

July 2018

“Not What I Expected” by Katie Gettmann

This summer I had the opportunity to visit Siha Leadership Academy (formerly PUNCHWMI) as part of a Go Journey team to Karansi, Tanzania. I had many fears and hesitations leading up to the day of departure. I was leaving my husband and two young daughters to travel 20+ hours across the world to a land I knew would be completely foreign to anything I had ever experienced. I had concerns about risk of illness, accommodations, food, jetlag and traveling with my 12-year-old daughter internationally, among others. However, I kept reminding myself how long I had yearned to visit Veronica (the child our family sponsors). For 7 years we have invested through sponsorship, writing letters, sending packages, video chat and most importantly prayer. It felt surreal that Riley and I would be invited into her home and sit face-to-face with her and her family after all this time and distance between us. I had no idea what awaited me in that poor, little town in Tanzania. What I found was not at all what I expected.



Upon arrival, I was overwhelmed by Karansi’s landscape. The poverty and lack of modern development was shocking. The appearance is desolate. The dirt roads are chock-full of boulders and potholes and much of the town is flooded. Lack of a functioning economy is evident by many store employees loitering outside storefronts passing time. The livestock around town is malnourished and so are many of the children. It is difficult to fully describe the incredible contrast to our privileged life in America. Being confronted with such seemingly hopeless circumstances churned emotions in me of anger, frustration and heartbreak.

As the week progressed, the Lord began to drastically shift my perspective. I realized that the circumstances of this community are in no way congruent with the reality of the abundance of their lives. Love, joy, hope and peace overflow from the hearts of the children and adults alike. There is tremendous beauty and freedom in the way they live. Scripture tells us that temporary comforts and material pleasures this world offers has no measure to knowing God and enjoying His friendship. True wealth can only be found in treasures that are eternal. Through the people in Karansi I was able to “taste” this true wealth and therefore “see” God’s goodness take the victory over hardship. I’m telling you, it is *amazing!*



There were so many moments I was compelled to look up to the heavens and worship Him with thanksgiving simply because I understood His love (for each one of us) in a greater way through the lives of my friends in Karansi. I can tell you with great confidence that there is nothing, *nothing* that can separate us from the love we have in Christ Jesus. No matter what problem we face, there is a promise purchased for us at the cross to satisfy our need. We, who are in Christ, are more than conquerors! (continued page 2)

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Remember Love by Tim Neet

As we go to press with this issue of the TZJournal our July Family Team is preparing to head out to Tanzania via Ethiopian Airline. These last days of preparation are always exciting and jam packed. As important as our ministry plan and schedules are — there is one major fact that teams always need to remember. **The most long lasting and impactful ministry that we can have is to simply show Christ in all we say and in all we do. We need to reflect the love that He has for us, by loving on the students, faculty and staff of our partners.** Pray for our team, for the Science Team, and for two medical teams that will be providing physicals in the underserved Tanzanian public schools., that we will be learners as well and teachers and instruments in the Masters Hands.

Not What I Expected (part 2 by Tim Neet)

Katie and Riley's journey to Tanzania is not dissimilar from many others who have gone to Tanzania for the first time. I think her description was poignant when she wrote "It is difficult to fully describe the incredible contrast to our privileged life in America."

We do live a life of privilege. All of us. We are very blessed. Yet that blessing can also be a curse if we bank our thankfulness in our own efforts or in our comforts rather than having a recognized dependency upon our Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ. In many ways our Tanzanian brothers and sisters possess a dependency upon God that actually brings them much - a richness of a different kind.

The Gettmann's have sponsored Veronica, now in the sixth grade, since she was 6 years old, over half of her life. The nutrition, medical care, spiritual development and education that Veronica has received will have a profound affect on her future. Our desire is to see every student of Project Child flourish and develop as transformation agents in their families, in their community and in their country. Veronica is on her way. As our first photo of Veronica verifies, she comes from humble beginnings. Pictured with Katie and Riley however, we find Veronica, a girl of spirit and adventure. She is a girl with confidence and joy with an expectancy that the future can be bright.



Katie and Riley with Veronica in between, plus her Aunt with whom Veronica lives.

Veronica Japhet Laiser
Birthday: October 12, 2005
KAC 499

But There's More by Tim Neet

Soon after Riley returned from Tanzania I received a note from her requesting that she be allowed to personally sponsor another child. Now Riley is 13 years old and I'm sure at this point has neither a checking account or a credit card. But she does have vision and a compassionate heart—and a plan. Riley has already negotiated with her parents that she will save and pay them monthly if they will include the payment in their normal monthly ACH payment. This is going to be a sacrifice for Riley, but there is no doubt that her parents will use this experience to grow Riley's character and commitment to God. Riley's new sponsored child is Julieth in whom Riley wants to invest from an early age.



Julieth



KAC555



KAC795



KAC799



KAC811

For more information about Project Child—contact Tim Neet at timneet@att.net

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