

Newsletter
Wrzesień 2024

SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

Light of the World Foundation
Autor: Mirka Kalume

Beloved,

When we entrust our requests with the Lord, we are confident that He hears us and when we seek His presence, we will surely find it. God was, is and will be with us for all our days. However, life is not always easy, especially when we experience attacks of the evil one. The most important thing to remember is the hope we find in God. He protects us and encourages us to move forward reminding us of the miracles He has already performed.

Similarly, when the Israelites were attacked by the Philistines, their only escape was to cry out to God, and God did not abandon them. He is faithful, He does not make empty promises. He delivered his people from the hand of the enemy, giving them victory.

"Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called its name Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." 1 Samuel 7:12

God did it thousands of years earlier and He is doing the same thing for us today. He has not left us alone, quite the opposite. He sends His army to us, you - it is thanks to your support that we can work.

As you remember from our last letter, we wrote about a group of volunteers. Once again we had the privilege to host people from Poland.

Agata and Klaudia came to us in July and it was not the first time we hosted them. This time they were joined by two new visitors - Annas. We are proud of each of them. Each of the girls found her own place where they could serve with their knowledge and skills.









In addition to conducting lessons, teaching English and mathematics, they also had the opportunity to preach the gospel not only on the school premises, but also outside. In their free time the girls visited families where they shared the word of God and prayed for their needs but also blessed them in a practical way by sharing food.





To sum up, their stay was a very good time.



Klaudia's testimony : Romans 8:28: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose". I didn't realize that my adventure with Africa didn't start in 2023, when I went on a missionary trip to Kenya for the first time. Already 8 years ago, together with a group of women from the First Baptist Church in Warsaw, we decided to pay for the education of Richard from Uganda. The boy was 8 years old then. In 2019, together with a friend from the church, we went on a full-day training to prepare for a trip to Uganda to visit Richard and the mission that runs the school there. Unfortunately, the pandemic in 2020 thwarted these plans. Plus, I had lost my job earlier. But that didn't stop me from being generous and planning. It wasn't that time then. It didn't take long to go to Uganda. In 2022, my husband and I moved to Białystok and there we attended a mission evening, where Mirka and Henry Kalume and a large group from the Church shared their testimonies about the mission in Kenya. Especially after hearing the testimony of Mirka and Irenka Łukaniuk, my heart trembled that I wanted to participate in this work. I applied to Agata Mozolewska for the 2023 travel group. Maybe I should start by saying that I'm terribly afraid of bugs and I also have severe arachnophobia. Additionally, as my daughters say - mom, it's clean - you don't have to wipe it anymore... - this is my second problem, that everything around has to be clean. Unfortunately, these types of insects are unavoidable in Africa, and the cleanliness is extremely low... And that scared me, but at the same time I knew that if I had to leave, God would be with me. When God sends, he equips and provides. Preparations for the trip took about 3 months because specific lessons had to be developed. We had our hands full once we arrived. We were exhausted every day. However, the price was

worth it - we were happy to see the smiling faces of children and teachers. Now I can admit that that first year, I cried in bed every day. What I saw there, the extreme level of poverty, the lack of basic resources to function with dignity, the lack of prospects for some families, the lack of knowledge and skills to cope, the lack of courage to fight - shocked me and I had it before my eyes every night. It all reminded me of my childhood. We were very poor. I was orphaned at the age of 9. My sister and I ended up in an orphanage. Later we wandered around different foster families. One of the reasons that I'm involved in activities with abandoned children here in Poland and now these missionary trips is my background. It all does not come out of nowhere. I am paying off the debt I owe to God. God gave me a chance in life because there was a christian family who opened a helping hand to me and my sister. God touched the strings of their hearts. I think that today it touches the strings of my heart. I cannot remain indifferent. God gave me many talents. Even if I don't have the finances to help, I can devote my time, myself and talents. Coming back to Kenya. I had to hold on. I thought and prayed a lot and read the Word. We also had devotions. We studied the topic 'Lord, ignite the passion". And it happened there. The exchange of experiences in our small missionary group lifted my spirit. I really enjoyed the morning fellowships with teachers. It's such a blessing to start the workday like this! 😊 I loved everything there. My heart stayed there. I even have a lot of ideas to help the local community, although these are long-term projects 😊 We can improve some weight there, locally, but what is most important is building awareness. And this is what the Light of the World school does. It builds social and Christian awareness from scratch. Children still have a choice to make, so they are a good material to invest in. But we also need to notice other social groups in this area, such as young people who are not yet spoiled and older people who already have families. Such youth had no chance. And it is worth thinking about some long-term projects for them to show them a different ethic, a different path - Christian values to build a new character, pointing to Jesus. I guess I'm just now growing mature to a mission in a foreign country. I have no ambition to change these people, their habits or culture (and here I have to make a comment 😊, unless it is for a higher social good, such as teaching them not to throw away garbage



wherever you stand - no bins!). Transmitting biblical values and encouraging a personal relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior is the primary value that will change these people from the inside and thus influence society. I thank God for giving me this opportunity. Thank you to Mirka and Henry for welcoming us, always being ready, willing to help and support us there. (and by the way; God protected me so much there that I only once came face to face with a spider (which doesn't even look like our local ones and they jump!), I somehow overcame my fear of other insects 😊 thanks to creativity of Agata 😊; I consider it all as God's blessing)



Shortly after their departure a group of 10 other volunteers arrived. In that group we also had 3 new guests (Patryk, Greg and Ania). We are grateful for your prayers because everyone arrived safely, without any delay and with all luggage. The purpose of that group's trip was to conduct Christian camp for children.









It was beautiful and fruitful time. The children learned Bible verses, worshipped God with all their heart. During those 2 weeks more than 120 children could hear the gospel every day, starting from the creation of the world, through the occurrence of sin, Jesus coming to save us, His death and resurrection and His second coming. their hearts, learned new songs that we can still hear today not only at school but also in their homes.



The heart rejoices when we can witness what God is doing here in Hademu. At the same time we held meetings with church leaders. With the help of pastor Andrew and Paul we organized a small seminar for the local pastors and leaders. However, we regret that the time was limited. The audience was encouraged and ready to hear more.



During these 2 weeks a meeting with men and women was also arranged. The meeting with the men was led by pastors Paul and Andrew who encouraged men through the word of gospel and through their own testimonies. The number of men compared to last year was much bigger, which means that the Holy Spirit is working and doing His work. People are hungry to hear the gospel.



The girls from the group were encouragement for the local women, whose number far exceeded the number of men. During that stay several people from the group visited 2 widows. During one of the visits a son of one of them found the nerve to ask for prayer, which is something very uncommon in this culture. It rarely happens for a man to ask questions about the truth of the gospel of his own accord.



God is at work in Hademu and some of you are witnesses of the fact.
We thank all of you who prayed for the success and fruit of this work, for God's protection for all of us - our guests did not experience any physical injuries.



Thank you also for your contribution and help in purchasing solar panels, which greatly improved our work, especially when there was a power shortage for a week.

During this time the children had enjoyed mini Olympic competitions. There were 9 groups who had gone through particular games. The winners were only 3 out of 9 teams but i assure you, everybody had a lot of fun that day.







We have recently started the 3rd school term - it's the last one during this academic year. Please remember us in your prayers. This year 20 students will graduate from primary school and move on to junior secondary school.
Around 20 children will also finish their pre-school education and move to grade 1 of primary school.
The end of the school year is always associated with a lot of work, preparing students for final exams and improving school results by all students. This year we also offered awards for weaker students if they improve their grades.
In the meantime, we thank you all for your care, prayers and support.

"And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness" 2 Corinthian 9: 8-10

Henry and Mirka Kalume