

BELL TOWER NEWS

College Hill Presbyterian Church – MID-JULY 2024

513.541.5676 | 5742 Hamilton Ave. | Cincinnati, OH 45224 | chpc.org

DELIVERING GOD'S LOVE KENYA-STYLE

The CHPC 2024 Outreach Trip to Kenya, East Africa provided seven church members some amazing opportunities to learn from and serve others. The "Nairobi Three" — Catherine Sanders, Michael and Jill Gaines—shared life and ministry with CHPC Global Worker Gabe Howard and his family. Gabe teaches English to refugees in Nairobi, the capital city. The "Flex Four"—Kelley Foresman, Barb McMullen, Dave and Maggie Smith—had diverse experiences with other Kenyan ministry partners, mostly outside the city. The two groups shared two apartments near each other and the Howards. All received first-day cultural orientation and last-day debriefing with Gabe.

Monday through Thursday, the Nairobi Three assisted in classes at Iftiin English School and prayed as they walked through the community. They visited students in their homes and a mosque. In the evenings, they received further training from Gabe Howard.

The Flex Four spent Monday with Nimo Kimani in Maasailand at a remote rural school distributing free "Delivering Dignity Kits" (washable feminine care products). The team supported Nimo as she shared about

using and caring for the kits and how they helped the school girls stay in school. Later, the four joined in Maasai-style worship and shared God's Word at Pastor Moses' Zion Baptist Church.

On Tuesday the Four joined sports evangelist Phelix Ochieng and school children in slum areas of Nairobi to share songs and wisdom from Scripture. They experienced first-hand how God can use sports

like soccer to build relationships which open doors for Christian discipleship, and provide fun for kids who have few such opportunities.

Wednesday and Thursday, the Four traveled several hours to a remote Maasai area with "King David" Mulatya to see the "Add-a-Room" project supported by the CHPC's Endowment Fund. (This was the June *Bell Tower News* cover article.)

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THE CHPC KENYA 2024 TEAM MEMBERS EACH EXPERIENCED THE TRIP UNIQUELY. (FRONT ROW) MICHAEL AND JILL GAINES, BARBARA McMULLEN AND MAGGIE SMITH (2ND ROW) KELLEY FORESMAN, CATHERINE SANDERS, DAVE AND PHELIX OCHIENG

A PICTURE IS WORTH...

(CONTINUED FROM THE FRONT COVER)

This project aims to protect adolescent girls who, by tradition, must sleep in the open outside the family home. There they are targets of molestation and rape. “King David” encourages mothers to “add a room” onto the family home. He also offers incentives— a free



mattress and a solar-powered light for protection, and to help girls to do school work after dark.



(LEFT) THIS CHRISTIAN FATHER SAID HOW GLAD HE IS THAT HIS DAUGHTER CAN GROW UP AND GET AN EDUCATION, GOING AGAINST MANY CENTURIES OF HIS OWN CULTURE'S NORMS.

(BELOW) A MAASAI COMPOUND, GOAT HERD, AND CHILDREN.



(ABOVE) MAGGIE SMITH SPOKE AT THE LOCAL SCHOOL ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR THE MAASAI. DAVID SPOKE ABOUT THE VALUE OF BOTH WOMEN AND MEN IN GOD'S KINGDOM.



The Flex Four slept overnight in tents in the Maasai village and ate meals prepared onsite. They met with elders, distributed Delivering Dignity Kits to girls and gifts to the families who had added a room. The team participated in the dedication service for the new rooms, and accompanied “King David” Mulatya as he visited a new *boma* (village enclosure) to select the next sites for mothers to add-a-room.

(FAR LEFT) KELLEY FORESMAN STANDS WITH A SCHOOL GIRL AND HER SISTER OUTSIDE THE ADDED ROOM. (LEFT) THE INTERIOR OF THE ADDED ROOM, A MANYATTA OF MUD, BRANCHES, GRASSES, AND HIDES. THE NEW MATTRESS IS PLACED ON A RAISED FRAME.

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FLEX TEAM MEMBERS EXPERIENCED THE JOY OF CLASSES OF FEMALE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE FREE FEMININE CARE "DIGNITY KITS." KIT USE ALLOWS GIRLS TO STAY IN SCHOOL DURING THEIR MONTHLY PERIOD AND GRADUATE WITH A FUTURE.

MEANWHILE THE NIAROBI THREE worked with Gabriel Howard at the Iftiin Education Centre. *Iftiin* is a Somali word for "light." Through teaching English the team was able to bring the light...to light the students' future and lives. Mike Gaines said, "If the door opened, we had to be ready to share our faith, and we did. Everything they do at the school is done through relationship. In our orientation, a wonderful Muslim man joined us and read from the Koran. Gabe read from the New Testament, making a wonderful back-and-forth.



Respecting the culture is the first step in gaining trust. So, the three team members took an educational tour of a Nairobi mosque to learn more about the religion many of their students hold (PICTURED RIGHT).

(FAR RIGHT) JILL GAINES AND CATHERINE SANDERS DRESSED APPROPRIATELY, HEAD TO TOE, BUT WERE STILL RECOGNIZED AS AMERICANS.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



MAGGIE MET TWO WOMEN WHO MET MARYSUE VERHAGEN & CHRIS ROEDIGER DURING THE 2023 CHPC TRIP TO KENYA.



IN OTHER MAASAI SCHOOLS, NIMO KIMANI OF HAMI IMANI AFRICA MINISTRY SHARES GODLY WISDOM WITH STUDENTS, AND TEACHES ON HEALTH AND RESPECT ISSUES.



PHOTO BY MICHAEL GAINES.

A PICTURE IS WORTH. . .

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Friday's schedule was free and gave time for packing and shopping. Then Saturday, all seven team members served with Phelix at a sports evangelism event by facilitating *Youth Alpha* small groups.

INSIGHTS FROM BOTH TEAMS

Dave Smith: "Our big God showed up incredibly. Our theme verse became: Proverbs 19.21 "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's plans that prevail."

The prayers of the church were palpable as we encountered blessed interactions with King David, Nimo, Gabe and others on their team. I can see why many have placed great trust in them. We found their hearts true for the Lord and efforts persistent, wise, and strategic in their mission.

It's amazing that a congregation like ours is brought together with a small congregation of Kenyans so that God can achieve a huge impact for God's people and his glory."

Jill Gaines noted, "Each day we would pray as we walked around the school's neighborhood. We met people in their shops and some—even young ones—looked like they had given up on life. By contrast, the other English teachers and our students were so welcoming—sharing their life, their culture, their table for hours. To be hospitable is a very big part of the culture."

Barbara McMullen: "In Kenya, there is a level of respect between children and elders. The elders train up the children from a young age, as in Proverbs 3 and Deuteronomy. The principal took us to different classes. I was so impressed with how the children responded with



(ABOVE) HOSPITALITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF AFRICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE. ONE OF THE SOMALI ENGLISH STUDENT'S FAMILY PREPARED DINNER FOR THE "NAIROBI THREE" AND GABE HOWARD. IT WAS A FABULOUS AND LEISURELY FEAST OF CAMEL, GOAT, AND CHICKEN WITH MANY OTHER FRUIT, VEGETABLE, AND RICE DISHES. THERE WERE SEVERAL DESSERTS, INCLUDING WATERMELON.

(RIGHT) ONE OF CATHERINE'S NEW FRIENDS IS A PART-TIME TEACHER AT THE ENGLISH SCHOOL. THE KENYAN SHOWED HER WHERE TO FIND AN ATM TO GET LOCAL CURRENCY.

manners. They were very attentive and responsive to all the adults. They want to be educated. The principal said, 'The teachers come at 6am to pray together for the children. If they misbehave, we pray for wisdom and walk with the children.' These young missionaries are going into places that are not always safe, that have a lot of generational strongholds, so we have to cover them in prayer."

Kelley Foresman: "These [Kenyan workers] are giving their lives. They are tentmakers, but what they live for is to share their faith. Each one prayed before we started every day. we were so covered in prayer... Nimo said, 'Just let the Spirit of the Lord lead you.' So Maggie spoke to the girls, and Barbara spoke, and I spoke. It was just amazing to see the Spirit of the Lord work. What

we shared somehow coordinated together!"

Catherine Sanders:

"The church was so welcoming. Young people are listening. There were so many young men and women there, as well as old, just praising the Lord. The singing was so amazing. It warmed my heart to be a part of it. Don't let age deter you!"



THE TEAM GAINED A WHOLE NEW UNDERSTANDING OF "FINGER FOOD." IN THIS CASE IT'S ETHIOPIAN FARE.



Contact Kelley Foresman or the Global Outreach leadership team (missions@chpc.org) for more trip information or to donate to any of the ministries mentioned.

PRAY FOR, PLAN AHEAD
FOR 2025 TRIP TO HONDURAS

FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO THE DRC—CONGO



YOU CAN GO “HOME” AGAIN



LOOK FOR THIS STORY IN THE AUGUST BELL TOWER NEWS

Jacky Kalubi, her daughter Isabelle, son-in-law Calvin and grandson Trey Harper traveled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to support the ministry providing Dignity Kits to girls in remote areas. They also visited family. The Harpers have never been to DRC but will have memories for a lifetime!

RECOMMENDED BY PASTOR DREW SMITH



GUIDED BY GRACE with Dr. Daniel Bush

“Grace” is a Cincinnati-based radio program uniquely positioned to offer emotional healing, psychological guidance, and spiritual insight. Anchored in the grace of Christ, this show blends on-air teaching, psychotherapeutic conversations, and direct engagement with listeners seeking guidance. It aims to illuminate the path to holistic healing and spiritual growth, all to the glory of God. Principally sponsored by Everglade Psychotherapy Group (<https://everglade.group/>), a Christian counseling practice serving Northern Kentucky and metro Cincinnati, “Guided by Grace” emerges as a vital source of support and transformation in the community.



REV. DR. DANIEL BUSH
MA, PhD, ThM, MDiv, BSci
LPCC-S (KY), LPC (OH), NCC, C-PD
The principal host, Dr. Daniel Bush, stands at the forefront of Christian psychotherapy, integrating disciplines such as psychodynamic psychotherapy, neuroscience, trauma interventions, and the Gospel’s redemptive story.

A licensed professional clinical counselor, nationally certified counselor, and specialist in personality disorders, Dr.

Bush brings over 18 years of pastoral and clinical counseling experience to his listeners. He founded Everglade Psychotherapy Group (<https://everglade.group/>) to further his mission of fostering healing, transformation, personal growth, and a deeper understanding of God’s grace. An accomplished author and adjunct professor, Dan imparts his knowledge and extensive experience to both the public and professionals alike.

After a decade of service in the United States Air Force as a civil engineering officer, Dan pursued theological and pastoral studies, earning a MDiv. and a ThM. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. His commitment to spreading the Gospel and serving communities led him on a five-year mission across Asia and Europe. He earned a PhD in Systematic Theology and acquired a MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Northwestern University and completed a spiritual direction certificate under Dr. Larry Crabb’s ministry. More at <https://everglade.group/guided-by-grace/?>.

WCVX **Christian** ^{Talk}
AM 1160
C I N C I N N A T I

BROADCAST TIME

LIVE: Saturdays 9:00 AM EST

REPLAY: Sundays 7:00 PM EST

WCVX AM 1160

(513) 579-1160



HELP WANTED

7TH GRADERS TO ADULTS

Nikki McKenna and Robyn Russell - Family Ministries

We are excited to announce that our core group of 25 leaders has formed for Connections Camp 2024, and we are well into our planning phase.

We know 25 leaders may sound like a lot; however, the following are areas we are still in need support as:

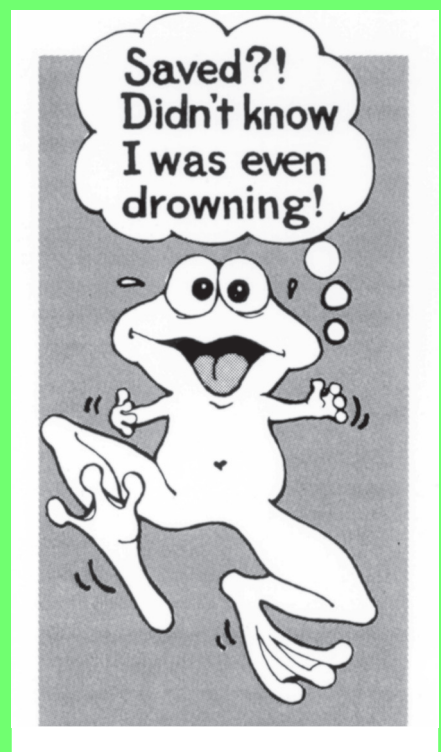
- Lead Teachers— 3 additional
- Teachers' Aides—6 additional
- Providing snacks team— 2 additional
- Games & activities team—2 additional
- Running the camp store—1 additional
- Storyteller(photographer)—1 additional
- Registration— 1 additional.

Prayerfully consider joining us for this exciting week of discipleship and fun where students will deepen their relationship with God, participate

in out-of-the-ordinary fun activities, develop a sense of wonder, gain more knowledge about Scripture and its application, and develop a posture of helpfulness and kindness toward others. This is also where we as leaders, can advocate for very real needs in our community and beyond.

Please visit chpc.org/GetOnTheCase today to register and be one of the leaders that leaves your fingerprints on the lives of our “detectives” on the Case.”

Connections Camp set-up days are July 15th-18th (12 to 3 PM) and July 19th (10AM to 5 PM). ALL are welcome to join ANYTIME during the days listed! *PRAY FOR CAMP!*



PRAY for the CHPC Swimming Ministry

Mornings —10 AM, 11 AM, 12 Noon
 Week #1 July 15-19;
 Week #2 July 29-Aug. 2

Adult lessons

6-7 PM Week A July 8-12;
 Week B July 22-26

The **ONLINE BROCHURE** is available at www.chpc.org/swim

PRAY FOR KATY VERHAGEN-WILSON, the new administrator.

Have an idea for Bell Tower News? Feedback? Have something to submit or a photo of an event? Request an article about _____, or more by a particular writer? Contact the BTN Editor, Sam Stare, 513-382-5902 or email starecvg@aol.com.

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE WORLD ASKED ORDINARY MEN TO DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.

BAND OF BROTHERS

That time is now! Exciting men's fellowship. Bible study and discipleship. 1st & 3rd Thursdays, 6:15 AM. Worth getting up! CHPC Fireside Room and Zoom.com. Info? Barry Stare, bzuthr@me.com.



This 4-day Summer Day Camp is designed for children ages 3-8

WHEN: From 9 AM to 12:15 PM
 Mon., July 29th through
 Thurs., Aug. 1st
 WHERE: In the 3C's Wing of the
 CHPC Learning Center
 COST: \$70/first child
 \$10 discount for each additional
 sibling (\$60, \$50, \$40). Discount
 is calculated at bottom of form.
 Children must have emergency
 information on file before
 attending the 3Cs' Camp.
 FULL PAYMENT IS DUE AT
 REGISTRATION. Cancellations
 before May 31st will receive a refund
 less any processing fees.



When Jesus heard [that his cousin John the Baptist had been beheaded by Herod], he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Matthew 13a (NIV)

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY EXPERIENCE

Sunday, June 23, CHPC's Youth Ministry collaborated with Living Hope Counseling Services to attend a showing of the Pixar Animated film *Inside Out 2*. The film was followed by a lunch discussion with a group of teens (13-18 year olds) and leaders. The film tells the story of the main character, Riley, and Riley's emotions. The producers consulted psychologists to accurately portray how teenagers' emotions change during puberty, while also enlisting a group of teenagers to accurately portray modern teenage life.



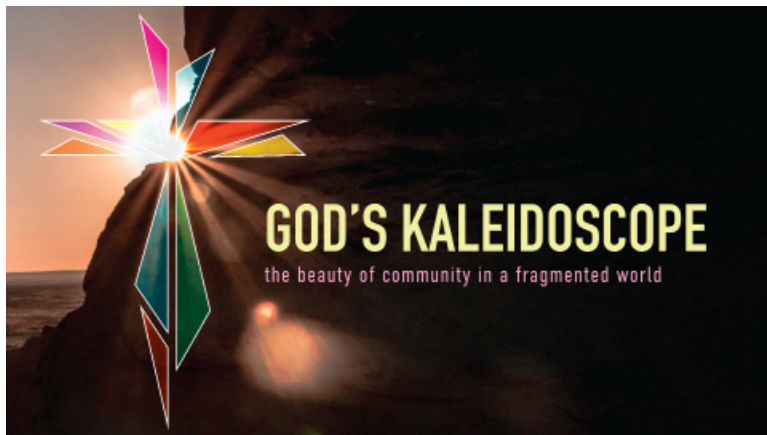
I was visiting a young woman last week who talked about her "coping mechanism being crack cocaine." She said it in such a matter-of-fact manner. It's been on my mind ever since. It seems so obvious that using crack is probably not a good idea, and yet what coping mechanism is healthy? Jesus went off by himself to pray and be with his father when he needed to cope. I've chosen to ask for help sometimes or turned to music or to journaling to sort out some mess in which I find myself. All too often I choose food or isolation or pity – not healthy choices for me. I wonder how we might become more aware of our coping choices and more courageous in what we choose.

Almighty God, sometimes our boat feels so small and the waters so big. I want to handle it myself – even make you proud of me. Yet, our Lord Jesus didn't handle it by himself. He turned to you for direction and comfort. He's probably the one who could have figured it out himself, and he didn't do it that way. Guide us, merciful Father, to cope the way Jesus did and come to you early and often. Meet us when we come and help us ask for comfort and then receive the comfort you provide. We need you so, Lord God. *In Jesus, Amen.*

— CHRISTY ROEDIGER

YOUTH GRIEF GROUP —This summer another partnership with Living Hope Counseling Services (LHCS) is providing therapy for a group of teens who have experienced a traumatic loss such as a sudden death of a loved one or an anticipated

death that is causing emotional, mental, or physical symptoms. The group meets on Tuesdays (1:30-3:00 PM) from June 18-July 31. The group meets in room 205. For more information call Jeanne at LHCS, (513) 371-5135 or email Robyn Russell at rrussell@chpc.



Preaching in JULY

BY Rev. Dr. Andrew Smith, Pastor

God has created the Church as a unified group committed to following Jesus in all areas of life and sharing his love and truth with the world. Now, unity does not mean uniformity, and agreement about Jesus does not mean we agree on everything. We will disagree about music style, politics, and favorite foods—to name a few. The first-century church had significant quarrels—just read I Corinthians.

However, Paul charges us not to divide because Jesus is more important than all the other issues. So, how do we live out this grand unity? This summer, we will explore the tools of being God's Kaleidoscope—a beautiful community reflecting God in a fragmented world.

We believe that the power of the cross has destroyed what divides us, and the power of the Spirit will strengthen us and demonstrate Jesus' powerful love, which binds us together. Even in an election season that has become so partisan and

divisive, Jesus unites us. What an exciting time to show the world how powerful God's love in Jesus is.

July 7 Hills to Die On—

I John 4, 5
What are the elements of a

faith that are worth fighting for? The Scriptures do warn us about false teachers who come to pull us away from following Jesus. How do we define the issues that are non-negotiables? How do we discern wolves that are in sheep's clothing?

July 14 Clarity of Conviction—

Romans 14, Proverbs 20:5
We want to be sure that we hold strongly to the essentials of the faith. We also want to be sure that we understand what are personal convictions that may differ with others who are fellow Jesus followers. Understanding the basis of our personal convictions allows us to hold them loosely and not be divided by secondary issues.

July 21 Growing in Christ Through It All —Romans 8:28

God's plan through all of life is to help each of us mature into Christlikeness. We don't all become the same in Christ; we all become uniquely who God has created us to be. The disagreements and challenges of life are used to purify

us in the power of the Holy Spirit.

July 28 Having Different Convictions — Proverbs 18:17

How do others come to their personal convictions? How do we learn to listen well and understand with clarity the essence of our disagreement and then follow Jesus together because he is most important of all.

ABOUT the JUNE 30 SERMON: "You have changed. I never will"

What a great message from Nikki



McKenna, the CHPC Family Ministries Director! If you didn't hear it, you can check it and other Sunday Sermons out by going online to CHPC.org and

click on SERMONS. In her first Sunday sermon at CHPC, Nikki celebrated God's faithfulness in her life. She was very specific about challenging situations. God never changes and He does lead us into positive transformation for our own good.

Take a moment now to reflect on your life. When were some difficult life situations—losing a job, failing a test, relationship explosions, illness, loss, or moral failure. How have you experienced God showing up for you? How did God take what was bad, broken, and fragmented and make it whole? God is not only making us a kaleidoscope; God is making you a kaleidoscope, too.

JUDGING RIGHTLY

In our summer Kaleidoscope series, we have encountered numerous reminders not to judge one another. (Rom. 14:10-13, Matt. 7:1-5, James 4:11,12, Rom. 2:1-3, and John 8:7. But, some of you may wonder, "Aren't

there times we do need to judge?"

As a member of the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO), we have a guide—*Essential Tenets*—a core understanding of what God teaches us in the Bible. CHPC's staff and ordained leaders must agree to follow these guidelines in all

of life and church leadership. These serve as a guideline for the pastors, elders, and deacons to judge rightly by what we agree are God's directions for us as a church. If you would like to read them, Google "ECO Constitution." You will find it an excellent aid for "judging rightly."