

FALL  
2019

Memory Books



For Children



# reFINDING HOPE

*Teaching children the truth that God has a loving plan and purpose for their lives*

*Issa A. Innocent is our Memory Book Representative at Group Misa Hope Centers in Tanzania refugee camps for Congolese and Burundian people. More than 1,000 children attend regular Memory Book Clubs under the leadership of Pastor Innocent and his volunteers. Memory Books funded restroom buildings and support center buildings, as well as regularly donate supplies for the clubs where children share their stories of grief, loss and hope; participate in creative activities; and hear stories about God's love for them. We're excited to hear from Pastor Innocent how Memory Book Clubs are being validated as a community resource!*

August 2019

Dear Madame Tamara Faris,

We enjoy ongoing activities of Memory Books Clubs at our Hope Centers here in the refugee community in Tanzania. I am very happy to share with you this message of congratulation from a delegation that visited us. I am also thankful because God's guidance, blessing and grace are upon us. It is your devotion and continuing prayers and support, and the commitment and eagerness of our

*...gifting vulnerable children worldwide through Memory Books...*



# Many Hands Helpers Around the World

## Tanzania, Africa

(Continued from cover)  
volunteer staff that we are proud of.

Recently, we received a delegation of local politico administrative authorities in visit to us. Main point was to be aware of the impact that we get in this community from using Memory Books and hosting Memory Books Clubs. My presentation of how Memory Books help children was followed by discussion. The delegation pronounced clearly that Memory Books and Memory Book Clubs provide tools that help hopeless to re-find their hope.

The delegation watched as facilitators were practicing Memory Book Club Lesson 74, and on following day they visited one of our Memory Book Clubs. One delegate said he realizes with consideration the job we are performing together with children for their future and that Memory Books endeavors to prove their best to children in midst of loss, while living in a difficult environment. After witnessing a Memory Book Club children's performance, the delegates' response was Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

I hope this encouraging message from the local [political] delgation will bring a place to me, and to you, too, to do the best for the children under our care through Memory Book Clubs. It is also a winning ticket that will help us to reach our goals assigned. God bless.

Sincerely yours, Issa A. Innocent



Stacy and Karl Bennett (left) and Beth Biornstad (below) with her hand-painted talking sticks.

## Shout-out to Memory Book Volunteers!

Tamara had an idea when she noticed a beautifully hand-painted cane used by Beth Biornstad at a Seasoned Saints gathering in Gresham, Oregon. What if we asked Beth to paint designs on the foot-long talking sticks used at Memory Book Clubs? A "talking stick" is a way to signify whose turn it is to talk, while others listen carefully to the story being shared. Colorful designs hand-painted on talking sticks would add some fun! Beth agreed to the task. Now any time Tamara mails a package of supplies for use by Memory Book Clubs, a bundle of foot-long, hand-painted talking sticks is included.

Thank you, Beth, for using your creative talents and time to bless children as they tell their stories during Memory Book Clubs and other gatherings in Uganda, Rwanda, Nigeria and Egypt.

Stacy and Karl Bennett spend evenings at home counting beads, cutting leather straps and assembling individual kits so children can create their own "Jesus Loves Me" bracelets as a visual reminder that God is near, day or night. As part of the Memory Book Club lesson called "God Is Near" each child is given a kit that includes everything needed to make an adjustable leather strap bracelet by stringing beads that spell, "Jesus ❤️ me." Thousands of bracelet kits have been distributed to Memory Book Club children all over the world.

Thank you, Stacy and Karl, for using your time and resources to make Memory Book Club experiences more interactive and memorable.



...helping children preserve and tell their stories...

# He Knows Your Name

## Your Story Begins with God



## Egypt

Ron and I traveled to Cairo, Egypt, last April to partner with a team from Good Samaritan Ministries to train counselors on the effects of unresolved grief from loss, neglect, abuse, and trauma, and introduce children to the value of telling your story.

Cairo, a city colored by the desert dust and sweltering heat, is home to 18 million people whose ancestors are memorialized as pharaohs and kings, and queens like Cleopatra. Stone monument pyramids and statues from thousands of years ago remain, telling stories of lives lived long ago; museums overflow with relics of everyday living and dying of individuals whose stories are as unique as our own.

Whether we live in a large city or small town, or a place unmarked on a map, inside each of us lays a question longing to be answered: Do I really matter? Does my life have meaning?



No matter where I have traveled, I have always been assured by a quiet voice inside that there is someone needing to hear this message: God has asked me to come to tell you that He has known you before you were substance in your mother's womb. You are God's creation, unique and dearly loved. God sees you in this

place. God has always had a plan and purpose for your life. God knows your name.

While in Cairo, we had the opportunity to meet in the evening with children living near the counseling center. The first night young teens ages twelve to fourteen quietly wrote about their life inside their individual journals made of stapled paper. Each child was asked to read their story to the group.

Immediately, an excited hand waved to be first to read his story.

"My name is Stephan. I am twelve years old. When I was younger my mother made me take swimming lessons. I did not like to swim, but I discovered I was good at it. I even began to win swimming competitions."

Late that evening, Ron and I used a website on our phones to look up the meaning of every child's name. When I read the meaning of Stephan, it gave me goose bumps and took my breath away.

On the last evening with the twelve to fourteen year olds, each child stood to listen to the meaning of their name. "Stephan," I read. "means wearer of the garland crown." Then I asked, "Stephan, do you know who wears a garland crown?"

"Kings?" he responded.

"A garland crown was first placed on

the head of Olympic champions, the winners of an athletic competition." I stated. Stephan's eyes grew wide as he smiled and began to laugh.

"Yes, Stephan. God has always known you were going to be good at swimming. Long before you did," I assured him.

I am convinced this story was duplicated throughout the room for every single child that night in Cairo. Each of us has a story that begins with God, His love, and our name.

What is the meaning of your name?



Top photo: Children holding painted flowers made from coffee filters from the Memory Book club lesson "Bloom where you are planted". Photo above: Ron and Tamara Faris with counseling staff in Egypt.



# Thank you for your prayers & financial support!

We invite you to partner with Memory Books for Children by making a financial gift online at  
**memorybooks4children.com**



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about giving.

Memory Book Clubs provide an opportunity for children to come together to share their stories through art, storytelling, drama, and music. A Memory Book gives a child a place to record their story, which can help to reestablish a sense of identify after experiencing loss and grief.

You can donate to Memory Books online, using your bank's online bill pay or by mail. Make checks payable to Love, Joy, Peace/ Memory Books and mail to:  
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## MEMORY BOOK TEAM

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100% of all donations to Love Joy Peace/Memory Books are used to ship and gift a child with a Memory Book. No monies contributed to Memory Books for Children (Love Joy Peace 501c3) are used for purposes other than to place a Memory Book in the hands of a child. No donation monies contribute to the stories mentioned in this newsletter or for any other gift beyond a Memory Book. All administrative costs, newsletters, website, fundraising, travel, and training are fully funded separately through donations of Ron & Tamara Faris and volunteers.



...teaching children the truth that "I am somebody!"...