

Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. (James 1:27)

THROUGH THE STORM MINISTRIES

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Dear friends and partners,

“For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him...”II Timothy 1:12

Back in 1993 I had taken a trip to visit my father and mother. My father had been in bed and was not able to keep his place mowed as before. As I arrived I thought this place looks so bad and needs to be mowed. As I got to the front porch a friend of my mother’s drove up and as she started to the door she said “Oh! Betty your roses are so beautiful!”

I turned and saw the most beautiful roses right beside the porch. I had not even noticed them. I asked the Lord what had kept me from seeing the roses. He replied that I was focused on the negative and could not see the beauty. Many times the lord has reminded me that my focus has been on the wrong things.

The devil wants us to focus on the negative in people, our future, and life. That is the way he steals our joy and hope. We can not see the roses if we are focused on the thorns.

The Lord will take the thorns and turn them into roses if we plant seeds of love with our words and actions, becoming an encourager to others, giving them hope and joy.

The more we focus and talk about the good in others the more good we will see. Otherwise, we miss seeing the roses in others.

Let your focus be on what pleases you in others, not what bothers you. This is hard at first, but it is worth the effort.

Commit the ones you want to change right now to Jesus. He is able to keep them. Focus on their roses.

You must know that the Lord loves you and be persuaded that He is able to keep that which we commit unto Him.

*From my heart,
Janice*

Kenya orphanage construction update

I traveled to Kenya on July 8 and returned on July 28. The primary purpose of the trip was to oversee the beginning of construction on the first building of the children’s orphanage on our 8.3 acres of land in the Gacharage area.

On the first day the contractor and I laid out the spot for the building, ensuring that it was being placed within its assigned space and the boundary strings were set.

The next day a local pastor and several dozen people from the community arrived and we **prayed, dedicated the ground to the Lord’s work** and broke the ground before the crew set to work. When it was my turn to speak I told the congregation our two primary purposes for being there, representing Jesus Christ.

1. **To provide a home for children who don’t have parents or family.**
2. **To shine God’s light on the community.**

I encouraged them to receive the light of Christ into their own hearts.

In that nineteen day period the footings were dug and poured, the foundation walls were set in place, the slab poured and three courses of the stone block walls were laid. On most days there were sixteen laborers and “fundis” (skilled craftsmen, in this case masons) working.

The Expected date of completion of the building is Oct 20. At that time, Janice plans to travel to Kenya to perform the final inspection of the building, guard house, landscaping and septic system and also start acquiring furniture, curtains, etc.

The building will have running water, plumbing and (hopefully) electrical service by the time it is complete.

I learned a considerable amount in that short time about constructing buildings, especially foundations, in Kenya. I asked the contractor dozens of questions and we exchanged concepts and ideas about the next buildings.

The family that I stayed with made sure that I ate more than I needed. They said they didn’t want me to come back to America and say they didn’t feed me. Most of the food we ate was grown right there on their land. Potatoes, avocados, pineapples, sugar cane, roots, beans, greens, cabbage, carrots, Kenyan tea with fresh milk, porridge, bananas, chicken and several other types of fruits and vegetables I couldn’t identify.

Another local pastor came and invited me to preach at his church the following Sunday. I taught on the Holy Spirit and the power of God. We started at 10:00AM and didn’t finish until after 1:00PM. The pastor asked for Bibles in their Kikuyu language. When Janice returns we plan to bless them with some.

The vision for this orphanage was birthed seven years ago. Once this building is constructed we will be positioned to begin providing a home for a few children.

Prayer requests:

- That the building continues to be constructed with excellence, built to last many decades.
- That God touches the hearts of the perfect people to run the orphanage, love, parent and nurture the children, manage the shamba (farm) and represent Christ to the community.
- That God leads us to the children who we are to parent.
- That all of the partners, employees and volunteers walk with integrity.

Through your support, God has provided our every need. Thank you.

Phil

The first orphanage building showing the foundation walls. Workers are preparing to backfill dirt into the interior for the slab to sit on.



Workers are pouring the slab. The next day the walls started being put into place.



A typical Kikuyu meal eaten in the Gacharage area. Go to www.throughthestorm.org/pictures.htm to see more pictures.

As I plan my trip back to Kenya in October I am full of emotions and excited about seeing the first building. We are Seeking the Lord's guidance on what step to take next.

Current Needs:

- Provision to purchase beds, blankets, pillows, curtains, furniture. I will be shopping for the best quality at the best price in Kenya.
- About \$1000.00 for electricity to be hooked up.

Thank you all for hearing the voice of God and giving to make this possible. We are all doing this together with the Lord to give a hope and future to His children.

Janice

**Little by little makes a bunch.
You have been prayed for today!**

**We Love You!
Phil and Janice Wagner**

About Through The Storm Ministries

The mission of Through The Storm Ministries (TSM) is to minister the love of God by providing assistance for individuals through unexpected, extraordinarily difficult times in their lives. This includes the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. (**Mat 25:35**) and visiting orphans and widows in their affliction (**James 1:27**)

We are committed to remaining debt free. (**Rom 13:8**)

TSM is registered as a non-profit organization according to Section 501C(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All donations to TSM are tax deductible.

TSM operates as **Through The Storm International** in the nation of **Kenya** as a non-governmental organization (NGO).

www.throughthestorm.org