



Esther's Hope News Bulletin-Volume 2: Issue 7- July 2018

Dear Friend of Esther's Hope Ministries,

2019 Mission Trip: Kenya News



We are excited to announce that plans are underway for our 2019 mission trip to Kenya. God continues to lead EHM into places and circumstances we ourselves would never dream of (**Proverbs 3:5-6**).

Leap of Faith: We are grateful for two new ministry partners from the USA and The Netherlands who are taking a major leap of faith and saying, "Yes, I will go. Send me!" Jesus reminds his followers that: ***"no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields--along with persecutions--and in the age to come eternal life (Mark 10: 29b-30)."***

You can change the life of a girl in Africa: Send her to High School for \$420.00 per year (or \$35.00 per month). To learn more visit-esthershopeministries.net or call 616.635.7993 to speak with us.

Our mission partners, **Jill and Nellie**, are traveling to Kenya for the first time, driven by the desire to share their faith and see the young girls we serve come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. ***Please join us in committing the 2019 trip to the Lord. We can do nothing without him (Proverbs 16:3).***

The Team



Jill and Joan discussing the 2019 itinerary

Jill: My name is Jill Oosterman. I was born and raised in Grandville, Michigan. I attended several churches in my area throughout my life but have now returned to Forest Grove CRC. I have my own business producing utility bills mostly for mobile home communities.

I remember as a child in Sunday School talking about the children of Africa and the different mission fields there. One missionary that stood out particularly for me was Johanna Veenstra. I recall a project

notebook based on her ministry and the verse from **Isaiah 6:8: “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? “Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”** When I was introduced to Rev. Joan last year, I knew immediately that I wanted to be involved in her vision and dream for the girls of Kenya. I was blessed with parents that sacrificed to give me an excellent education and as a result, the opportunities I enjoy today. I honestly thought that my involvement would be funds and prayers, except the Lord had other plans and He has put on my heart to go to Kenya and to meet these young ladies personally. To my surprise I find myself saying “Here I am. Send me!” I want these girls to know that in addition to caring about their education and future, there are Christian women around the world who also care about them personally and their relationship with Jesus.

His ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:9): Last year, the Lord moved Nellie back into my life after 40 years. In our teenage years, we had grown up as neighbors in Grandville, Michigan, before Nellie moved away to the Netherlands. In 2017, I had the opportunity to visit and stay with her in Amsterdam. She is a woman of strong faith that the Lord has placed in my life for such a time as this. When I learned the trip would take us through Amsterdam, where Nellie now lives, and with her background in teaching and heart for Jesus, I knew she would be a wonderful partner in this mission. I invited her to partner with EHM in this part of God’s vineyard, and she said, “Yes!”



Nellie: My name is Nellie van der Veen and I was born and raised in Grand Rapids and Grandville, Michigan. At the age of 18, I immigrated to the Netherlands. My

parents are Dutch, and they decided to move our family back to their homeland. I am both Dutch and American.

I am a grade school teacher at a Christian school in the town Assen in the northern part of the Netherlands.

I attend a church called “De Rank” which means “The Vine,” a reference to John 15. To me it is a beautiful name. The most important thing to me is to be connected to my heavenly Father.

I have been active in our church as a youth counselor and have taught children in Sunday school. I am drawn to the mission of Esther’s Hope because I love the fact that girls are chosen to get an education. I am so excited about being a part of this mission. I don’t know who the quote is from, but it goes something like: ***“Educate a boy and he will do well. Educate a girl and she will teach the coming generation her wisdom.”*** An educated girl can save the following generations of her family from poverty but even more important is that Esther’s Hope Ministries teaches the girls about Jesus, and how they can have a relationship with God.

Praise Report



Now, take a moment to thank God with us as we rejoice in what he has done.

- Thank God for his overarching grace and favor on his work through EHM.
- Thank God for the budding EHM mission team.
- Thank God, for a generous donor who is paying for all the air tickets to Kenya.
- Thank God for Sister Rahab, in Nairobi, who hit the ground running and has been a great help already handling logistics for travel and accommodation.

Prayer Request

- Pray that God's hand will be at the center of everything EHM does.
- Pray for the eight students who are eligible to graduate from high school in 2018.
- Pray for everything to fall into place for our October 18th fundraiser.

If you wish to learn more about EHM, contact us at:

Email: info@estershopenministries.net **Telephone:** 616-635-7993

OR

**P.O Box 150138
Grand Rapids, MI 49506**

Esther's Hope relies on your faithful giving. Donate online on our secure giving app or by check payable to: Esther's Hope Ministries

Our Mission: To demonstrate the love of God by providing the hope of Jesus Christ to underprivileged young women in Africa. EHM changes the destinies of these young women by providing them with a Life-Enhancing and Life-Giving worldview for such a time as this.

Estershopenministries.net