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Missionary Hearts



Pastor Schufreider with me, together once again.

FROM CONFIRMATION TO MISSIONS

Ever since I became a missionary it has been wonderful for me to reconnect with people, some of whom I had lost touch with over the years. One of these people is Pastor Schufreider. In May of 1990, Pastor Schufreider was the one who confirmed me at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mountain View, CA. He helped instruct me and guide me as a young woman all the way through college. Later he moved to a new congregation, still in the Bay Area, but we lost touch. When I had started to network with other churches I contacted Pastor Schufreider and he was happy to welcome me to his new churches. I feel blessed that my mission work has provided the opportunity to renew our friendship. Thank you Pastor for continuing to guide me and support me in my ministry.



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Our basketball team with their new uniforms

A couple of years ago, I shared a story of a young girl who had heard my presentation about my mission work and who came up to me afterwards to ask if she could donate some soccer gear for my students at Karama Academy. Of course, I said yes and that year, she collected many soccer uniforms and cleats which I took back to Kenya.

Well fast forward a little bit and I was asked again by the same girl if she could continue to collect sports gear for my students. This time she proceeded to collect basketball jerseys. She left them with my parents in California, since Micah and I had already returned to Kenya. So, these jerseys have remained there until we returned this spring. Micah and I carried them back to Nairobi and this last week I shared them with the students. They were delighted!

You may wonder if all of the effort to collect and transport the basketball jerseys is worth it. Well...basketball is a new sport to Kenya. Children who have only played soccer their whole lives, have realized that they can be good at something else. Sports help children in the slum stay out of trouble, stay fit, and more importantly learn how to play as a team. Our little basketball team is one out of only 3 teams that have been formed in all of Kibera. Now, they have been invited to play in tournaments within Nairobi and just a few months ago won a Christian Sportsmanship Award.

So... are basketball jerseys important. Yes, but the lessons of giving to children in need and the lessons of teamwork and being Christian witnesses are even more important and that is why I do what I do... to be part of God's mission.



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- the staff at Karama Academy, that they may remain committed to their call to serve God and their community
- the children who will soon board at our sixth Project 24 site in Nyamira, Kenya

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- a good home service and safe travels
- new partners and supporting congregations
- the body of Christ coming together to help host one of their own

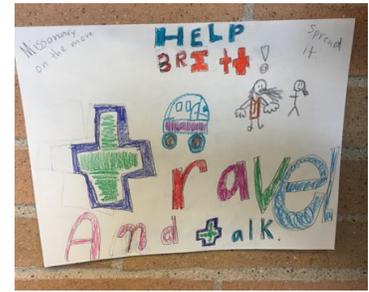
PRAISE GOD FOR:

- His continued love despite our limitations and sin
- for allowing us to be part of His Kingdom and to share that news with others



Pictured above: the 2nd graders at St. Paul Lutheran School in Ann Arbor with me. Also, one of the signs they made and posted in the school to help raise chapel funds for my ministry. (I love the students depiction of me spreading the good news!)

As we scheduled our home service this spring, we incorporated changes based on our last trip in 2016. On that trip my family and I travelled during the months of June through August, missing the opportunity to visit many Lutheran schools as they were on summer holiday. This time around, to ensure that I could visit schools, we left in April specifically to talk about mission work to the next generation. This was a great opportunity to inspire them to become missionaries as well as to



learn the art of giving to missions.

It was a joy for me to do school chapels and classroom presentations, sharing my work as well as some interesting facts about Kenya with the students. And of course, the children had great questions like “Have you ever seen a lion? or” “What do you eat over there?” or “Do you live in a hut?” I answered all of their fun questions but I also shared with them the importance of carrying out the great commission, whether it be in Kenya or in their own homes. I asked THEM if they have invited a friend to church or VBS or if they have prayed with a friend. When they answered yes, I told them that they are already little missionaries as they share the Gospel message with those whom they love.

We want to thank everyone for keeping us in your prayers as we travelled around the United States. It is amazing to think that our two little ones have already experienced so much air travel and covered so many miles, but what a wonderful way to see the world and to meet God’s people along the way.

Thank you for welcoming our little family these last few months. Love, the Odembas



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on “Service Opportunities.”

To support the LCMS through the work of Britt Odemba, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

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