

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

It really should come as no surprise to any of us that for all the planning and arrangements we make, things change and there's nothing you can do about it...except make the best of what you get.

As we arrived in Oyugis, we both came down with a virus or something that had us taking more naps than a newborn! Weeks earlier Pete asked if I thought we'd be coming home from Kenya. At the time, I wondered what he really meant by that. His question popped into my mind during one of my many nightly struggles to breathe and I wondered if we would. "Is this what he meant?"

Two weeks passed and we were discouraged we hadn't done what we planned when the purpose for all this just about smacked us between the eyes!

We were seeing first-hand the mission and ministry of the Omond's in action right from their home. We didn't get out in the community much, but the community came to them...and to us. Needs for medical help, getting kids in school, desperation for food or life basics...all of it.

We also experienced family life in the midst of all ten of them...from 13-month-old Malia to 23-year-old Nasri. We watched a family who pulled together and somehow made it work on their meager resources. They had little, yet they shared what they had with others in need. Each person pitched in to help around the house – cooking, cleaning, running errands. Even Malia who had her hands into anything she could dump on the floor would grab a towel and try to clean it up.

Life isn't easy for them...but then nothing is easy living in a third-world country steeped in poverty.

We went to Kenya to see how to expand Olalo and offer new opportunities in Oyugis, and found it was those on the ground doing the work for Olalo and the kingdom of God who are the ones who need our attention, our prayers, encouragement and financial support.

No, our trip didn't go as WE planned but God used our circumstance to open our eyes to the real purpose of our trip... and we wouldn't trade that for anything!



Omboga Mixed Secondary School is a 40-minute drive over roads so filled with ruts and holes it feels like your brain is going to shake loose!

Sonko and two of the boys drove me out to visit with the students Olalo sponsors at Omboga and our favorite Vice Principal, Arthur.

We met the new school Administrator and he gathered the students so we could talk. He and Arthur talked about Omboga and the opportunities our students had been given by people from the US who sacrifice to pay for their education.

On a campus tour, I saw the new, larger boys' dorm being built following the fire that destroyed the old one. **Many of you answered the call to help financially replace books and uniforms of our students lost in the fire last year.** Thank You!



New Dorm Being Built



Temporary Quarters...



Humbled...and Encouraged

During the weeks we spent getting over our illness, several of our sponsored students stopped by the house to greet us. Most of them I had not had the pleasure of meeting in person before and was thrilled they came by to say hello.

One afternoon, a young man who was in his final year of Secondary School arrived. This was the 4th year Olalo sponsored his education. Over the years we had exchanged a few letters, but like many of the others, this was our first in-person meeting. There was a time in the past when things got a little rocky for him and we weren't sure we would continue sponsoring him. Wanting all our kids to succeed Sonko stepped in and got things on track.

On this day, he sat down beside me on this small loveseat and we talked for an hour. For the first 40 minutes he continually expressed his gratitude and thankfulness to Olalo for giving him this life-changing opportunity to get an education and impact his life. He talked about his past struggles in school and how he now had a plan for his life that he is working hard to achieve.

He wants to succeed for himself, his family and his community. He wants to succeed so he can help others succeed as well and break this cycle of

poverty. He credits God for bringing Olalo into his life, and Olalo for giving him this second chance.

I have to admit there are times when trying to keep our education program going is frustrating when trying to meet tuition payments on time and as the list grows with more kids needing financial help to attend school.

But this one hour spent with this sincere young man who finally sees a future for himself was both humbling and tearful for me and reminded me what it's really all about. The frustrations fade away as the focus moves more to what we are achieving by giving kids an opportunity to change the cycle of poverty into a new cycle of hope and direction through education.

Thank you to every one of you who have invested into the lives of these young people. Know that you are appreciated so much not only by Olalo, but by the children you are sponsoring.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in sponsoring a child's education, talk to them about your experience with Olalo and ask them to join us in impacting lives in Oyugis, Kenya.

Another Graduation!!!

Timing is everything and our timing was just perfect to be in Oyugis for the 2nd Graduating Class from our community-based Computer lab.

This class of 15 had taken a series of classes learning the Microsoft Suite – Word, Excel, Publisher and Power Point. They attended classes twice a week and successfully passed the final exam. Our amazing teacher, Bianca, walks them through each program and has them creating various projects using the skills learned in each program. She is very impressive and we are thankful to have her as part of the Olalo team!

Participants in the class were several former students from Olalo's education sponsorships, community members and even two teachers from Primary and Secondary Schools. I had the privilege to sign each of their Certificates and congratulate them all one by one.

We celebrated with a time in prayer, "graduation" and then cake and sodas.

Our hope is all these students will continue to use the computer lab as a resource for information about any subject they can imagine through our incredible server "RACHEL"

Our lab is open to anyone who has an interest in either classes or using our computers as resources to improve their lives personally and professionally.



A very special **THANK YOU** to
“See Clearly Window Cleaning”

for the donation of another computer to our community based computer lab in Oyugis.

This local Oregon business donates a portion of their monthly profits to nonprofits.

Olalo of Hope-Kenya was a recent recipient of their generosity for which we are very grateful and thankful to increase our computer capacity. Every computer we add opens another space for someone in Oyugis to take advantage of our free classes.

Thank You, **See Clearly Window Cleaning!**
Your generous contribution is impacting a life in Oyugis, Kenya!

And for those of us in Oregon: Remember to support our local businesses!



Keeping you updated on Charles...

Charles and his family arrived at our Olalo office in Oyugis for a short visit with us. It was good to meet him and his sweet wife and child.

There was a remarkable change in his appearance since his first surgery and we are looking forward to seeing what surgery #2 will accomplish.

We were able to hand him about 25 encouragement cards and notes written by many of you back here in Oregon. Thank you to everyone who sent him those kind words as they were very appreciated and encouraging.

Surgery number 2 seems to be on hold for a bit and we are working to find out when the next surgery will be. We had 2 false starts lately and are concerned about getting it rescheduled here soon. We will keep you posted!



Olalo of Hope-Kenya is a faith-based 501c3 nonprofit working in the east Africa country of Kenya.

Our Mission is to help break the cycle of poverty by building strong communities by working with partners to empower others with opportunities for education, urgent healthcare and skills needed to affect life change.

To exchange the cycle of poverty for a new life cycle of Hope!

www.olalo.org

Email: Olalo.of.hope@gmail.com

Mail: **Olalo of Hope-Kenya**

PO Box 1476

Clackamas, OR 97015

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know through any of the contact information listed above.

Olalo Programs include:
School Tuition, Uniforms, School Supplies
Change for Change Medical Fund
Community Support
Computer Lab
Missionary Team Support.