

Hope Notes

Program updates and highlights for the friends, supporters, and partners of World Hope International

A young girl with dark hair is smiling and holding a baby. The baby is looking towards the camera and has its hand near its face. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with greenery.

*Your
compassionate
support provides
opportunity for hope
to flourish across
the globe. Read about
how individuals and
communities are being
transformed through
World Hope
programs.*

Learn and read about how partners, supporters and friends of World Hope continue to bring opportunity, dignity, and hope to individuals and communities around the world in these areas:

- ▶ WHI's expansion of three partner schools in Liberia
- ▶ A Teen's Journey into the Jungle
- ▶ How ecotourism is benefiting communities in Cambodia
- ▶ Life-saving medicines for pregnant mothers and children in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Haiti
- ▶ Enable the Children program's impact on fathers
- ▶ The growing scourge of human trafficking
- ▶ How we're supporting and caring for survivors of OSAEC (Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children)
- ▶ What NEW well drilling rigs mean to West Africans
- ▶ How Andrew and Amy Bautz funded The Betteh Bakery through a family business



Back to School: It's Not Just About Education

By Jennifer Jones, WHI Content Contributor

World Hope's programs are focused on keeping children safe—from drilling clean water wells that protect them from being preyed upon while carrying water to their homes, to teaching children and parents how to safeguard against online sexual abuse and exploitation.

But there is one tried-and-true way to help ensure the safety of a child—keep them in school. That is why this year World Hope is putting a strong emphasis on our Child Sponsorship programs in Haiti, Liberia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Zambia.

“For every 1,500 children sponsored, approximately 6,000 children reap the priceless benefit of school supplies, backpacks and uniforms, and even cooking oil and rice for their families, to ensure that children do not go to school hungry,” says Tara Kram, Director of Child Sponsorship. “Where and when possible, World Hope also offers programs to teach parents and



LET'S BUILD BETTER

with clean water,
energy solutions, and
disaster response

2 WORLD HOPE INTERNATIONAL



LET'S HEAL TOGETHER

through medical
and health care
services



children how to protect themselves from abuse and human trafficking.”

Liberia School Expansion

On the West Coast of Africa, between Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone, World Hope partners with the Wesleyan School System in Liberia. The Child Sponsorship program supports more than 840 students in three partner schools. But these schools are limited due to resources that now only reach the primary education level. This puts young children, who must leave school after the primary level, at risk of child labor, early pregnancy, and trafficking. A recent UNICEF report on education in Liberia, states, “[Liberia] has one of the world’s highest levels of out-school children, with an estimated 15 to 20 percent of 6–14 year-olds who are not in class.”

WHI has an ambitious plan to expand all three schools, reduce drop-out rates, protect children from child labor and trafficking, and improve communities by

increasing graduation rates. But we can only do that with your help.

Supporting World Hope’s Child Sponsorship program provides huge benefits with only a small investment of \$40 per month. To put that into perspective, in the U.S. \$40 buys you approximately



1 box of 40 brand-name K-cups for your morning coffee.



2 movie tickets, popcorn, and a drink at the local theater.



3 ten pound bags of birdseed at a national home store chain.

If you have a heart for children and understand the critical importance of keeping them in school, learn more at WorldHope.org/Sponsor-a-Child to see how you can help protect these children by offering them access to a safe, quality education.



LET'S STAND WITH EACH OTHER



to educate and
protect the most
vulnerable



A Teen's Journey of Discovery

By Lucy Beatty

To be honest, I didn't even want to go to the Jahoo Ecotourism Camp in Cambodia [known as THE ecotourism destination in Cambodia] when my parents told me I was going with them. One, bugs terrify me. Two, I hate humidity and hot weather. AND three, I've never been very interested in nature.

I've always known that my mom, Heather, is an avid supporter of World Hope International, and I also know she sits on their Board of Directors, which I think is awesome. And she's traveled to different countries to help people. I am in awe of everything she and World Hope do! I had always wanted to learn more about it at some point, but it was "in the way distant future" not the here and now. So, at 15, I never thought I would travel

across the world on a 15-hour plane ride to experience it for myself.

But in May 2023, I stepped onto that plane to accompany my Mom and Dad to the Jahoo Camp and off we went. Initially, I was not thrilled. However, while my fears—mainly of bugs — was understandable, none of them outweighed the importance and significance of what I knew I was going to be able to learn and experience while there. This tour took us to the very heart of Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary where we got to join wildlife experts and indigenous guides to experience endangered primates, Bunong culture, and the stunning rainforest.

The Bunong people live near a forest that no one owns, so to protect that land, it was



decided that no one would take more than they needed — and there would also be no deforestation. As a community, they value the beauty of nature and have an unusual sense of sacred unity, which was clear to me from the moment we arrived at the camp and were introduced to everyone, including the Bunong and the Jahoo staff. That first night I laid down in my bamboo room with an open roof to be greeted by millions of twinkling stars and the euphonious noises of nature that aided in sweeping me away to sleep.

We woke the next morning before the sun and headed into the seemingly illimitable forest. We walked on a deep brown path, and at every turn, climb, and descent, proud and strong trees looked down on us. As we hiked through the alluring and enchanting forest, music surrounded us as birds chirped, frogs croaked, and bugs whistled. While I couldn't decipher the sounds like our tour guides, who were able to call out exactly what creature was singing, I could tell that I was hearing the charming beauty of nature's melody. I inhaled the rainforest's sweet and refreshing earthly smells.

That's when it happened: I heard a velvety rich note from the distance, rising in pitch, creating tension and suspense until it reached the climax of a shrill high-pitched note. It was a gibbon ape's call—and we were nearly upon it.

Our tour guides found a spot for us where we could see the small apes (who look like monkeys but are part of the ape family). I quickly grabbed for my binoculars to get a close-up look at a golden female. She was extremely fluffy, and she sat on a tree branch, sunbathing, while eating her breakfast. Soon after, two little gibbons came following her. The baby gibbons were fluffy balls of energy that swung from branch to branch, not slowing for a moment. This was something that few people in the world have experienced. As that realization hit me, the rest of the world seemed to fade away and we all fell silent and just watched.

The next day we went to a small village and attended a Bunong church that was packed with people. As I listened to the children, youth, men, and women all worshipping God together, I couldn't understand the words, but it was clear they had all been touched by the love of God and they sang sincere praise from their hearts.

As I sat there listening to the singing, just like I had watched and waited with the gibbons, I pondered everything I had seen and heard in the past 32 hours. Had I been terrified of traveling 15 hours away from my home? Yes. But I realized God hasn't called us to live in our comfort zone. I thought of the Jahoo staff, many of whom had to leave their own country to work there, and of the Bunong people who have embraced Christianity. I learned that, as humans, we will never grow nor become closer to God if we don't willingly accept and face the challenges He gives us with courage.

While I may still have an unhealthy fear of bugs (I run away from bumblebees daily!), I learned from travelling to Jahoo and meeting with the Bunong people that my life will only be fulfilling—and I will only be able to grow closer to God—if I learn to look challenges head-on. And when I step out of my comfortable life, God will be right there with me as I walk down my own path of unexpected but rich experiences waiting around the bend, whether in a far-away jungle forest or right here in my hometown.



FAST FACT

The Bunong people are the largest indigenous ethnic group in Cambodia numbering approximately

47,000



Donate Today:
[WorldHope.org/give](https://www.WorldHope.org/give)

HEAL *Together*



Medical and health care services

Learning to Love — One Father at a Time

By Jennifer Jones, WHI Content Contributor



As most parents will tell you, children should come with instruction manuals! Being a first-time mom or dad can be overwhelming even with the best support network by your side.

Imagine what it is like for parents living in cultures where parenting instructions are often based on superstitions that have been passed down for generations. This occurs in countries such as Sierra Leone where mainly fathers (and occasionally mothers too) are not emotionally free to love their disabled child because they have been taught that the child is a witch or a devil.

That's why World Hope is working diligently to educate and re-envision what it means to be a caring father and parent. Through Enable the Children (ETC), Radio Fry Fry and other programs we engage in and support, families and entire communities are being transformed! Men are learning about and accepting inclusive ways of thinking and are seeing their children with disabilities in an entirely new light.

These men are to be celebrated for being brave enough to stand up for their disabled children and their spouses to embrace a new definition of what it means to be a loving father.

It was because of long-held superstitions that seven-year-old Sorie was abandoned by his parents and the community that he was born into. Sorie was born with Down Syndrome and labeled "demon-possessed" because of his features and delayed development. His family took him to a traditional healing ceremony in the middle of the forest in western Sierra Leone and left him to die. "But God, in his mercy, performed a miracle, and Sorie started to crawl back to the main part of the village," reported ETC Family Support Worker Bernicy Kallon.

For the past eight years ETC has been supporting Sorie and the family. Now 15, Sorie has learned to walk, attends school, and was introduced to a local tailor who taught him to sew. To further support

Sorte, ETC was able to purchase a sewing machine for him!

The prejudices and beliefs parents hold are ingrained and can continue for generations. The ETC staff perform their work through inclusive and welcoming educational opportunities, not vilifying the parents for believing what their upbringing and culture has taught them. One of the ways ETC does this is at family meetings where dads of disabled children gather together. At a recent meeting, 76 men attended, and after learning more about medical conditions that can cause

disabilities — many stopped believing their child was a witch or a devil.

Through ETC's Father's Meetings and other efforts, we're able to promote life, hope, and healing. As a result, men and entire communities are listening, learning, and creating a new way of loving and living for themselves and their families now and for generations to come.



Donate Today:
WorldHope.org/give

Saving Lives Through Medicine Distribution

World Hope International (WHI) has partnered with MAP International, a non-profit health organization, to secure approximately \$10 million worth of life-saving medicines. These medicines are destined for over 40 health clinic networks in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and LaGonâve Hospital in Haiti, starting in August.

The catch? While the medicines themselves are donated, the challenge lies in arranging their transport, which comes with a price tag of \$500,000. This critical transportation cost must be raised to ensure that more than 3 million treatments reach families in need across three countries.

The impact of these medicines cannot be underestimated. They can mean the difference between a healthy pregnancy and an unhealthy one. They can be the lifeline for children, curing them with a few doses of antibiotics that we often take for granted in the developed world.

For every dollar you give, it will be matched by \$20. Please go to WorldHope.org today and be someone's lifeline!

FAST FACT

Medicines for low resource countries like Sierra Leone, Haiti, and Liberia will meet critical needs and can be the difference between a life saved or lost.



STAND WITH

Each Other



Education and protection programs

Trafficking Recovery Programs Help Survivors and Families Heal & Hope Again

By Adesty Dulawan, WHI Trafficking in Persons Clinical Supervisor

The family unit is typically thought of as a source of strength and stability, a protective place where children thrive and where our very identity is formed at an early age.

That is why betrayal by a family member, especially during childhood, cuts to our very core, causing the deepest pain and hurt imaginable. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened to siblings Angel, Lark, and Kay*.

Living in a country notorious for trafficking of children—the Philippines—the three children were harmed by the one person they assumed loved them the most—their mother. It started with Angel, who was only five years old at the time when she became a victim of Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) by her biological mother, who sold images

and videos of her to foreign sexual predators. Because her sister Lark was two years old and considered to be at considerable risk of being victimized, and Kay was still in her mother's womb, authorities moved in quickly.

"I was very young then and I did not understand what was happening. I was very fearful because suddenly there were police officers at our house. I was scared because I was handed over to strangers, social workers I just met!" recounts Angel of the day of her rescue in 2018.

When children are ripped from their homes, siblings and parents, it can feel like a second victimization. In fact, the family unit crumbled after the rescue operation. Their pregnant mother was incarcerated, Angel and Lark were brought to a residential facility for protec-



FAST FACT

1 IN 5:

2 million children were victims of OSAEC in 2021 in the Philippines alone.



Donate Today:
WorldHope.org/give

research. A core piece of the program is rebuilding the family to facilitate full recovery.

The Long Road to Recovery

The path toward healing is never linear because of the complexity of the victimization experience within families. When abuse and exploitation happen within the home, the journey to recovery is an arduous one. In fact, it was later learned that the children's mother was a child victim herself of OSAEC.

WHI has served almost 300 OSAEC-impacted families in the country with its comprehensive reintegration program. Part of that work includes empowering non-perpetrating family members to mitigate adverse impacts of the family disruption to the children.

WHI is courageously taking this stance because we believe that God's heart for children is for them to grow in stable families as part of the overall healing process. We understand that a nurturing and supportive family environment is key to helping children and families recover and thrive. WHI seeks to break the cycle of exploitation and create opportunities for these children to flourish and reach their full potential.

We need your help and support to reach more children to support them through recovery and give each precious one a future filled with dignity and hope. Please consider supporting WHI programs today.

**Names have been changed to protect identities*

tive custody and later separated, and the 19-year-old biological father was left confused and helpless on how to handle the tragedy. The family disintegration caused emotional distress to all family members.

Livestreamed child sexual abuse and exploitation, a form of OSAEC, harms millions of innocent children worldwide annually while breaking their families apart.

Because it is an emerging child trafficking form, largely facilitated by family members, in 2017 World Hope International started an anti-trafficking program in the Philippines to strengthen the systems for comprehensive care of OSAEC survivors.

WHI focuses on enhancing the capacity of aftercare service providers, mental health support for the recovery of child survivors, community awareness, and impactful



ANDY & AMY BAUTZ

Family Business Sponsors Bakery in Sierra Leone

By Andy Bautz

Amy, me, and our five kids currently reside in Cave Creek, Arizona, after spending most of our lives in northeast Indiana.

My immediate and extended family partnered with WHI to sponsor the Betteh Bakery in Sierra Leone through a family business called Slingshot, which was formerly known as Tree of Life Bookstores. Our family deeply cares about sustainability and empowering people to gain dignity and community, and ultimately meet Jesus. It has been an honor to see the women of the bakery grow, innovate, and experience life change. And it was a special way to get connected with WHI in an entrepreneurial manner.

This led Amy and I to attend WHI's President's Weekend two years ago in Southern Georgia. We were hesitant at



first to go, but so thankful we did! We fell more deeply in love with the heart and mission of WHI, the donor family, the leadership, and most of all, the teams all over the world fulfilling the great commission in a myriad of ways.

We were deeply convicted to support and advocate towards the initiative to reduce infant mortality and premature deaths in children under the age of five in Sierra Leone. We could not sit by after

seeing the need and trying to make sense of what life would be like without our 5-year-old girl at home. If we could help support WHI on the ground to help families see their kids beyond their 5th birthday, we wanted to help.

This past year we were blessed to attend WHI's Vision Summit in South Carolina. We had high expectations and again we were blown away by what God is doing in and through WHI. From Radio FRY FRY in Sierra Leone to hospital improvements in Haiti to aggressive plans to reduce childhood sex trafficking overseas, we again felt called to action.

In our two years of getting connected with WHI, we have found that we have been more blessed than we could ever imagine. The WHI family is a passionate, loving, welcoming, and warm representation of God's church. Each member has a desire to see the least of these served and cared for as Jesus would.

We are more than honored to have been welcomed with open arms and included in the great mission God has given us to be Christ to the world. We loved hearing stories of how those associated with World Hope overseas felt like they were going 'to the place where GOD is!'

From the women of the Betteh Bakery to those fighting sex trafficking or drilling wells, WHI is actively making a people-centric impact across the globe. We appreciate how WHI stays true to their focus, their mission, and cares about a grassroots approach to sustainability. Two years ago, Amy and I would have doubted the impact we could have across the globe. But God has done some amazing and miraculous things! If He can use us, He can use you too. Take the leap and join the family and partner with us to keep life-changing work happening across the globe.

We love our World Hope Family, and we pray for immeasurably more to continue to unfold in Jesus' name!



Revolutionizing Clean Water Access: NEW Water Drilling Rig to Transform Communities in West Africa!

In Freetown, Sierra Leone, during the first weekend of November 2023, World Hope International (WHI) will gather in celebration as the NEW water drilling rig arrives! This commemorates a significant achievement: the accomplishment of drilling over 1,000 wells in Sierra Leone and Liberia over the past 16 years, which benefited the lives of over a million people with access to safe drinking water. Now WHI stands ready for an even more impactful and transformative chapter in West Africa!

The cutting-edge PatDrill Mercedes-Benz Zetro rig promises to revolutionize WHI's capabilities. By enabling faster, deeper, and more extensive borehole drilling, this innovation will extend clean water access to even more communities. WHI's President & CEO, John Clause, and Chief Development Officer, Nancy Green, will lead the commemoration of this milestone event. They will be joined by esteemed partners and steadfast supporters, including the Rotary Club of Freetown, Sierra Leone, Rotary Club of Fishers, IN, and Heartland Church. Together, they will envision the transformative impact that this increased drilling capacity holds for the entire region.

It is only by working together and partnering with you that we can *keep hope alive.* Because of your compassion we can help protect the vulnerable, diminish poverty, and alleviate suffering.

4 EASY WAYS TO DONATE



Scan the QR Code or give online: WorldHope.org/give



By credit card. Call 888-466-4673



Text GIVE to 65101



Mail a check to World Hope International
PO Box 743794
Atlanta, GA 30374-3794



Point your smart phone camera here to open the donation page in your browser

Gifts to The Hope Fund are unrestricted and tax deductible and receipts are provided. World Hope International is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

1330 Braddock Pl., Suite 301
Alexandria, VA 22314



AN ORGANIZATION YOU CAN *Trust*

