

New Hope for Children Registered Charity No. 1124015

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Dear Friends,

July 2023

As always we have been busy, busy, busy. At the end of January life definitely stepped up a gear (even further) as we took in almost 40 new children! All of them come from conditions of extreme poverty. Many times, we visit families that have requested help and the children ask us "Can I go with you today!" This is just a reflection on how difficult conditions are. Many are without running water. Some have homemade systems to collect the rainwater and that is what they drink from. Many of the houses are built from recycled rubbish and yet they always offer you something to drink and a "Thank You" is on the tip of their tongues. On returning to our home you can't help but give thanks to God for the toilet, shower, sink, washing machine and of course food to eat.

Many of the new children are going through significant physical and emotional challenges. Two brothers (9 and 4 years old) were among the new arrivals. The younger is unable to speak very clearly as he has a cleft lip and pallet. He has received some medical help and will need more. He gets your attention by shouting sounds at the top of his voice. We are all learning to understand him and asking God's hand over his life. He and several other of our children need more help with speech therapy. Praise God we have been able to make an agreement with a Colombian University who will each week be sending their 5th year students to help our children for free!

We have received a new 5-year-old little girl whose mum tragically died giving birth. She has never had any routine in her life, so it has been a roller-coaster to begin to teach habits such as bathing, using the toilet, brushing teeth, going to school and obeying! On her second day we found out that clothes are going to be a challenge as she takes them all off and runs around naked! Well, that is just not going to work at our house, so the first challenge was to get her to wear clothes. Bit by bit I see that God is restoring these children. With patience, love and hard work we teach the most basic of habits. Please pray that as time goes on, we will see the fruits of our labour and lives that have been transformed forever. And that our little girl keeps covered!

We work very hard to fully restore these little lives so they can be happy, confident and cared for. We develop a personal plan for each one, to make sure we can meet their needs. When they arrive, the families see our homes for the FIRST time. (Some would be willing to give us the children without ever stepping a foot in the foundation. We always tell them – 'Do not trust anyone, always go make sure it is safe first'. They just smile and say, 'everyone knows this is the best place.') After the tour of the buildings, documents are signed, and we ask the parents about special needs, fears, sicknesses or difficulties. Of course, parents are often reluctant to tell you any of these details, for fear we won't take the child. We get medical exams and lab tests done as soon as possible. Children are taken to their assigned house, given a meal, then they get their NEW clothes, shoes, school uniforms, see their new bed, and all the toys. The last thing we do, is give them a big stuffed animal, often they become best friends! Then they meet the FAMILY.... they are happy, happy, HAPPY! Of course this is the Honeymoon stage... then the real hard work begins!

Another 8-year-old little boy came in coughing quietly and trying not to be obvious about it. During the first few days the high fevers began to spike, and we rushed him to the hospital. He had undiagnosed **Chronic Asthma.** He had never received treatment and it could have taken his life. We have been able to get him the help that he needs and can now protect his little lungs from further damage. It is just fantastic to begin to see a life transformed in just a few short days.

One of my absolute favourite things is to be able to go to a dangerous area of the city and receive a child or children and bring them to safety. This was the case for a 15 and a 9-year-old that we have been helping. They lived in one of the drug gang areas of the city. The mum was unable to get out of that area and asked us for help that her children would not end up being forced into that same life. Every day has brought their challenges as they are so far behind in their schooling, and they clearly understand the language of violence. We have taken on the challenge of changing that mind-set and we are beginning to see small improvements. The 15-year-old needed glasses and now he can see clearly, he needed dental work and now he is out of pain, just the initial first steps to changing a life and proving to a teenager that you really care and that he can trust you.

Serving God, Transforming Lives

Trustees: Richard Sanderson, Christine Hodgson, Margaret Swift, David Hodgson



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One of the new 4-year-olds was so excited to arrive. He came running to bring me a present. He told me to shut my eyes and hold out my hand. I happily obliged and he opened his very dirty hand, literally wiping a threequarter melted square of chocolate into the palm of my hand. These are the type of gifts that you receive with a smile on your face, place in your mouth and then silently pray like anything that you don't get an upset stomach! He was so excited to bring this precious gift that he had saved especially, just for me!

Just a few weeks back we went to one of the poorest areas of the city to give out clothes to a very needy community, a neighbourhood called "The Miracle". It was more of a miracle than we had even imagined. We packed 90 donation bags and gave out 75 tickets to needy families. We kept 15 bags in reserve as always more people come, and after the people with tickets had gone through, we gave out 28 bags to people without tickets. We could only think that all the 75 original ticket holders had not come, however when we counted the tickets, we had 75! This meant we had in reality given out 103 bags and we still had 30 leftover in the truck! Praise God we were able to go to another community that we are helping and bless them too! We love it when things like this happen when we can only say it was the Lord!

Jeanene and I have dedicated our lives to **rescue** at-risk children, providing a home, hot nutritious meals, medical attention, an education, and a hope for a brighter future through the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our lives are filled with "daily crisis" however we love our work today as much as the first day. Children's Vision is having its 30th anniversary this year. Many, many moments filled with rescuing tiny children, miracles, hardships, tears, achievements, mistakes and the faithfulness of the Lord.

We know we have "Job Security" for two reasons: Firstly, Jesus said in Mathew 26:11 "You will always have the poor among you" and secondly because no-one wants our jobs!

A "vision" is a dream God places in your heart, that takes a miracle to come true. When God told Jeanene back in 1993 to "write the vision" she did.

The Vision: 5 Children's Homes- Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy House, a School, and a Medical Unit. We never doubted it was possible, but often wondered HOW, it would happen.

Our Mission: Change the destiny of the destitute.

So far, we have faithfully fulfilled the vision and accomplished our mission, apart from the 5th home called Deuteronomy House. (Or 'Dude House' because most of us cannot spell Deuteronomy!) which will be for boys, allowing us to separate the 8 to 11 year olds and 12 to 18+ year olds into different houses. This will be our 5th and final home... And so, it gives me great joy to announce our 30th Anniversary miracle. **One of the Children's Vision US donors has awarded us a grant which will match any money we raise towards the Deuteronomy House!** We were the first to be surprised! We had not made any requests, it all just happened! I know life is difficult for many right now in the UK and I have always been very reserved when mentioning funds, as God knows all our needs, however when God provides a miracle it is because He has a plan. The grant is available until December 2023 so if, between the US and the UK, we were to raise 50% of the funds needed before then, the grant would match this and we would have all the money we need to pay for the final house in full. If you would like to give towards our 5th Home, please let us know that your donation is for the "Dude House". (Please remember we still have a lot of day to day running costs and general funds are needed too.)

Let me take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to David and Jessica from Northern Ireland, a father and daughter team who are doing a 37km hike with over-night camp to raise support for our work. Thank you so, so much. With your permission your funds will be among the first to help match for the new house, thank you for helping our Dudes!

Blessings and Hugs to all,

Richard and Jeanene, Henry and our Big Bogota Family!

For frequent updates follow us on <u>Facebook</u> (@newhope4children), <u>Instagram</u> (@new_hope_for_children) and <u>Twitter</u> (@NewHope4Child). Our regular short video (3 mins or less) update service is available via dropbox. For the link, please contact Christine: <u>info@newhope4childrenuk.org</u> To book a free presentation of our work please contact: <u>lynne@newhope4childrenuk.org</u>

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Supports Children's Vision Bogotá, Colombia

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GENESIS HOUSE







LEVITICUS HOUSE











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DIARY PLANNER ROLE - IMPORTANT NEWS

We would like to say a huge thank you to Ruth Brierley who has been our diary planner for Richard's speaking engagements over the last few years. This is a key position and Ruth decided it was her time to lay down this responsibility. Ruth, a massive thank you from all of us at New Hope for Children for your years of dedicated service and hard work

We would also like to welcome our new diary planners, Lynne and Aaron Johnson, very good friends of mine and long-time New Hope supporters. Some of you will have already spoken with them. Welcome to the team! A huge thank you for taking on this important role. The new diary planner email will be lynne@newhope4childrenuk.org however if you have been writing to the old email, no problem as everything is being redirected to the new account The phone number is the same: 07538 887305



Supports

