

Words of HOPE

AN UPDATE FROM Get HOPE Global

AUGUST 2022

*Get HOPE Global
envisioning a world
where at-risk women
are hopeful,
empowered, and free!*

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Special Focus

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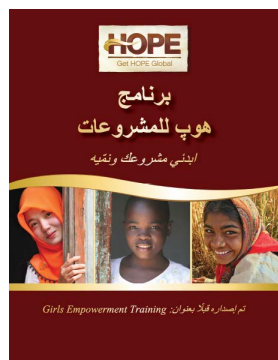
From the Director

What a joy it has been to finally embark again on the long-awaited international trips that are so important to our work! Being able to spend precious time with our global partners in the communities where the HOPE programs are active is incomparable to emails and Zoom meetings. In this newsletter you will read an exciting update from our trip to Ghana in February. Then, don't miss the personal impressions from other travel team members of our time in Uganda and Tanzania this summer.

The trip to Tanzania was a milestone event for us as seven members of the US Get HOPE Global family made the trip, several for the first time to Africa, in order to observe firsthand the impact of the work. We visited Alex, our Regional Director, his team of Program Leaders, and the beautiful women we serve there. The local Program Leaders are passionate and selfless volunteers and it was so special to finally meet them face to face. The work of Get HOPE Global in Tanzania would not be possible without the dedicated leadership of Rehema L. Elinkaila, Paul, Rehema A., and Debora as well as Alex, who oversees and directs it all - with much prayer and God's faithfulness.



Julie Melton
GHG Executive Director



Arabic Translation

We recently received the final draft of **HOPE Business Program - Starting and Growing Your Business** in Arabic. This translation was provided by a donor to support our work with Tizrah training groups in several African countries, including Sudan. The Arabic edition is available to any of our curriculum owners and is downloadable on the user area of our website.

Travel Report: Ghana

After waiting for a break in the pandemic, Julie Melton and I traveled to Accra, Ghana in February. We met with the Get HOPE Global Ghana team and saw first-hand all the great work that the Lord is doing. Our Regional Director and host, Paul Yeboah, has been very busy the last few years, overseeing local Program Leaders from Accra to Mankessim and beyond. We visited the new Get HOPE Global office, met with Program Leaders and visited women's businesses to share in their success and offer encouragement from their sisters in the US.



One of the highlights of our Ghanaian HOPE program is our partnership with Compassion International. Paul has presented dozens of HOPE introductory sessions and a condensed version of the *HOPE Business Program – School Edition* to more than 1,000 youth who are interested in starting their own businesses as they graduate from the Compassion program. Julie and I were blessed to participate in a gathering of approximately 130 Compassion youth from over 13 churches, assisting Paul as he taught a HOPE overview and encouraged the youth to sign up for more business training. It was inspiring to meet some of the youth, hear their stories, and know that we can have a part in supporting their launch into the business world!



Paul has teamed with other local ministries to work together to empower vulnerable women and girls, including HODEM vocational school and Great Way of Hope. During our visit, we witnessed Paul sign a new memorandum of understanding with The Hunger Project, an international organization which

supports indigenous people to better their living conditions and gain self-sufficiency. The Hunger Project works with locals to establish village banks, and HOPE will be providing the business training needed so that women can launch successful businesses funded through these local banks.

We were blessed to be able to make this trip and so encouraged to see our whole team again – Paul, his daughter Dufie, Frederick and Sylvanus. We continue to pray that the Lord continues his mighty work through them and keeps them safe and healthy.

Karen Hohe Suchomel
GHG Assistant Director



Reflections from Tanzania

"You're Welcome!"

The moment we emerged from the secure area in the airport of Mwanza, Tanzania, our Regional Director, Alex, one of the program leaders, Paul, and even Alex's pastor, "Pastor David" greeted us as friends. "You're welcome!" Their wives and Alex's daughters welcomed us at the hotel. Little Angel became my special buddy. Throughout our time in Tanzania the welcome was expressed many ways, through food purchased and prepared at great sacrifice, gifts presented by church members at the end of the service, and constant joy-filled smiles surrounded us. A couple of "you're welcomes" stand out in my memory.



For half a day we bumped over rough roads toward a small village on remote Kome island, deep in Lake Victoria. "Are you enjoying your African massage?" Pastor David joked. Alex and his wife, Rehema accepted the invitation by a local pastor to make this difficult journey often and lead a group of village women through the HOPE Business Program. Our drive was broken up by two ferry rides. The second, a small ferry, was shared not only by people, many of them on "boda boda's", small motorcycles loaded down with impossibly balanced loads of freight, but also an entire herd of cattle with horns that demanded respect. Six hours after setting out, we reached the village. Immediately, we were greeted with smiles, music, and (of course) "You're welcome!" We felt like visiting dignitaries, seated in the front of the assembled village women, and treated to moving stories of the difference the business training and micro-loans have made. The women have formed a co-op business drying and selling tiny fish. They smiled broadly as they showed us the whole process from the wooden fishing boats the

men use to catch the fish in nets overnight, to the innovative way they've devised to dry the fish so that it is free from the grit that plagues similar dried fish sold in markets all over this region. Children trailed behind us as if we were pied pipers.

We spent our last day in Mwanza visiting one innovative business after another. Each graduate of the HOPE Program welcomed us to her business with a grin. We visited a wide variety of businesses, a vegetable stand, electronics store, general store, restaurant, tailoring shop, homemade charcoal, convenient water, prepackaged salad...Though most of them spoke little English and my Swahili is pretty much limited to "jambo" the message came through, "you're welcome!" By the time we said farewell, Pastor David was calling us "my family" and we were calling him "Baba" (father). Though I joined Get HOPE Global because I wanted to serve, I came away from this trip humbled and grateful for the generosity and hospitality of our friends and partners in Tanzania.

Stuart Ratzlaff, GHG Accountant

*Journal from Jinja*

An up-close look at Train the Trainer Uganda

Day 1

I look around the conference room at the Source of the Nile Hotel in Jinja, Uganda. Our team of teachers from the U.S. joins Loretta and Sarah, the two talented Ugandan women who lead HFF's Women's Empowerment program here. This Get HOPE Global Train the Trainer Conference is co-sponsored by Hoffman Family Foundation. Together we pray at each chair for the woman who will sit here. The room is ready for our new friends. Zam, Stella, Charity, Immaculate... Their names are handwritten on folded paper in front of each seat at the table. As we pray, each one is traveling from her

home, leaving her children, business, and other responsibilities to join us for the conference. Loretta and Sarah greet the women when they arrive. They have chosen these women to attend, two from each local Women's Empowerment Program savings group. They are natural leaders who serve in leadership positions. They will join Loretta and Sarah as trainers, co-leaders who will guide their empowerment group through the year long HOPE Business Program. Here, as in other countries where it is used, we hope to watch from the sideline as GHG's tagline "Training that Transforms" is lived out in lives of at-risk women in Uganda over the next year.

Loretta and Sarah escort each attendee to her hotel room and help her understand how to use the things she finds there. I am struck by the differences in our lives. To me, the rooms seem clean but basic. To them, the small air conditioner, hot water heater, and free wi-fi are unfamiliar luxuries.

Many of our conference attendees are strangers to each other as well as to us, since they come from different areas and groups. We can feel a bit of uneasiness in the atmosphere. As I look around the room, weariness is evident on the faces and in the body language of so many of our colorfully clad attendees, dressed up for this occasion. I wonder how early they had to rise and how much work they had to do before I crawled out of my bed this morning. We facilitate introductions and launch into our first session. Julie Melton introduces the idea that growing a business is like planting a garden. It involves planning and prayer, then preparation and prayer, then planting and prayer, etc.



**Day 2**

I am eager to spend the day with new African friends. Already we are friends. I am starting to know them, to learn if they have husbands, children, grandchildren and to share the same information about myself. We find that we are much more alike than we are different. If I pay attention, I will learn at least as much from them as they learn from me. Cassie Kimbriel and I team teach today. We model the lessons and teaching techniques they will use with their own groups. HOPE's Business Program is built around a story. So, today our teaching begins with reading Anna's story directly from the curriculum. It is the story of a struggling young woman whose circumstances

improve as hope grows in her heart. She learns to serve her community with a well-planned business and grows in her relationship with God. We use drama, group brainstorming, discussion, and other participatory teaching techniques to discuss key business concepts, to help them bring the things they learn from Anna's story into their own stories. These are the first steps they and the other women in their group will use to create their own business plans. We follow the curriculum as we teach the Bible lessons that are woven into the business lessons. The first is about hope and God's compassionate care for widows, orphans, and the poor.

**Day 3**

We wrap up our Train the Trainer conference today. Our day begins with a praise song punctuated with joyful ululations. I love the sheer African-ness of it. I am grateful that by coming together, without any of us being less than who we are, we are learning from each other while enjoying our differences. I am forever richer for having lived this moment. The shyness that dominated just two days ago has evaporated. Many of these women now call me "mother", "daughter", "sister". I reciprocate. I am grateful for the deep sense of connection and mutual affection I feel towards them. It is a gift born of their generous openness and hospitality to us. We



laugh as they ham it up, demonstrating what they have learned through presenting group skits of businesses that employ honest business practices in businesses that are needed in the community and are different from other businesses around them. The creativity in these skits is so entertaining. Women from opposite sides of the globe laugh as one. We savor a celebratory cake together, and take pictures of our Train the Trainer graduates proudly wearing their new HFF/Get HOPE Global polo shirts and holding certificates of completion. I am filled with two emotions: hope for these women and the positive impact they will have in their churches, families and communities over the coming years, and gratitude that I had the opportunity to come, to learn, to teach, to love, to be loved, and to be a tiny part of the big things God is doing here.

Beth Ratzlaff, GHG Steering Team

HOPE *at a Glance*

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Our Current Need

New Loan Groups

Following our recent Train the Trainer conference in Uganda, several new business training groups are forming.

These groups will need loans as a hands-on way to practice the skills learned through the training.

The repaid loan money will be used again with future students.

Donate online today!

<https://get-hope-global.org/sponsor-hope-loan/>

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