



**OLALO of ...** April 2015  
(Luo)

**DARAJA of ...**  
(Swahili)

**BRIDGE of...**  
(English ☺)

**HOPE**

*Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16*

Nang'o! Hello from Olalo of Hope – Kenya!

It's been just 2 weeks since we returned from our visit to Oyugis, Kenya, and everything is still sinking in. There was so much to see and learn, so many people to meet, and lots of gentle nudging by God to stop, listen, be still, and see it all through His eyes...to see His purpose and plan, and to commit to follow His leading. The needs we saw are great and unending. They are basic and lifesaving. It would be so easy to be overwhelmed by it all...but we know our God doesn't get overwhelmed. He has a plan; we just need to pay attention and do our part.



There is much to consider over the next few months to see how Olalo fits into God's plan. I saw up front and personal the awesome work that is getting done by your prayers and financial support through Olalo. Twenty four students are in school getting an education, and many people are receiving medical treatment for illnesses and injuries that would have gone without!

Corinne and Sonko are so entrenched in the lives of the people. The needs of the sick and the hungry are being met; people hungry for food, and people hungry for God. Their front door is always open and neighborhood kids and adults alike are in and out, day and night. They are always meeting needs, always on the go, always available to help others. They are impacting lives!



So, here I am, two weeks back and the people, the culture, the sights and the sounds are still resounding through my head as I try to get back into the routine of everyday life here in Oregon.



It's not easy stepping back into what I left behind a month ago, especially having been impacted so greatly by the 16 days we spent in Kenya.

I have much to share with you over the coming months about our time in Oyugis. I will begin with a few of those stories here about the people and students. I know there are exciting times coming for Olalo of Hope-Kenya! I also know there will be many challenges thrown our way, but if we are doing what we are supposed to be doing, we shall overcome!

So, Olalo Family....would you please pray for us as we seek wisdom and direction on how we expand and where we go from here? We know from experience there is power in prayer and there will be answers. Thank you for partnering with us!

Erokamano Ahinya and Nyasaye Ogwedhu!  
(Thank you very much and God bless you!)

P.S. I learned something new in Oyugis...Nyasaye Odwedhi is directed at one person. (God Bless You!)  
Nyasaye Odwedhu is directed at more than one person. (God Bless you's) :)



Teresa greeting neighborhood school kids!

A Special Visit.....It started off with the once a week, routine chat on FB with a young man, Sammy, who attends University in Kisii. The difference was, school had started a few weeks earlier, but he was still at home in Oyugis. There was no money to pay the school fees and there was no school until the money could be raised. He normally paid the fees by making and selling bricks, but with hot and very dry weather, no one was building, so no one was buying.

I explained why Olalo was unable to help with university fees, and then I asked how his mum and fiancée were doing. He mentioned mum was sick. My family always tell me I ask too many questions, so being true to form, I kept asking. GOOD THING I did!



Turns out mum had been in bed for a week. She was very ill and coughing so hard and long that she could barely breathe. You could tell he was worried but had no money to get help.

Olalo may not be able to help with university fees, but we do have a medical fund that could possibly help. I was able to get in touch with Sonko immediately, and by the end of the day, they were able to have someone go out to the house to see and confirm the situation. It was all just as Sammy said and things were not looking good.

The next morning, Corinne and Sonko rented a car and drove 45 minutes out of town over very poor dirt roads to take mum to the hospital. GOOD THING THEY DID!

Sammy says: *"Sonko & Corine came home, they took her to the hospital for medication. thanks for helping save her life for me, she is the only thing i have and live for...God bless you and your family. God is good. Mum was diagnosed with typhoid and she was given injection and some drugs, thanks for your love merry. pleas let Corine & Sonko know that am really,realy greatfull for saving my mum."*

Mum was very ill and had an extreme case of typhoid. It is very likely the trip to the hospital saved her life.

I often wonder if Sammy had gone back to school, what would have happened to his mum? Who would have found her, and would it have been too late?

One week following the hospital trip, mum was much improved, and shortly thereafter, Sammy returned to University.

God is so GOOD! He orchestrated the circumstances to save this mum's life through her only child who says *"she is the only thing I have and live for."*

AND....He has certainly blessed Olalo to have more than the \$21.15 in the Medical Fund to get her the help she needed and save her life!



Wow! He never ceases to amaze me! What an honor to serve such a mighty God!

*(I made it a point to get out and visit Sammy's mum at her home while in Oyugis. Sonko was there to translate for us. It was a wonderful visit! She was healthy and extremely grateful for the help she received. It was one of the highlights of my trip to meet her and see her healthy and well!!*

*And then the bonus...Sammy traveled from Kisii back to Oyugis to meet us a few days later. We got to spend a few hours together both at the soccer academy where he searched us out, and then back at the house. Amazing visit...amazingly blessed are we!)*

## Meeting our Students..YAY!!!

For three years Olalo has been paying for students to attend Secondary School. Most of the communication that has gone back and forth between continents has been between us and the Kenyan Olalo Team that does all the groundwork and running around for us. We get occasional letters from students, but most of the communicating is between us and our marvelous volunteers.



How very special it was to finally have the opportunity to meet the students and their parents, and talk about how God has blessed Olalo with wonderful supporters in America who pray for and sponsor our students' education.

Several of our students were gone with their school to tour other schools of higher education. Some of the students traveled to the meeting from a school over an hour away and then had no way to return to school that evening. (Sonko paid their fare back to school in a matutu.)

Parents of most of the kids attended the meeting; even a few parents whose kids were gone. We had a marvelous time together beginning with tea and mandazies for all, then lots of talking through my marvelous interpreter, son-in-law Sonko...and the other coaches from the Oyugis Soccer Academy, Kennedy, Arthur and Joash. How wonderful to see each of them in person!

How blessed we were during the question and answer time when parent after parent stood and didn't ask questions, but praised and thanked God for His



provision through Olalo to send their children to school. How humbling...how honoring to be a part of God's provision. We were so blessed!



We had the opportunity to interview each student for a quick video for sponsors. Amateur videographers that we are, not all turned out stupendous, but we got a few good ones to share. The kids were shy and quiet so it was a challenge. It was definitely a live-and-learn experience, so next time it will be better.

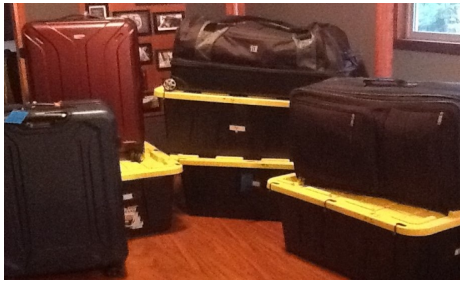
We originally planned our trip around the students' schedules so we could spend more time visiting with each of them, but due to a late start in the school year due

to a teachers' strike, they were still in classes while we were there.

We were able to establish good relationships with several who we continue to communicate with regularly through Facebook. (it's free and immediate!)

There are many more students waiting to attend school. Our prayer is Olalo will continue to grow and flourish so that we can provide so many more with educational opportunities that will change lives!





**FOUR HUNDRED pounds** of donations traveled to Kenya with us thanks to the kids and parents of Portland City United Soccer Club, the Portland Timbers, the Reid Saunders Association, Teresa Swanson and many of the Olalo of Hope family.

A Special Thank You also to Delta Airlines who approved one additional checked bag for each of our team members without extra fees. Awesome! All of you! Thank You!

**The Olalo of Hope-Kenya Team....**student sponsor Teresa Swanson, Pete Broughal and I, want to **Thank Everyone** for your prayers for us while we prepared for and traveled to Kenya. We had hurdles to overcome and illnesses to recover from, but your prayers were felt and it was an absolutely AWESOME trip to see Olalo at work in Oyugis, Kenya and to live the life of Corinne and Sonko as they minister to the people each and every day.

We experienced their weekly Bible study along with 27 kids that crammed into their 6X9 space beginning 2 hours before it even started!

We waited in the hospital with a severely injured 82 year old woman Sonko and the boys brought in from an hour away for medical care, and then pulled money from the ATM - right from the Change for Change Medical fund to pay the hospital bill. We got to worship with brothers and sisters on Easter morning, singing praises in Luo to familiar tunes and knowing the words, but not knowing the language. We even got to explore God's creation on a one day safari in the Masai Mara. Incredible times and so much more to tell you...but all for another time.



Lastly, I do want to assure everyone, that no funds from Olalo of Hope -Kenya were used for this trip for any of us personally. Each of us used the funds God has so graciously provided to us through our personal resources.

Olalo of Hope-Kenya is a faith-based nonprofit working in the east African country of Kenya.

Our Mission is to help break the cycle of poverty by building strong communities by working with various partners and communities to empower individuals and families with opportunities for the furtherance of education, healthcare and skills needed to affect life change within their communities.

#### How to find us....

**On the Web:** [www.olalo.org](http://www.olalo.org)

**FaceBook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Olalo-of-Hope-Kenya>

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**A 501(c)3 Non-Profit**

Remember to designate which program you want to direct your donations to. Without a specific program designation, funds are put into the General Fund and used as needs arise for education, medical, missionary support or community support.

Olalo of Hope-Kenya has no paid staff and is an all volunteer organization.

**Olalo Programs include:**  
School Tuition, Uniforms, School Supplies  
Change for Change Medical Fund  
Community Support  
Orphan Care  
Missionary Team Support.

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