

August 2019

## And the Lord said to me: by Kate Halpin

Brian and Kate Halpin lead an active family in the Ubora Tanzania Ministry. Brian is on the Ubora Board and led the Community Library Project that is changing the face of Karansi. Kate took part in our recent VBS Team, led by Dave Burgess. Following are some of her thoughts looking back on the experience. — Tim Neet

"There is no reason you should not go", God kept saying to me "Go!" "Why Lord?" I asked, "Why now?" But I just kept praying. Jesus said, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). This was what the Lord was commanding. In the months prior to leaving for Tanzania, I continually wrestled with God and begged Him to make clear whether or not I should go. My husband has been involved with the ministry for several years and had been telling me it was time. "But... we have small children. But... I have terrible anxiety. But... I am responsible for so much." Still, I prayed.

I remember stepping off the plane in Kilimanjaro and experiencing an overwhelming sense of peace come over me. Oh, how I had prayed in the weeks and months that had preceded that moment. And then, I was there. In that beautiful countryside. No family. No safety net. Nothing. It was just me and God (plus seventeen of my newest and closest friends). I remember that peace washing over me, and for the next ten days it faithfully covered me.

The next morning, I sat and drank my coffee and listened to the nuns of Amani House - the convent guest house that would serve as home for the next week - raising their voices in praise. In the afternoon, we drove into the village and up to the gates of our little school. I watched in awe as the precious children of Tanzania played "futbol" with our American children. No judgement, no racism, nothing but grace. However, by evening of that first day I was, quite frankly, angry. Angry at the injustice of our world. I kept asking myself, "Why do we have so much but they have so little?" I will get to this later.

As I entered into the next minutes, hours, and days, I watched Him work. In the faces of my sweet sponsor children, Joyce and Novatus - little precious children that I had only previously known by pictures and letters - He worked. God showed me in Tanzania that He is ultimately sovereign and that He ordains all things for our good and His glory. In that work, He broke me down and made me into the servant He intended me to be. I thought I knew my heart, but it wasn't until I was in a place where joy is contagious and anxiety seemingly unknown, that I finally found what God's role was for me. (Continued on Page 2)



Tanzania Journal Issue 79

## Mailing Your Child by Pam Willis

Sponsoring a child in need...so many questions..."How often should I write?" "What should I say?" "How often should I send a package?" "What do they need?" "What size are they?" "Will this be fun for them?" "Is this culturally appropriate?" "Will all these things fit in the paper envelope?" etc...

As a sponsor myself and having visited my sponsored children several times, the preparations we do here to connect with them via letters, packages, FACETIME, and/or going on Journey trips are worth the joy so obvious on their faces and their reactions when they see us, our gifts and our letters. The Lord has given us a wonderful gift -- to touch the lives of the "least of these"-- and in turn He blesses us with a sweet relationship with the children, and a deeper relationship with Him.

It is my privilege and honor to assist in getting packages and let-

ters to our sponsored children. While this article won't address all the questions we may have as sponsors (see previous TZ Journals and information on the website [projectchildtz.com](http://projectchildtz.com) on what to write, what to send, and video conferencing your child), **my purpose here is to let you know how you can help get your packages and letters to your sponsored child as quickly and efficiently as possible. So here goes with some guidelines:**

- Letters:**  
**Use the Project Child Letterhead:**  
 \*download to your computer from the website [projectchildtz.com](http://projectchildtz.com) (under Journals & News on right side) Save for future use.  
 \*include the child's full name and KAC #  
 \*copy/paste photos onto the letter

- Two ways to send:**  
 \***hard copy:** put in one envelope for the child and that in another envelope to mail to Pam Willis



(see address pg 2) or drop in Tanzania basket behind receptionist desk in the Perimeter Church Atrium. You can include regular photos in the child's envelope. Label envelope with child's full name and KAC #

## And the Lord said to me: (continued)

So, you ask, what about the anger I spoke of, and of the injustice? Well, God spoke to me in my anger and gave me a mission to serve my friends in Tanzania. Instead of focusing on the injustice, he told me to instead focus on His gifts, many of which can only truly be experienced in a place like Tanzania: The gift of being grateful for all things, no matter how modest they may be; the gift of being able to see and to serve a need without questioning it; the gift of finding joy in what you are, and not in something you gain; The gift of a school that is transforming a once-forgotten village into an education center of excellence; The gift of one of Tanzania's first community libraries; The gift of a sponsorship program that, for just \$43 a month, is giving children opportunities that their parents could never have imagined. And for me personally, a gift I never thought I would receive.

For my entire life, I have been debilitated by anxiety. It has been my thorn. As Paul said, "I was given a thorn in my flesh...to torment me." But God replied, "My grace is sufficient for you..." (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). This was the moment when all the anxiety and all the grace collided, and God won. He broke my bones in order to recapture my heart. He removed my anxiety with



The VBS Team — are they having a good time???

little to no help from me. And he gave me the mission of telling you about it. Telling you to sponsor a child through Project Child ([www.projectchildtz.org](http://www.projectchildtz.org)). Telling you to consider joining a Go Journey. Telling you that it is possible to go, even when every-

thing in you says, "No!" God says, "Go!" so that you may finally see what He has been calling you to do all along. It really isn't about us, is it? It is about Him, so let Him do through you the work that we are incapable of doing on our own.

## Mailing Your Child (continued)

**\*email attachment** (any time, not just for "mail call"): send your saved letter as an attachment to [projectchildletters@uboratz.org](mailto:projectchildletters@uboratz.org) (Please do not send letters or photos typed in the body of the email itself – but do include your Child's name and KAC# in the email "subject line.")

**Packages:**

Preparing the package:

\*one re-sealable 11X14 manila envelope, NO

plastic bags due to new customs/environmental laws

\*use the Gift Checklist from the Project Child website (suggestions for gifts). Please include child's full name and KAC # as well as your name. Attach/tape it securely to the outside of the envelope (for customs to get it into the country).

\* minimize packaging of gifts inside (paper/plastic)-they have no way of getting rid of

"trash"

Delivery-two options when there is a "mail call" posted in the TZ Journal (please note the deadline date so we can get them to the team going over in a timely manner):

\*leave your package in the Tanzania basket behind the receptionist desk in the **Perimeter Church Atrium** or **mail to Pam Willis**, 5632 Tisbury Court, Hoschton, GA 30548 678-697-9134

## Tanzania—Here We (YOU) Come by Tim Neet

This is your last chance to sign up for our November Tanzania Journey hosted this time by Ubora. Come and celebrate the Graduation of another 7th Grade class from Siha Leadership Academy. Take the opportunity to speak into the life of your sponsored child as he/she makes final preparation for secondary school. Or if your child is not yet graduating, provide challenge and encouragement for a similar day to come. To your own younger child. During the week some of us will serve in the Library Reading Ministry as other team members spin over to Discipleship and Business Ministry. This trip is unique as we will tailor our activities around the giftedness of our team members. If interested come to our informational meeting at Perimeter after the 2nd service on August 18. Contact me for details 678-358-3918



## Call for Prayer and Mail by Tim Neet

Two of the most important exams that our students take is what they call the "Leaving Exam" for 7th Grade and also Form4 (High School) Pray as our Standard 7 students take their exams on Sept 11-12, and our Form4 Secondary School students on Nov 11-16.

Your next chance for sending Mail or a Package is with a team leaving in mid-September. Please have all mailing material to Pam or Perimeter no later than September 8 using the guidelines posted on page 1. Also — send a word of thanks to Pam Willis for all she does preparing mailing to go to Tanzania and to Vicki Neet for dispersing all return mail to our sponsors.

For more information about Project Child—contact Tim Neet at [timneet@uboratz.org](mailto:timneet@uboratz.org)

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