

Hope Within Reach

Memory Book Outreach to Malawi and Uganda



Nestled among five villages, Hope Village care center is a beacon to hundreds of village children who choose to spend their days among the resident orphaned children, often benefitting from the community Bible camp, clothing distribution, and meals. These were the children who gathered round, their curious faces pressed against the windows of the meeting hall, the day we launched Hope Village's first Memory Book Club.

"I have a story," I offered the children in invitation. "In the beginning, God created the stars, and placed them in the sky, and the moon, and the sun." I continued with the creation story, concluding, "Everything God created has a purpose, including you."

We taught the children over the days that followed about the God who knew each of them before they were born, who has a plan and purpose for their lives. They learned and recited the meaning of their names, and created a self-portrait inside their personal Memory Books. They painted

a 'coffee filter' flower and participated in a drama about the tiny alpine flowers atop Kilimanjaro, in coordination with the Memory Book Club lesson, "Bloom where you are planted." They discovered through Bible lessons the significance of Jesus' blood and how his death was part of God's plan from the very beginning. The children stood to their feet in eager response, asking God to heal their broken hearts through Jesus.

One club meeting, I had the privilege of sharing my childhood story. Two teenage boys responded by standing and volunteering the story of their parents' deaths, as if they had recited it in their minds for years. On the final day of Memory Book Club, a child announced, "I liked hearing your story because I realized I am not alone." More children echoed his sentiments, remembering all they enjoyed about that week - the crafts, the stories, their personal Memory Books.

Our translator, Lawrence, was so struck by the value of Memory

Books that he offered to coordinate the Memory Book Club monthly. "Can I have 150 more books so I can open the club to the children in the surrounding villages?" he asked. What a wonderful request, one we were happy to oblige!

God asked us to travel to the far side of the world to tell the children, "God loves you. He sees you. God knows your name." Just think of the ripple effect a simple Memory Book will have in Hope Village, and to the villages beyond.

Following our ten days in Malawi, we were off to Uganda to meet with Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) Representative of Uganda, Patty Pullen, who I met during a Global Leadership Summit in Portland, Oregon in August 2015.

Uganda, home to 37 million people, is located in the heart of the African continent. It is one of the poorest nations in the world with the median age being less than 15 years of age. It is home to three million documented orphans, and the nation ranks third in the world

with the highest percentage of its population infected with HIV.

For 12 days, we traveled with a GSM team to churches and schools to launch Memory Book Clubs and distribute 700 Memory Books, with a promise to send 3,000 more. Wherever we went, we presented God's plan to heal and to save, and saw many children respond to God's invitation to begin healing their broken and wounded hearts.

I visited a local prison on my last day in Uganda, sharing the same Good News message. Most of the prisoners were young men devastated and demoralized by life's struggles, least of all their petty crimes. Four men stood wanting to commit their lives to Jesus, including a young man just admitted that day, and a Muslim man who responded, "Today is the last day I will fast for Ramadan."

Thank you for continuing to support our outreach to children! Memory Books are changing lives across the globe! May God bless the children of the world forever and always.

"Families have suffered untold atrocities in Uganda, including civil war, high mortality, and widespread unemployment. It means the world to a child in such a place to learn she has been chosen by God and created for a purpose. With Tamara's visit, children received the gift of Memory Books to write their personal stories and help with their healing. They were beyond themselves with excitement. Memory Book Clubs will surely touch many hearts, both those of the children and their parents and guardians."

-- Patty Pullen, GSM





IN THE NEWS

MARK YOU CALENDAR

Mid Summer Night's Dream Concert, August 2017!

PRAY WITH US

Please pray with us for all the children who recently received a Memory Book, and for the adults facilitating Memory Book Clubs in Ecuador, Malawi, and Uganda. Pray God will heal their hearts, turning everything in their lives for His good and glory.

BOOK RELEASE: "I AM SOMEBODY"

"I AM SOMEBODY, Telling Your Story Matters" by Tamara Faris is available for purchase (\$15.99 plus shipping) at: www.memorybooks4children.com

"I AM SOMEBODY" shares the stories of children—tremendous courage, resiliency, and hope in the midst of traumatic loss of people and things dear to them. Each book purchase funds a Memory Book for a child.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

July
2016

Memory Books For Children



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

Dear Friends,

I am happy to share with you the incredible story of my recent trip to Africa, accompanied by fellow nurse Terri Schrater. We traveled by invitation of Mike Vrooman, co-founder of Hope Endeavors, to Hope Village, a home for 37 orphaned children located two kilometers outside the small town of Ntcheu (nt- chay - u), approximately 120 kilometers from the capitol city of Lilongwe.

The Republic of Malawi is nestled between Mozambique and Zambia in southern Africa. This largely agricultural country of 15.9 million people is making an incredible effort to overcome decades of underdevelopment, corruption, and an HIV/AIDS epidemic claiming the lives of tens of thousands every year. Currently, there are one million children orphaned in Malawi due to HIV/AIDS.

The Vroomans wrote the following reflection at the close of our trip to Malawi.

"After more than a year of praying and searching for an answer of how to directly minister to the souls of our children affected with AIDS, the Lord

led us to Memory Books and Tamara Faris who agreed to come and work with us in Malawi to introduce Memory Books to our staff and children. Watching the first two children stand and give their stories for the first time was very powerful. Not only did it minister to their hearts, but it moved ours as well. We are so thankful these books will remain with them through their lives, no matter how short."

Praise the Lord for such a wonderful report. You will find inside this newsletter the details of our trip to Malawi, and also to Uganda, which impacted so many hearts and blessed many beautiful children. Please take a moment to read and experience what Memory Books for Children is doing around the world.

With Deep Appreciation,

Tamara Faris, Founder
Memory Books for Children

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