

Dear Still Hope Family,

A MERRY BLESSED CHRISTMAS to you and your family!

We first thank God for his indescribable gift, the gift of Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate, who came to bridge the gap between us and God through his death and resurrection. Nothing else that we have ever received can match this gift and the eternal life in which is ours through that gift.

But, we also thank each of you who have supported Still Hope through 2018 in our mission to spread this good news and show the special concern of God towards the widow and orphan. All of the children in our project in Oyugis, Kenya were greatly blessed by a team of 7 from the New Union Baptist Church of Dayton, TN which visited in early November and distributed t-shirts, shoes, and other treats and gifts. The photo below is of most of the children looking “smart” in their shirts and shoes. They were so happy to receive these gifts, but the greatest was the gift of the presence of the team, who had the wonderful opportunity to talk with, play with, pray with, and hug these precious ones. The Lord willing, there will be more such chances in 2019.



One of the most noted characteristics by the New Union team was the amount of Bible knowledge that the Still Hope children had. As part of working with them during the crusade (an open-air outreach held

during the visit), some Bible quizzes were used. The members had difficulty thinking of questions which could stump the children! This indicates that they are being raised in the “instruction of the Lord”, and their conduct indicated that they are also being raised “in the discipline of the Lord”. So sponsors, donors, and friends, you can be sure that your seed is being sown in good soil and bearing abundant fruit because of the grace of God and the faithfulness of the staff and volunteers.

The other big news of 2018 is that we finally were able to begin construction of a new dorm to replace the current one, itself a remodeled mud church building with a leaky roof and in danger of collapse. We had hoped to hold a grand opening / moving day during the crusade and visit, but like most construction projects, unforeseen challenges delayed that. So work continues with hope for moving at the beginning of 2019. The photo below shows progress as of the middle of November.



The building will also increase the capacity of residential children by at least 70 which we will do as God leads and provides. Jesus taught us in Luke 14 that God desires a house that is full, and in Malachi 2 he seeks godly children. So we are committed to that purpose as well, and remind you that His kingdom (for now) is funded through the faithful offerings of His people. Still Hope remains committed to using your offerings as efficiently as possible. For example, all sponsorship funds are sent 100% to the project, which is possible because of the all-volunteer staff, which includes self-funded travel.

Finally, the photo below is of orphans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo standing in front of their school building. Still Hope is supporting them by paying for clothing, supplies, school fees, and regular lunches; otherwise they would be sitting home in the dirt without a hope and future. Most importantly, they are being taught the Gospel. These type projects are what Jesus seeks for His birthday!



In the words of the children: “Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever more. Amen!” That is our prayer for you during this season and in the coming year.

Landal & Rhonda Smith, Nate Schwenk, Elizabeth Na and the Still Hope Board of Directors