that we might find new information about Ioana's condition that could help her. And we did. *The doctor foretold that Ioana's curving spine would eventually begin to crush her organs and make it impossible for her to breathe.* He also told us he thought he could help her through surgery.

At the time we did not know where the money for this procedure would come from—almost 10,000 Euro. But, we knew the One who commissioned us to care for the orphan, and that He would make a way. Romica made the first trip to Vienna with Ioana, and our foundation's psychologist, Ana, and our social worker, Nonnie, took turns staying with her during the surgeries.



Following her first successful surgery, Ioana waves "hello" to her friends back home.

We're excited to report that Ioana came through her first operation successfully on October 20th. Her second surgery lasted almost eight hours as the doctors worked to straighten her spine! Her recovery is going well and Ioana is very motivated to walk again. She does physical therapy three times a week; she can now stand up by herself, and walk with a walker. We are still looking for a good physical therapist that will come to the House of Hope, because it is extremely hard for her to travel right now. We offer our thanks to all of you who gave generously and prayed fervently for this miracle.



Praise the Lord, my spine is finally straight!



And have you ever ordered Morning, 'Get up!' Told Dawn, 'Get to work!' ...Did you command the eagle's flight, and teach her to build her nest in the heights, perfectly at home on the high cliff face, invulnerable on pinnacle and crag? Job 38:12 & 39:27 (The Message)



People you should know

by Jacci Knight

Christine joined the staff at the Hope for Orphans Rehabilitation Center (HOREC) in September of 2008. She will turn 21 this Christmas season as she begins her full-time position as a social worker. Christine has a Kenyan Certificate in both primary and secondary education, and a diploma in mass communication from the Kenya Institute of Professional Studies. In addition to doing the needed social work, Christine will also serve as a house-mother. That means that while maintaining

the children's official records and seeking local financial assistance, she will also be sharing the duties at HOREC of cooking daily meals, helping the children throughout their day and taking care of the home. Christine's salary is \$67 a month. Please remember Christine, and HOREC, in your end-of-year giving this Christmas season.



Christine

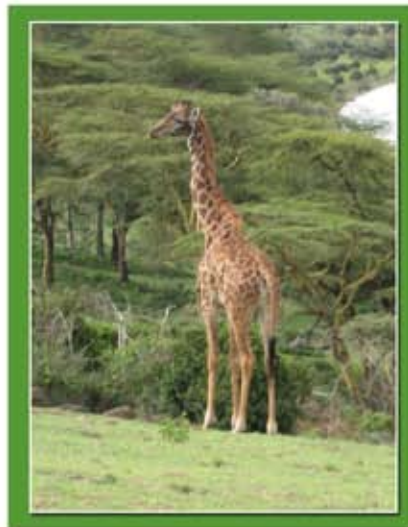
The First Global Hope "Africa" Mission Team Heads to Nairobi This Month

by Jacci Knight

We're so excited about the new relationships that the Lord has forged for us in the great country of Africa. This month, six team members will meet in Nairobi to help the Hope for Orphans Rehabilitation Center (HOREC) move into their new dormitory. The team is comprised of four Coloradans and two Romanians! "Tata" Roni, after hosting dozens of Global Hope team members at Casa Anei, will now get to be part of a mission team himself!

One church in Durango has donated new clothes, school supplies, over-the-counter medicines and funding for projects and school uniforms. Friends from Broomfield have collected bed sheets and a new pair of shoes for each of the children at HOREC. Our first mission team to Nairobi will arrive with our arms full and our hearts ready to work! *Projects include digging a ditch to burn trash, painting, hanging shelves, minor landscaping work and playing with the kids!*

A Please pray for safety and renewed passion for Christ as we extend a mission of hope to the children and staff at HOREC, January 24th through February 2nd.



"His Hands" Extends Vision of Hope to Children in Romania and Africa

Buy a Great CD, Give to Global Hope!



Like Elliott's band, His Hands, has published their first album on iTunes and Rhapsody! *Double Booked* is available for purchase and all proceeds go to benefit Global Hope and the Broomfield United Methodist Church music program. For less than \$7 you get great music, and you can support the care of orphans through Global Hope!

If you'd like to get a taste for the music, or find links to the album on iTunes, visit their webpage at www.thekingdomproject.org





A Special Prayer Request

From the Global Hope Board of Directors

It is with a heavy heart that we share with you that we have decided to close one of our children's homes. Just as many Americans are tightening their belts for 2009, we have tightened our belt at Global Hope. In November, we consolidated our ministry in Romania from three homes to two in order to trim our budget by 20%. That means our two remaining homes each have more mouths to feed, more homework to check, and more foreheads to kiss goodnight; but it also means that we can be better stewards of the money that you donate. In the midst of the changes, we lost not one, but two sets of houseparents. Our dedicated and loving staff is working in around-the-clock shifts to provide for the needs of the 10 children who live at the Steven's House, however,



"Bedtime Prayers, September 1999: From the very first nights spent at the House of Hope, we have been seeking the Lord for a forever family for the children there."

we know that no amount of loving "care-takers" can replace a forever mom and dad. As an organization we trust that the Lord has a Romanian couple in mind, whom He is preparing even at this moment to step in and parent these children. We humbly request your prayers on our behalf, and on behalf of the children at the House of Hope, to find this family.

Please remember to pray for Cristina, Alexandra, Ioana, Luci, Cristi, Simon, Vasi, Ionuti, Flavius and Hoiny.



A Letter from Our Chairman

by Ike Elliott



At the Global Hope board meeting in December, I let the board know that I would be stepping down as the volunteer executive director of Global Hope on June 1, 2009. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve such a worthy cause with such a dedicated and devoted group of people for the past five and a half years, and I look forward to continuing to serve as volunteer and board member with Global Hope.

From the start, Global Hope has relied on volunteers to accomplish its mission of providing homes and care for abandoned and orphaned children, and God has always provided people with a passion for this ministry when we have needed them. The leadership team at Global Hope is now praying and expecting God to call additional volunteers to help Global Hope continue to serve children in Romania and Kenya. We will need a new executive director, of course, but we will also need many additional volunteers to run the golf tournament and other fundraisers, to become short-term and long-term missionaries, to write thank-you notes to donors, to answer correspondence, to become board members, and to handle many of the other tasks it takes to keep a non-profit going. If you are interested in stepping up to lend a hand with this ministry, please let me know at ike@globalhope.org. Your service is needed!

I want to thank all of the many volunteers I have worked with over the years, without whom I would have been unable to accomplish our mission: Matt & Pam Gible, Julia Stelloh, Jacci Knight, John and Margaret McKibbin, Randy and Sue Jessen, Nancy Frederickson, Dan Simmons, Colleen Peketz, Wendy Hunt, Will and Kathy Johnston, Larry and Melissa Beer, Mandy Ellis, Joe and Jennie Lynch, Doug Hopley, Brenda Pinkerman, Scott and Cathy French, Lisa and Jim Walther, Don and Sallie Bolich, the men from the United Methodist Men's group, Ken Brown, Mitchell Ashley, Charlotte Sass, Gordon Clouse, Rich Guess, Skye Perry, Doug Craig, Kevin Davisson, Linda and Larry Schmidt, Nancy Leonard, Bill and Kelli Nixon, Cassandra Smith, Walter Williams, Sarah Davis, Lance and Brenda Miller, Brian Cheek, Tracy Johnson, Lylia Shantz, Tanya and Harold Stearns, Brenda Colebank, Jeff and Sarah Holley, Mike and Robin Braden, Gretchen Cooper, Amanda and Jeremy Osenga, Tony Alcorn, Randy and Joan Borden, ...the list goes on and on and there is no way to name everyone. The point is, it takes an enormous number of people, each doing their own part, big or small, to make a ministry like Global Hope go. Global Hope is going to continue to need volunteers... so please do keep on raising your hand and saying "Here am I, Lord, send me." You won't regret it!

Yours in Christ,
Ike Elliott
Volunteer Chairman, Global Hope





www.globalhope.org

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Meet Vasi age 6



- Once discovered how many marbles fit in the bathtub drain
- Is thankful that he made it to the first grade
- Wants to play soccer with his new forever dad