

## Hakuna Matata!

by Karen Burkhart



**Karen & kindergartners in Kenya**

If you're a fan like I am of the movie or musical "The Lion King," you'll know that hakuna matata means "no worries" in Kiswahili, the native language of Kenya. When I think about the time my son, Tyler, and I spent in Africa recently, "hakuna matata" sums it up well! There's a simple reason for the worry-free experience—praying people like you! It probably

goes without saying that we were both launched outside our comfort zone significantly—from being trapped in a silver tube in the sky for hours on end, to bunking with geckos and staring into the eyeball of a fish on a plate, and a whole lot more! Yet, Tyler and I had understanding-surpassing peace through it all. Sure, there were moments of apprehension, but they were short-lived as we were well-loved through your prayers. Thank you!

The first half of our trip was spent in Entebbe, Uganda. We stayed at a guest house called, Banana Village. We were thrilled to find out it was home to dozens of Vervet monkeys! In early morning and again at dusk, the monkeys performed for us like stars of Cirque du Soleil! Most days, following the show and breakfast about 35 of us crammed into vans and headed across town to the Primary School for the African Children's Choir. Situated on the shores of beautiful Lake



**Tyler showing his football moves**

Victoria, a true oasis in the midst of abject poverty, the school is home to more than 100 children. While at the school we

participated in devotions, visited, shared meals and played games like volleyball and soccer. (The children were very grateful for the new balls we provided. KRBC filled nearly two large suitcases with donations!) It was deeply fulfilling to mingle and see first-hand the impact the African Children's Choir has had on these and the hundreds more who came to celebrate the choir's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary while we were there.

From Uganda we flew to Nairobi, Kenya. We were immediately struck by how much more developed Kenya was than Uganda. After checking into our guest house we quickly headed out of town about an hour to visit a Kindergarten sponsored by Music for Life (umbrella organization for the African Children's Choir). The Kindergarten was located in a rural area occupied by the Maasai Tribe. The most adorable children were waiting for us with signs that spelled "WELCOME." After a lot of hugging and picture-taking, we toured the school and then sat down for a presentation from the children. Hearing these sweet children in tattered clothes sing praises to Jesus was almost more than I could stand. Then when the two women who started the school on a wing and a prayer shared their journey with us, I wanted to bawl. I was so blown away and humbled by the devotion of these self-sacrificing and God-fearing teachers who had done so much with so little. I couldn't help but think "this" would never happen in North America; we'd say, "it can't be done." Since returning, I have thought about this school every day and am praying about an ongoing relationship.

The highlight of the entire trip for me happened on the last Sunday in Kenya. A reunion celebration was planned to bring together all



**Tyler and choir kids in Uganda**

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past Kenyan choir members. The reason this was the highlight is because the two choirs I toured with in the mid-90s were both from Kenya. I had hoped to one day be reunited with these who had captured my heart twenty years ago, but never imagined how it would be possible. Lo and behold, this was the day the Lord had made! As busses started pouring in and emptying, I began seeing familiar, albeit grown-up, faces! It was such a joy to re-connect, share some memories, and witness God's grace in all of our lives. Most of the "children" I toured with have overcome incredible odds and are living full and productive lives. It was moving to know that I was a little part of their stories.

Prior to heading home, Tyler and I got to unwind for a couple days in Masai Mara, a game park in southwest Kenya. Seeing so much of God's amazing handiwork (the entire "cast" of The Lion King) up close and in its natural habitat was amazing. We were fortunate enough to be there at the time of The Great Migration (7<sup>th</sup> Natural Wonder of the World)—when each year 1.5 million wildebeest, along with hundreds of thousands of zebras and impalas leave the Serengeti in Tanzania in search of pasture in Kenya. I received this special sight as a gift of God's grace—as if He were saying, "thanks for serving the 'least of these' so many years ago."

Perhaps our time in Africa would be best described as a "Vision Trip." The Lord opened our eyes to the great needs of people in

Africa, while opening our eyes to the great faith of people in Africa. When Africans sing, "Christ is Enough," there's an authenticity that's hard to match. We clearly saw that joy is not a bi-product of great wealth or possessions. Unfortunately, the opportunities to



**Playing a game with children in slum school**

share the gospel with unbelievers were extremely limited as we were surrounded by Christians the entire trip! Even our safari operator was a Christian! But, we did take opportunities to sow seeds of faith when we were in the markets, or waiting for planes. I had taken a stash of my latest CD and freely gave those away. We also came away with some contact information for two couples, one from India, and one from the US, and hope to cultivate an ongoing relationship with them.

We don't know what the future holds or how God will water the seeds sown in our hearts or the hearts of others during this experience, but "hakuna matata!" There's nothing to worry about because we know God will be faithful to work all things together for His good. I would not be at all surprised if one day we look back and say, "This is where it all began." Thank you for your gracious financial and prayerful support. We are truly grateful.

## A Sincere Thank You

by Beth Ash

Summer at KRBC was a very busy time. From June 15 through July 24, there were children and teenagers in the building every day from Monday through Friday for the sixth year of our Summer Food Program. For the first time, this year we chose to prepare the food we served ourselves. Julie Large led a team of cooks and servers in preparing delicious, nutritious meals each day. Lunch was followed by a time of singing as a group, which was often led by Creida LaHut with help from other daily volunteers. Preschoolers, led by Kathy Veeck and Sandy Baldrige, spent the rest of each session in their classroom while learning Bible stories, doing activities and making crafts. The older group spent time learning about prayer each day. Their sessions ended with time for reading, practicing math skills and working in the computer lab to keep skills they had already learned fresh for the next school year. It was a worthwhile time of ministry and friendship.

Following the food program was the week of our annual Jesse Coles Day Camp. Carol Kirn, Linda Campbell and Kathy Veeck planned and prepared a memorable week of Bible stories, music, crafts and games which were then led by a dedicated group of volunteers who brought it all to life for the children and youth. Aaron Joiner led the mid high students in their activities with his team of faithful leaders. The theme of the year was "Talking with God," which was planned to help children and youth learn about prayer and make it a part of their lives. Special thanks to Marie Landrum who helped Carol Kirn write the opening skits, Reagan and Barrett Bowen who performed them with the help of Pastor Rick and John Kirn, and Doug Lambert who collected, counted and deposited the Penny Offering for Kim Brown to use for the House of Love.

A special part of the summer was the ability to provide 50 bags of food to participating families in June, July at the Back to School Party, and at Valley Forge for their Open House in August. A highlight of the year was a surprise visit from radio station 104.9 to record the day camp children saying the Pledge of Allegiance to broadcast on September 9. All of these events were made possible by your generosity in bringing food to the food pantry, school supplies for the Back to School Party, and your prayers for all that took place. Thank you!

# Engage Photo Scavenger Hunt September 18

by Aaron Joiner



## Sympathy to:

Eleanor Thompson and Lydia Gilmore on the death of their son-in-law and husband, **John C. Gilmore**, September 13, 2015.

Gayle Sheahan on the death of her father-in-law, **Robert Box**, September 15, 2015.

Michelle Sarver, and children Hannah and Joshua, on the death of their husband and father, **Daniel L. Sarver**, September 17, 2015.

Maria Landrum on the death of her sister, **Bonnie C. Ingram**, September 21, 2015.

## Thank You Notes

I would like to thank all of you that sent cards and prayers my way. I spent two days at Riverside Hospital with bacterial pneumonia. I am recuperating at home and am so anxious to get back to church.

Rita Lewis

Valley Forge Elementary school would like to thank Karl Road for the clothes and other things that were donated in August for their children's families.

**Karl Road Baptist Church Newsletter**

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Deadline for Next November Issue October 10



**Karl Road Baptist Church**

# October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					1p Brigade Campout at Cardinal Campground	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Communion 8:45a Praise Team Practice					8:30a-5:30p Football Games	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Office Closed	12:00p Prime Timers/FH 7:00p Long Range Planning		6:30p Women's Fall Fling/FH	8a-2p Choir Retreat/Sanc, FH & Kitchen	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
				6-8p Engage Clue Game/Whole Building		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
12:00p Conn Comm C <sub>5</sub>	7:00p Ministry Council	6:30p Harvest Party			8a Men's Breakfast 9-Noon Forest Park Community Workday	

## Weekly Events

**Sunday—**

- 9:00a Sunday School
- 10:15a Praise Prelude
- 10:30a Worship
- 5:00p Women's Group

**Monday—**

- 12:00p Columbus Group (Chapel)
- 7:00p Westerville Group
- 7:00p Young Life/210

**Tuesday—**

- 8:00a Work Team
- 9:15a BSF Leaders
- 5-7p After School Club
- 5:30p Football Practice 6:30p
- 7:00p Homebuilders Group (1st, 3rd)
- 7:00p RopeHolders
- 7:30p Worthington Group

**Wednesday—**

- 6:15p Clubs
- 6:30p Choir, Sewing
- 7:30p Praise Team

**Thursday—**

- 9:15a BSF
- 1:15-2p Valley Forge Tutoring
- 5:30p Football Practice 6:30p
- 6:00p Manney Group
- 6:30p Battalion

**Friday—**

- 9:30a MDO