# HELPINGRESTORESIGHT

LIGHTHOUS

#### FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Henry Blackaby, Christian author and evangelist, wrote in his well known Bible study, *Experiencing God*, "We should find out where God is working around us and then join Him in His work." This theology hit me in 1999 when my friend, Dr. Roger DeHaven, invited me to join him on a trip to East Africa to visit the Lighthouse for Christ Eye Center and Mission. During that two week experience, I found that God was indeed doing a great work at the small mission in Mombasa, and since then, my life has been blessed by my involvement with the Lighthouse for Christ Mission.

When I speak to others about getting involved with the Lighthouse, I try to describe to them what makes this mission so unique. There are many medical missions around the world, and there are many great evangelical organizations. However, there are very few organizations that do both great medicine and great evangelism. The Lighthouse Mission is blessed with three very well trained and skilled Kenyan ophthalmologists and a hard working staff who each day provide many with the amazing gift of sight. Our missionaries and pastors are then standing by to guide souls towards a healing of their "spiritual blindness." This combination of great medicine and great ministry is being used by God to build His Kingdom.

After making three trips to Kenya, in 2010, I finally was able to bring my wife and three teenage children along with me. I wanted them to share with me the joy of doing God's work in a place where God was so obviously at work. I had concerns about how my family would "plug in" in a medical mission. But God honored our "leap of faith" and found a way to use each family member's gifts. My oldest son Andrew came up with a plan, **Lighthouse for Christ Soccer Camp**, and again, God showed up.

Each year we all struggle with where to direct our charitable giving. This year, I encourage you to give to the Lighthouse for Christ Eye Center and Mission. Looking for a little "bang for your buck"? Well, how about giving the gift of sight through cataract surgery for \$100, or sponsor an Eye Camp to help us reach those who can't get to Mombasa for \$500, or build a church for \$5000. I can promise you that God will use your gift in His great work at the Lighthouse for Christ Mission, and in the words of Blackaby, you can "join Him in His work".

C. Bradley Bowman, M.D President, Board of Directors Lighthouse for Christ Eye Center and Mission

Many of the children we see as patients are orphans due to the high percentage of HIV/AIDS.

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"But God honored our "leap of faith" and found a way to use each family member's gifts. My oldest son Andrew came up with a plan, Lighthouse for Christ Soccer Camp, and again, God showed up." C. Bradley Bowman, M.D.



### **THEIR STORY**

### < KAHOME

Kahome came to Lighthouse because he worked as an aid to an older, blind man named Nyongo who came for eye surgery. He is a 54-year-old Muslim man who saw the Jesus Film when he brought Ngonye to the Lighthouse outreach that came to their area of Mkomani. The images he saw on that film really stuck with him. When he brought Ngonye to the Lighthouse to have eye surgery, he stayed overnight in the patient ward, but he couldn't sleep.

He kept having dreams of Jesus' being nailed to the cross, and crying for Him. When he got an opportunity to speak with the chaplain the next day, he shared his

dream and was led to give his life to Christ because he finally understood that Christ had died for him!



### < DAMA

She testifies to an incredible experience at Lighthouse, being warmly welcomed by the staff and assisted with a loving spirit whenever she needed. In fact, when she arrived at Lighthouse, she could not even walk by herself. But after her operation, she is able to see and walk and do things she hasn't been able to in years.

When we visited her at her home, she was beaming because now she can take care of her mentally challenged daughter.



### < KOMORA

Once Komora's parents heard about Lighthouse doing an outreach in the Hola district where they live, hours north of Mombasa, they realized they could get him the help he so desperately needed. Now that he has recovered from his successful double cataract surgery, he has returned to school. He is repeating the grade because he missed so much work, but that disappointment does not compare to the immense joy he has at being able to see again and return to his life.

Komora's mother, Caroline, thanks God and Lighthouse for restoring Komora's sight and changing all of their lives.

### AMINA >

Amina lived a normal life until a spark from the small cooking fire hit her eye and developed into a cataract.

She had been unable to see well enough to look at books, play normally with other children, and was so sensitive to the sun that she was unable to play outside at all. One of the other clinics referred them to Lighthouse where they found out they could receive the operation Amina needed, and it would be



provided for by donors. The relief they felt was incredible.

Amina can now see from that injured eye, and no longer experiences sensitivity to the sun. For the first time, she is looking at books and playing with toys!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Cataracts are the leading cause of curable blindness in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kenyan boys are captivated during the Jesus Film in Swahili at an eye camp. The Kenyans are amazed that this Man Jesus speaks their language.





### **REACHING THE UNREACHED WITH THE GOOD NEWS!**

Through a great portable tool from Renew Outreach, we are using two solar projector Jesus Film units. We also show the Jesus Film at all four of our clinic locations.

### For our particular needs, we use the Vista 1000 that is capable of showing the Jesus Film to a crowd as large as 1,000 people.

There is no need for power to run this unit as it is charged in the daytime by folding solar panels. It can run the small LCD projector, a microphone, and 2 large speakers for several hours! And it all fits in a large backpack type case!

We take one of these units to our weekly one-day rural eye outreaches in the bush showing the movie the night before the eye screenings. A typical showing will bring out the entire village! We also pack it up and take it with us 12-15 hours away from Mombasa to extended service areas to do remote cataract eye surgeries.

The second unit is used by our Lighthouse pastors as a means of evangelism in the outlying small communities, many hearing a clear Gospel message for the very first time!

> join a Jesus Film team: lighthouseforchrist/volunteer



### Reaching the LOST with The Jesus Film in Swahili!

Used at 73 Lighthouse Churches and preaching points

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Used at weekly and extended eye camp outreaches

### **ŤŤŤŤŤŤŤŤ**

Used at all 4 eye centers waiting rooms

Giving the gift of sight is one of the most cost-effective ways to reduce poverty, according to the World Health Organization. Professions of faith through October 2014

## cal & Spiritual s in 2014

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**146** Children Eve Surgeries

**3,460** Eve glasses Dispensed

4

Children Patients at<br/>Main CampusBibles Distributed<br/>through Eye Care &<br/>Jesus Film<br/>Showings

**Bible Institute** 

Students-1 Year

Program

22

\* statistics are through October 2014

1,681

### Strategically placed to Reach the Unreached!

### 1.2 MILLION : Mombasa-- Kenya's 2nd largest city

6,945

- 1. Mombasa and East African Coast are predominantly Muslim-- filled with hundreds of mosques
- 2. Mombasa's bordering the Indian Ocean made it a historical trading centre with Hindu religion & temples
- 3. Kenya's population is made up from over 40 Tribal groupsmainly Kikuyu, Luhya, Kalinjin, Luo and Kamba
- 4. While Nairobi (capital of Kenya) is predominately Christian, Mombasa is the complete opposite

85% OF OUR EYECARE IS FREE OF CHARGE



"An even greater reward is the privilege of meeting such a child months or years later in a school performing well and loudly expressing his dream to become a doctor and to also help other children out of darkness." Dr. Ibrahim Matende

### FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Work at the clinic comes with a variety of patients, most of them very needy. For some, this is their very first opportunity and only chance of ever seeing an ophthalmologist.

Lighthouse for Christ Eye Center in Mombasa where I have served for over 10 years is an excellent ministry to the needy, both children and adults.

The situation is often desperate that even the children blind from cataracts or



glaucoma in the villages have no hope of sight. A life of blindness in Africa means rejection, no education, poverty, abuse, and early death which to a family is a continuation of the cycle of poverty in that generation.

As an ophthalmologist, the weekly trips to remote forgotten areas to conduct outreach eye clinics is equal to my chance at saving and giving Africa a chance. The patients identified in these outreaches are transported to our campus for treatment. On campus these patients are given a healthy meal, receive treatment including surgery before being transported back, all at no cost. The glow of joy in their faces when they see other faces and those of their family is overwhelming and difficult to describe.

An even greater reward is the privilege of meeting such a child months or years later in a school performing well and loudly expressing his dream to become a doctor to also help other children out of darkness.

I know my gifting is to treat patients. God has availed us the opportunity to do what we need to in order to change the world bit by bit. All this lovely work is only made possible by support from our generous donors. Without that gift of a penny or dollar, we would not have a ministry to restore vision, give hope, change life, and make it possible for people to even read the gospel, some for the first time!

Dr. Ibrahim Matende Ophthalmologist, Medical Director.

### **PASTOR JAMES KIMONDO**

Like many others who don't have strong parental influence, he was pulled towards religion to find a place to fit in. He married a young Muslim girl and was strongly considering becoming a Muslim himself. His wife Amina gave birth to a son, and then James became very sick. He felt that going to the mosque was wrong, so he stopped going and threw away his wife's robes and head covering. He started going to the local church, but Amina was reluctant to go. The first time that he heard the gospel, he was struck by how much he needed God. With tears streaming down his face, he went to the front of the church and accepted Jesus. After 3 months of James's pleading with his

wife and praying daily for her to make the decision, she finally accepted Jesus as well and was baptized!

James attended Bible school even while he had 4 young children at home. He worked as a fruit vendor at night, barely scraping by to provide for his family. Through it all, God provided. When he felt God leading him to be a pastor, he asked for confirmation, just like Gideon in the Bible did. Through his pastor's encouragement, James and his wife went up north to start a little church, and in faith it grew slowly. He now needs a plot of land which costs \$17,000 so he can build a church for his



congregation. He knows God will be faithful to provide and is incredibly thankful for the education he has received through Lighthouse. His prayer is that they will be able to reach the whole area of Mtwapa for Christ and to raise up young men and women who eagerly spread the Good News.

### PASTOR NICHOLAS HARO

Pastor Nicholas of Choni Church in Kenya truly understands the needs of his congregation. Before he came to know Jesus, he was like any other young man in his town hoping to start a family, struggling to make ends meet with simple jobs like farming, and struggling to know where to turn for help when things got hard. He became very sick about 15 years ago and went to the only person that he thought could help - the local witchdoctor. This "treatment" did not help and



cost him money. Others often turn to drinking to forget their troubles.

Still badly in need of help, Nicholas heard a preacher on a street corner and gave his life to the Lord. He saw that his healing and true provision came from God; he and this young family started living for God!

He helped start a home church, and as it grew, they met under a tree. People in his area who were hurting were encouraged by his changed life, and their small church grew and started meeting in a mud structure with a thatch roof. His dream is to get a plot of land and build a small church where there is room for more people to come, and meet and have their lives changed. He has seen so much difference in his own life through the education he has received from other Lighthouse pastors. He is excited to spread God's Word through local evangelism, discipleship, and continued use of the Jesus Film which is bringing lost people to Jesus every week in these unreached areas!



LIGHTHOUSE FOR CHRIST CLINIC STAFF



### FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR

The Lighthouse was begun 45 years ago to combine high quality eye care with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in an area of the world where East meets West. For 31 years, my wife Toni and I have continued to oversee this work.

Most of our patients not only receive great eye care, but also hear one of our staff tell of how "Once I was lost and searching, and then I found Jesus." They watch "the Jesus Film" telling the life and story of Jesus according to Luke from the Bible. Before they leave, they have the opportunity to talk one on one to a counselor who answers questions and leads them to consider if they might be ready to receive Jesus as their personal Savior. My goal is to oversee this work in order to be sure that costs are low and that the maximum number of patients receive care.

In 1985, we began our Bible School and started training pastors. Over the years, we have trained hundreds of pastors and have begun 70 small local churches all over southeastern Kenya! Every church has people of many tribes and backgrounds who have turned to Christ! We are committed to discipling pastors who love the Lord and love His Word!

In this place of great need and great opportunities, you can find the Lighthouse! As Jesus said in Matthew 9, "when he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." Then he said, "the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers..." Here you can make a difference! You can give sight to a blind child or an adult. You can give a Bible or New Testament to a new believer. You can assist us to train up young people and pastors to be disciples and study the Bible. You can help a small local church move from under a tree to being in a strong, long-lasting shelter, or move from a shelter into a permanent church building.

We are making a difference, but the harvest here is plentiful. Your gift to the Lighthouse can change lives!

God bless you, Tim Ghrist Mission Director of the Lighthouse for Christ Mission



PO Box 8318 Tyler, TX 75711-8318

Healing physical and spiritual blindness on the East Coast of Africa since 1969.

# JOIN THE STORY

There are a variety of ways you can help to impact the story of children, women, men, and churches in East Africa. Visit www.lighthouseforchrist.org/gift