



Whirlwind Missions

Outreach Update

November 2007

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Hello, my friends!

Let me introduce you to my partner. She was raised in a Christian home the sixth child of a Southern Baptist preacher. Her dad was pastor of a large church in Atlanta who also started work in one of the roughest multi-housing areas in the city—Techwood.

She graduated from Lakeside High School and left Atlanta to follow her call into full-time Christian service by studying at Columbia Bible College. Her best friend at CBC was from India. My partner LOVES internationals! After two years, she returned to Atlanta to finish her degree at Mercer University.

After graduating, she joined the Journeyman program—a two year foreign assignment with the International Mission Board. She was originally commissioned to go to Brazil to teach missionary children, but she never got her visa. Fortunately for me, the board asked her to consider an assignment in Kenya, East Africa—which she accepted.

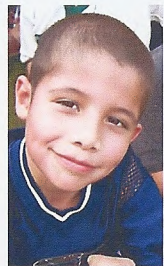
In 1982 I had returned to Kenya to visit my parents and help my Dad with disaster relief projects including digging wells and providing drought resistant corn. A knock on the door of our house in Nakuru was the first time I met my future wife, Kathy! She was super athletic (she still rides her bike 5 miles around Stone Mountain every day!) and strikingly beautiful!

We had a wonderful romance in Kenya. Not all the missionaries thought it was a good idea for her to hang out with this crazy Missionary Kid—me! I was in a transitional time in my life. I had begun to doubt my childhood beliefs. Kathy is one of the strongest Christians I know. She told me, “You might have a problem with organized religion, but what do you have against JESUS? Read the Gospels. See what HE said. Or, I just don’t see our relationship going anywhere otherwise.” I was completely in love and decided that reading the Bible again probably was a good idea. Her encouragement completely changed my life. She was the missionary I NEEDED.

I returned to the States to start work and save money for seminary. Kathy finished her assignment in Kenya and returned to my waiting arms six months later. Soon we moved up to Fort Worth, Texas to begin our training at Southwestern. In 1985 we were married and a couple of years later we received our Master’s degree—Kathy’s in Religious Education and mine in Communication Arts.

From Texas we moved to Atlanta, Georgia—Kathy’s home. I worked at GPTV while she worked at a local day care center—Kathy LOVES children—and they love her! From Atlanta we spent five years in Savannah where I was the Chief Photographer/Field Producer for WTOG-TV and Kathy gave birth to our two beautiful children: Ashley and Jesse. We were also active at the Savannah Baptist Center where we worked with the apartment dwellers around the church.

We were commissioned by the International Mission Board to work as Media Missionaries in Rwanda in 1993. We moved to France to study French and watched Rwanda be destroyed every morning on TV. The IMB decided that we should move to Kenya instead.



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Tim A. Cummins #5993 Ashley Cummins #9064

Later we also worked in S. Africa, Zimbabwe, and Madagascar. Moving around constantly (6 countries and 17 moves in 4 years!) took its toll on us emotionally and physically. Our son was diagnosed as having an infection in his ear that could kill him so we moved back to the USA so he could receive treatment.

Whether working with Algerian soccer players in Zimbabwe, Kikuyu coffee pickers in Kenya or widows and orphans in Madagascar, Kathy's love for people and warm, caring attitude drew others to her. My wife has people that love her all over the world!

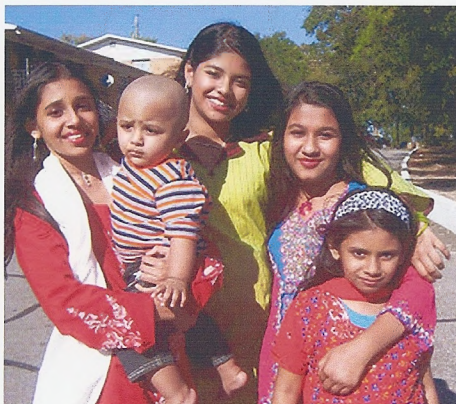
We returned from Africa to Atlanta where we joined her Dad's church in Doraville. I met my mentor Sam Bandela who encouraged me to work with the International population here in the USA. I became the Outreach Director for the Chamblee-Doraville Ministry Center and Kathy began working as a substitute teacher in Dekalb County. Later, she also became a teacher at Dekalb Tech where she taught English as a Second Language to students literally from around the world. We were also appointed as a couple to the North American Mission Board in 1997.

In 2005 her Dad passed away and her 81 year old mother Nell came to live with us. I guess you could call Kathy a "Mama's girl," because she was totally dedicated to making sure that her Mom's last days were full and happy. It was a challenging year for us. Kathy and I are very spontaneous people. It was hard to make sure we were always available in case her mom needed help. Nell went to be with the Lord this summer. Now Kathy faced the challenge of what to do next—go back to teaching school?

Kathy is the best missionary I've ever worked with. Our board encouraged Kathy to come with Ashley and me to New York City to participate in the National Multi-Housing Association conference. That helped focus her call to missions on the challenge of our apartment communities. She came back with a renewed passion and began leading an English class with the Bengali mothers in our community at Azalea, helping Ashley with her kids at Kensington station and working with a Honduran family in Clarkston.

In October our board at Whirlwind Missions asked Kathy to join Ashley and I as a staff person. Nothing could make me happier! Her enthusiasm for missions and the families she works with is contagious.

You play a part in this too! We brought Kathy on board in faith. We believe that God will support her call financially. As one of my pastor friends says, "We live by faith, but we live on money." He's right! People support our ministry because they believe in what we're doing. Please consider raising your support to help us keep terrific missionaries like my wife Kathy on the field! THANKS!!






Whirlwind Missions

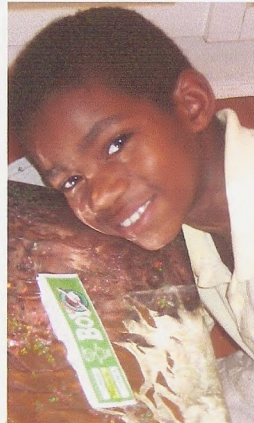
Ashley's Dispatch

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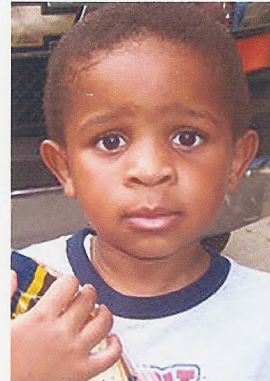
I pulled through the dark iron gate and drove down the hill. I took a right at the bubbling fountain and pulled my car into my usual spot under the shade trees. I walked across the oil stained parking lot downstairs to the mission. From the back closet I pulled out eight shoe boxes and laid them along with ruby red wrapping paper, safety scissors and tape on the green tablecloth. Today is our service project day. We're packing the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.




The kids ran in very excited and headed straight towards the boxes. I told them that today we're going to be missionaries and we're sending toys to kids around the world. "WOW! That's cool!" Some kids said. One girl asks, "How they are going to get the presents?" I told them all that the presents travel by boats, airplanes and maybe even camels. They are enthusiastic and ready to start.




It definitely was the first time these kids had ever wrapped anything. The boxes were pretty mangled. I swooped in to help. It was fun to work side by side with their little hands helping me hold down the paper as I bit off some tape.



Once we'd all finished wrapping I went back to the closet and drug out a heavy duty trash bag full of trinkets and goodies. This really gets the kids attention! They scrambled over fighting to stick their hands in first. After each child is satisfied with their treasures and have packed them into the shoeboxes we all gathered on the wood floor to pray over our gifts.



It's a beautiful sight when, before I even tell them what to do or say, a few already have their hands crossed and heads bowed, whispering passionately for the kids in other countries. We have a group prayer. The kids lay their hands on their boxes praying for it to arrive safely and for the other kids to really enjoy it and know that Jesus loves them. Then everyone's dismissed to go play at the park. As I'm picking up the scraps of colourful paper I thought to myself, "Our first mission project was pretty successful! I wonder what our next one should be?" Isn't it great to see kids in need helping other kids?



Please keep the Kensington Station Kids in your prayers during the Holidays and check out my blog at www.walkingbrain.org!



god ashley! ♡