

For those who are newer to AFM Ministry, please read points below. These explain why we go by more than one name, which is a point of confusion to some:

- Our legal name is AFM Ministry Incorporated. We are a Texas formed non-profit that launched as an IRS 501c3 Christian charity back in 2012, but began as a Facebook group called **About-Face Missions** in 2010.
- We tried to incorporate as About-Face Missions, but we were unable due to the name similarity to another corporation, so we created an acronym of “AFM” and added Ministry to create our new corporate name.
- We then formed a business operational name in Texas called About-Face Missions under our AFM Ministry corporate name so that we could continue to be known by what we began with.
- We began as an indigenous pastor support ministry and worked with about 18 different local ministries in 3rd world countries over those early years.
- Then in 2016, when we commissioned the Bys family to go to Kenya and help us form a Children’s Home and Church ministry alongside a school we ran through a local Kenyan pastor.
- About-Face Missions (AFM) stepped into new territory with a new model of ministry via sending American missionaries to do cross-cultural missions, something brand new to us.
- This major shift that became the primary focus of my attention as president of AFM, I wanted to ensure the success of the Bys family and this new mission. As a small ministry, with just one other helping me with book-keeping at the time, the task was huge and a true act of faith as I and the Bys’s were compelled that this was the way God wanted us to go.
- Then as I necessarily had to focus more of my time on the Children’s Home and assisting Jeff and Stephanie with the work there, my attention to our legacy About-Face Missions work was neglected and it began to wane as it took a good bit of my time to promote and fundraise and manage all those pastoral relationships. The crisis of being over-committed meant something had to change. We didn’t have the funds to hire people and I was working a full-time job in healthcare while managing the back end of the ministry. This forced me to make some hard decisions by leaning on my faith. I saw this as God’s leading me to wind down the legacy work and focus on the Bys family and our Kenyan work.
- About this time back in early 2018 Jeff, Stephanie and I came up with a new business name of **Mercy Ministries-AFM Africa**, by which to distinguish from our legacy **About-Face Missions** work. You can read more here <https://afm.ngo/ministries>
- As I began to wean off our prior ministry partnerships, we began to revise our website to look more and more like the primary work that was becoming of AFM, that of Mercy Ministries, rather than our legacy About-Face Missions.

- As of now in 2021 we have not completely spun off all our old relationships, and still assist some of those pastors from time to time, as well as we have a major donor still funding and working the legacy tract distribution ministry throughout Africa and the Philippines. We still own both sub-ministry names but do not promote our legacy About-Face Missions any longer.
- AFM still supports monthly our AFM India 9 Orphans and Church ministry under Manikumar Gude, since we feel they are too dependent on our support until their orphans get old enough to work. They are all teens now.
- **Overall, in 2020, we were 87% Mercy Ministries-AFM Africa, with 10% legacy About-Face Missions and about 3% overhead as a percentage of total yearly giving which was \$453k in last year.**
- We pay no employees, and even the Bys Family receive no salary and live on what we provide for all the Mercy Home family.
- Today we are a team of 7 regular volunteer staff and a couple of others who help us from time to time with projects, 4 of whom are our board of directors. **Our Team consists of David Shelton, Jeff Bys, Stephanie Bys, Catie Bys, Karson Bys, Kenneth Heinrichs, and Joel Toland.** You can read more about our staff on our website under the AFM menu.



Before I start with many of the details, I want to thank our wonderful business Sponsors, MMR Mike Mazyck Realty, who provides significant monthly operational support and Uncle Seiko Straps who do incredible special sales for us and that help us build many of the school structures you now see at Mercy Ministries campus! Without God inspiring these two outstanding business sponsors to support us, we would have not been able to do much of what we do today. Thank you, Mike Mazyck Realty and Uncle Seiko Straps for your amazing support in 2020!



However, it is Lord Jesus working through you, our regular donors, giving month to month that is the engine in our “Battleship of Mercy” that keeps us going! Together we truly are better as Gods children serving others!

MONTHLY SUMMARIES

Read bold headers for quick summaries, and numbers/bullets below each month to see more details.

JANUARY

Start of MCA school; construction of multipurpose church and school pavilion; funding of Wisdom Training Center; 95 kids at Mercy Home.

Details below:

1. Thanks to giving God led many of you to do at year end in 2019, and His enabling of a large gift from Uncle Seiko Bands from a 2019 Cyber Monday sale, we were able to fully fund our 2020-year school startup costs and curriculum needs as well as begin construction on our badly needed church & school multipurpose pavilion.
2. Giving also allowed us to fund \$2750 in high school students’ scholarships and new shoes for various poor area students that otherwise would have had been unable to attend school. Praise the Lord!
3. We were able to invest hundreds of dollars more in Wisdom Training Center teaching materials. Wisdom Training Center-School of Ministry &Theology are reformed theology classes taught on our school campus every Saturday through the very wise and well-trained Bible teachers under the school’s leader, pastor Elly Olare of Kenya.
4. We also at the time were still dealing with no electricity due to a blown transformer because Kenya Power was taking its time to replace, and had to fund

several hundred more dollars a month in gasoline to power our generator for Home, School and construction use during this time.

5. We were able to spend about \$700 to purchase new metal plates and plastic bowls to properly feed our 150 children and staff on a daily basis. But because God inspired you all to give so willingly, we never had to do without any needs being met, and were able to keep funding our normal budgets with ease!
6. Not counting the village children, we care for at Mercy Christian academy with meals and education 5 days a week, we began the year with **95 children in our Mercy Home family!**

FEBRUARY

We added to our Mercy Home family; Jeff and team to Bible conference; sewage systems cleaned out; EIC Missionary training; completion of Pavilion; David's work mission visit; dish storage solution created.

Details below:

1. We added 3 more beautiful children in need to our Mercy Home have Jeff & Stephanie as Baba & Mama! This brought us up to 97 kids full time with us.
2. In early February, Jeff was able to attend a Bible Conference and take a few men along because of your generous support.
3. We were able to fund the not-so-glamorous job of having all of the sewage emptied from our tanks and latrines and hauled off campus, which at the time was a bit of a costly ordeal. Our septic system was just not built adequately for our volume of need at Mercy Ministries Campus. While it's certainly a blessing to have our family grow at a rapid rate, it does come with the lessons of how to scale the various campus facilities to support our ever-growing size.
4. We were able to continue and complete the construction of our multi-purpose pavilion. This was such a blessing!
5. We had a visit from EIC (Education in Christ) missionaries Mark and Cathy Lessig, who came for 3 weeks and worked with our MCA teachers. Not only was it good training for us and our teachers, it was such a blessing to have time with Mark and Cathy. They were a huge benefit to Jeff and Stephanie.
6. David was able to make a trip over to the Campus in mid-February to check up on Ministry operations and to help us get a new ceiling rebuilt in the boy's dorm room. We had tried a cheap plastic ceiling that is common in Kenya, but it soon fell apart and became an issue for us that needed to be resolved. Because the Lord kept moving in his people to give, we able to purchase the supplies and install a better long-term solution.

7. David designed, and we purchased materials to construct a dish washing and storage solution to fix a nagging problem with the kitchen of what to do with the clean dishes.

MARCH

COVID-19 scare: food stockpiling; Mercy Home water shortage issues resolved; construction of a master bath addition from Jeff and Steph; more kids taken in!

Details below:

1. In March the Covid19 scare began to overtake the world and Kenya was about to shut things down in the country. Due to bad timing of the annual food shortages and price escalations, the threat of a COVID-19 lockdown alarmed us with the possibility of a country-wide food shortage. We wanted to be prepared for our Campus needs, but also to be ready to assist our local community in the Kaya village and our Church member families. We decided to raise funds and stock up significantly on food supplies in advance. Gods provisions allowed us to stock up thousands of dollars of food grains and non-perishable supplies!
2. Because we were struggling with shortages of water in our Mercy Home water tank, due to pre-existing and insufficiently sized water lines, we asked for help to fund an upgrade to our water line, and you gave!
 - o We successfully dug new trenches from our water well across the street and laid in new water lines that finally gave us enough water to keep our Mercy Home water tank full
 - o Also, the new water line was tapped to provide water to Jeff and Stephanie's new master bathroom addition to the Mercy Home building that one of our precious donors whom God moved in to so generously gave to make happen, so that they could have a bathroom of their own! Thank you all so much for following Christ!
3. In March we also took in 5 more children into our Mercy Home bringing us up to **102 kids! Our largest number to date!** We were able to purchase more bunk beds and mattresses and supplies because of your giving!

APRIL

COVID Lockdown in Kenya; Schools cancelled; new sanitary protocols added; staff began boarding on campus; food distribution began with community children; more food fundraisers; Donations poured in; prayers answered.

Details below:

1. In April the Covid19 Lockdowns in Kenya were in full swing. We had to cancel all School operations and start putting into place new sanitary cleaning protocols and such.
2. Also, the expected food crisis hit. We were able to then begin to take advantage of our tons of stockpiled rice, beans and corn and began helping to feed children by handing out bags of food supplies to them for a few weeks.
3. Then we expanded to the wider community due to the need. We could not serve cooked meals as in years prior, due to COVID-19, so we did the next best thing by building food kits for them to take home and cook.
4. The numbers of people we began feeding quickly ran through our supplies, so we began fundraisers for our feeding program and so many of you our friends stepped up, that we had money flowing in as fast as we could buy more truckloads of foods and get them in the mouths of the hungry! Because God moved in so many of you, none in our area community starved or became malnourished! It truly was a miraculous thing to see how generous God's people became in spite of all their own fears and needs back home in the USA!
5. While we thought we might run into shortfalls for our own needs, you guys stepped up and did more than we ever dreamed or thought possible!
6. Providing meals continued on through April and May during the worst of the food crisis we'd ever seen, due to Kenya's lockdowns and people trying to figure out how to survive. But even during this time when we thought we would have to buckle our belts and look for ways to cut our budget, you kept giving.

MAY

Food distribution expanded; campus sidewalks, gutters, rain catch tanks installed; Jeff's Study was completed; landscaping beautifications; met more medical needs; committed to support our school staff; helped with funerals; helped a father save his arm; worked through medical issues for Jeff; transitioned out two kids and took in 2 new kids to Mercy Home.

Details below:

1. You all saw the great food crisis need and the LORD led you all to pour in extra donations to help us meet and expand our food distribution program to the wider community! **By the end of May were feeding well over 5000 people a week! Hallelujah!** If you were not with us back then you can read some about all God's grace poured out from Stephanie's blog post at the time. Here is the link with photos. <https://afm.ngo/bysfamilyblog/2020/5/26/feeding>
2. We had Business sponsors give more and the Lessig's, missionaries at EIC, helped us organize and beautify our campus by giving some of the cost and designing our sidewalks and needed landscaping. We also installed gutters and rain water catch tanks! All this during the time when we assumed we would need to

'tighten our belts' and 'squeak by'. We completed all this in early May. To God be the Glory!

3. Karson worked hard to finish building out a beautiful space for Jeff to do his counseling and Bible studies in a new study room that is part of the church pavilion. This has been such a greatly needed thing for Jeff as he is still working through his seminary courses and needs time alone to pray, think, and study - something that is nearly impossible to do at the Mercy Home building.
4. In May we took in 2 more children, but we also transitioned out 2 children from the Home. From time to time, we find that we can re-unite children with biological family as that is our ultimate desire to see happen when the conditions are good again where it is a possibility. Sometimes there are other reasons we may have to discharge a child to other care, which is only done with great consideration and prayer as to what is best for all those in our care. This kept us at **102** Kenyan children under our Mercy Home roof.
5. We meet medical needs for the sick, helped beloved ministry partners with funerals and kept feeding the local children of the community and still had abundance in your giving to meet all our weekly budget needs. Praise God!
6. We committed to pay teaching staff even though school was not in session due to COVID-19. Throughout the year all our teachers were paid their normal monthly salaries because YOU kept giving! So, none of them had to go hungry or not meet their family needs. All schools shut down and many teachers in other places had no income, but not so with Mercy Christian Academy staff. We kept them all paid because God provided!
7. We we made aware of a young middle-aged man with 3 young children named Eric who had severely burned his left arm and he had no means to pay for medical care. His infections were growing and the only cheap option he had was to amputate his arm. God led us to be compassionate towards him to help save his arm and not put his family at such risk unable to work. Stephanie told you all about it in Facebook and many of you quickly gave so that we could send him to a more advanced hospital to clean up the infections and save his arm. Bys God's grace the advanced medical care worked and you all gave to pay his medical bills! This was so beautiful to see how God's people work together to save lives in these wonderful ways! To God be the Glory!
8. Jeff experienced some medical crisis that required a good bit of medical attention and above usual medical costs, and we never skipped a beat meeting those needs, because you gave! Thank you so much!

JUNE

Extended our food distribution program time; transitioned out another child and received back a former street boy from a rehab ministry; Christmas Playground fundraiser launched; secured long term rental on 1.8 acres for farm use; Built

home for Fred's family; nursed sick Robai back to health; purchased many Bibles; some costly repairs on motorcycles.

Details below:

1. June came and because so many gave generously, we were able to extend our community feeding program out until mid-June. The area food crisis was coming to an end due to a new local harvest, and it was time to wind it down. We phased it out mid-month except for our regular monthly widows and indigent feeding program we have always been doing.
2. We were also able to pay for rehab for another of the boys we took off the streets some time back and receive him back safely into our Mercy Home family and transitioned out another child, maintaining our **102 kids under our full-time care.**
3. We launched our ambitious \$35,000 Playground and Land purchase fundraiser with a goal to get it built before Christmas as a gift to all our Mercy Home Children. It was a bold and a scary move! It was by far the largest ask for funds that we ever made all at once, but we felt God was in it and leading us to do this, so we stepped out in faith!
4. Along with the playground, we asked you to help us fund the long-term rental of some acreage of land to our west side and to help us build a new Kenyan style mud home for our new Campus caretaker Fred and his family! Just like always God provided, you joined with us and we did it! Praise God!
5. We also were able to buy about \$700 worth of Bibles and fund some major repairs on our motorcycle transportation and pay for more unexpected medical bills for our sweet Robai who fell ill at Mercy Home! Robai was among our first couple of children taken in to live with the Bys family.

JULY

Flooring upgrades at Mercy Home; many sick at Mercy Home; Playground fundraiser taking off; new skirts for the girls; Stephanie's get-a-way retreat.

Details below:

1. July rolled around and donations were still strong, so that we could add floor tiling to the Mercy Home main rooms and construct new benches to better organize the sitting in our main family room.
2. Unfortunately, we were hit with more sickness among the children and we racked up hundreds of dollars more in medical bills that God led many to quickly step up to pay off! Thank you so much!
3. People started giving generously to our Playground fundraiser and giving us hope that this could actually happen on time and the Lord was truly in it!

4. Money was donated to buy bolts of fabric and we were able to fabricate lots of new skirts for the girls.
5. We were able to send Stephanie to a nice get-away with some friends on a woman's retreat! It was another great month in which all our needs were met at AFM and Mercy Ministries through so much generosity. Our Father in Heaven never ceases to amaze us!

AUGUST

The Big Migration of our back-end systems took place; visitors from Revival Church came; remodeling of the girl's side bathrooms; help for the child Vitalis; separation from security and transportation staff; we got an automobile!

Details below:

1. Now as a small ministry, running the backend for many years was doable for myself, David, with some occasional help from another volunteer or two. But as things have snowballed with our Mercy Ministries work in Africa, our old way of doing things was out-grown and becoming quite a chore.
 - I work a full-time job in healthcare to both provide for my family and to provide me funds to give to our Ministry work rather than taking a salary, but with AFM growing as it has, it had become two full time jobs for me.
 - We were running into some issues with our online donation site being used by bad actors trying to clear stolen credit card numbers and it was causing us a lot of grief to delete and clear all the fraudulent transactions as well as costing us money.
 - Something had to be done, so we shut down the use of our prior payment system and quickly moved to Stripe as our primary donation processor due to their exceptional security, discount pricing offered to us as a non-profit, the ease of switching, and our ability to switch immediately using our Squarespace website forms.
 - Still, Stripe's systems did not meet all needs as a non-profit and we needed a more robust system that would allow you our donors to easily manage your recurring giving and download giving histories. Thus we signed up with Kindful's non-profit CRM to help us manage our back-end business better and we began this transition in August.
 - This was a major project that took about a month and a half to learn, migrate and complete. Kindful's systems easily integrated with our Stripe processor and automated much more of our back-end work. It also easily integrated with QuickBooks online, our bookkeeping solution.
 - This was like hiring two people. AFM was able to maintain our current zero paid all-volunteer staffing model! As we grow, at some point, we will

likely have to hire paid staff members, but as long as we can, we want to remain as efficient as possible so that your giving will maximize it's impact where the needs are the greatest!

- August was a crazy busy month for me due to this transition, but we survived and now AFM is much stronger and better equipped for the future for that transition!
2. At Mercy Ministries we were able to host 3 young Revival Church visitors who came for most of the month. As remote friends of Karson and Caitie, they felt compelled to come and get to know them and our work more intimately.
 3. We needed to remodel the girl's bathroom and you all gave so we were able to transform them from the mess they were in to something nicer and more functional! Thank you!
 4. We were able to keep helping little Vitalis, a local child in great need, with more of his medical needs
 5. We paid off the salaries of all the security and transportation staff early because we had to release them due to serious breaches of trust. We also hired a professional security firm, for the time being, to help us keep our campus secure. This put Jeff and Stephanie in a bit of hardship by no longer having on-staff professional motorcycle drivers to take them back and forth to town. It caused us to start thinking of our need to become more independent for our transportation needs.
 6. We then received a car from the EIC missionaries who were allowing us to use it before we had paid for it, because we agreed to buy it by first of October.

SEPTEMBER

God provided for 2 vehicles and some furnishings; 2 washing machines donated & installed; playground funding increased significantly; added new staff to AFM; built an elderly widow a new home; we lost a baby to sickness and had a funeral plus two more transitioned out from Mercy Home.

Details Below:

1. The back-story: September arrived and our need to be free of hiring boda-boda drivers from town for transportation needs back and forth to town became very apparent. For a couple years, Stephanie and Jeff resisted the idea of AFM fundraising to purchase a car for transportation due to the high costs, our prior ability to manage with just the 3 motorcycles, plus not wanting to take very needed funds away from the more critical needs of better serving the children in our care.

- Although I, David, had been pushing for us to get them a car or van for a couple years, Jeff and Stephanie finally decided it was time to get a car or van due to the new burdens they faced almost daily.
 - There was some reluctance due to the large amount of money we still needed to fund the Christmas playground and some fears that it would not get met if we pushed out a request for yet another large fundraiser.
 - In August, we were informed that Education in Christ missionaries living in Kenya were set to retire end of September and were offering us both of their Vehicles, an older Mitsubishi 4WD SUV and a newer 2013 Toyota Ractis. These vehicles were well loved and in great condition and offered to us for a good price for both of them.
 - Soon after we lost our transportation workers, we began to pray and ask the Lord if he could provide us these vehicles some way. Due to several of our donors giving some unexpected unmarked large donations, I surmised we could manage to buy one vehicle out of cash flow and so we committed to paying for one by the first of October, using miscellaneous cash donations.
 - Then in September one of our business sponsors had informed us that they were going to do a large Cyber Monday sale and donate all the proceeds to Mercy Ministries like they did the prior year.
 - We mentioned to them about our new opportunity to purchase both these vehicles as well as some quality furnishings we badly needed at Mercy Home from the retiring missionaries. We asked them if they didn't mind us using about 10k of that donation towards buying both of the vehicles.
 - In a few short days after praying, our business sponsor came back and said that they did not want to use the Cyber Monday Sales funds for this need, but rather would send us a check right away to pay for the entire purchase of both vehicles!!
 - **WOW! Hallelujah! God is our Provider indeed!** God's grace moved in his people and filled the need not only meeting our need right away, but freeing up the future funds coming to us to allow us to expand the school and meet more of our construction needs first of the year! September turned out to be such an amazing month of overflow that we were simply overwhelmed by God's goodness.
2. Revival Church decided that we really needed to purchase a couple of washing machines to lessen the work of all the manual handwashing of clothes and to help us speed up that process after their team saw how much a burden washing clothes was for us. They came together as a Church and donated for the entire need of buying the two washers and all the needed plumbing and electrical to hook them up!! Stephanie says this has been such a wonderful blessing to the entire Mercy Home family! **Thank you so much Revival Church for being God's arm of compassion to us all!**

3. In September I was able to onboard our new staff and my assistant, Kenneth Henrichs to help us carry the load at AFM and Mercy Ministries
4. You all stepped up to meet more of our fundraiser goals for the Playground need that began early September with 33% met, but by end of September we had 66% met! Our cup was overflowing at AFM Mercy Ministries by the Lords provisions!
5. We put out a need for a local widow whose home was collapsing, and you heard God's call and gave quickly, and we built her a new home and bought her some beds and furnishing!
6. September was not without its sorrow. Our Mercy Home little baby Emmanuel became very sick. We sent him to the hospital for care, but he passed away soon thereafter. Some of you gave to cover both his medical and burial costs and this was such a blessing to us.
7. We also transitioned out two more children in September bringing our total Mercy Home kids down to **99**.

OCTOBER

Many surprise large donations; upgrades made to our Mercy Ministries internet; land titles secured; a long-term sewage solution purchased and installed for Mercy Home; remodeling of Jeff & Stephanie's bedroom; 3 more children welcomed into Mercy Home.

Details below:

1. Many of our donors were led to help us even more and giving exceeded our mandatory budget needs, so we were able to pay off some of our outstanding needs of land titles, and to purchase a much-needed higher bandwidth internet Wi-Fi system. This more than doubled our internet bandwidth. Now the Bys Family and visitors can have a much better experience uploading to internet video, audio, and photos to our various social sites keeping all of you better connected and informed.
2. Funding came in to allow us to invest nearly \$2000 more into a professional Bio-Digester system to hopefully and finally resolve our poor sewage system solution that was costing us thousands of dollars yearly to maintain.
3. We were also able to fund the rebuilding of a new ceiling for Jeff and Stephanie's bedroom and buy them a wall unit air-conditioner. This allowed them a little place of refuge from the common sweltering heat that they endure certain times of the year and a little quieter. Plus, we were able to remodel and paint their walls to improve their personal living space from the less than desirable place it once was. For years they lived in a simple concrete gray wall room with no furnishings other than a bed and living out of suitcases. This was a huge blessing to a long struggle to help bring them a little more order and peace to their

personal living space; that along with the blessing of the master bath addition that one of our supporters gave to make happen earlier in the year!

4. We were made aware of 3 more little souls who needed full time care of Mercy Home, so we welcomed them into our home life. This brought our total once again to **102 Kenyan children living with us**.
5. October was yet again a month of abundant blessing as we worked even harder to improve the lives of everyone who live, work, and visit at Mercy Ministries Campus.

NOVEMBER

A huge donation to the playground fundraiser; planning for the playground construction in full swing; purchasing of some of the major supplies for the playground and its delivery; Bible Conference Event; Josh Eaton and daughters' Thanksgiving week visit.

Details Below:

1. God led more to give faithfully and one donor committed to bump up our Playground fundraiser another \$10k to nearly finish it off. This we saw as God's confirmation to move forward with our early December **plans** to buy land and **build our Mercy Mountain Play Area playground!**
2. We went into full swing planning the development of the playground. At the end of August, on faith we shipped via ocean cargo many swings and supplies needed to make the playground a success.
3. We located and purchased the huge double wall culverts we needed for making slides as well as the large water tanks we planned to use for our playground fortress project.
4. At the end of November, we planned our second annual Area Bible Conference. The goal was to proclaim God's glory and teach the locals the solid basics of the Gospel of grace and reformed theology. AFM's desire is to fight against the great amount of ignorance and bad teaching that abounds in East Africa due to the many false teachers and lack of personal access to a Bible. This is in part why we work to get Bibles in the hands of the poor, because most do not own one and simply trust whatever their local pastors and evangelists say that sounds good to them, because they have no biblical standard by which to make clear discernment. Illiteracy is an issue among many, as well.
5. Once again, we welcomed some great Bible teachers from both Kenya, like Pastor Elly Olare and from America with Pastor Josh Eaton. Josh who came to teach also brought along two of his daughters who are so loved at Mercy Home to spend time loving on all the children as they had the year before. Although the conference had to be downsized due to COVID-19, it was a great success and

many people were fed the solid truths of God's Word. Pray with us that the seeds of truth bloom into a harvest of righteousness among the people of Kenya!

DECEMBER

The Big Build; David and Spencer arrive at Mercy Ministries; we built a small "mountain" and a huge playground; Christmas JOY on the playground; Christmas celebratory 'kuku' and soda for all; new fundraisers set up and completed.

Details Below:

1. By God's Grace, I David and one of my sons, Spencer, were able to get through all the hoops of travel to Africa and we made it to the campus on December 7th to begin the enormous task of building a HUGE playground for all the Mercy Home and School children!
 - o As many of you know we decided to build a large dirt mound as the center-piece of our playground. This would serve as a place for two huge and long slides and for our zip-line feature that we bought from EIC ministry, as well as a huge sand dune for play and then a few rope climbs for getting to the top!
 - o Although Stephanie questioned me many times about the amount of money we had to spend on heavy tractor and truck equipment as it was bringing her some fear that we might run out of money to get it all done, I knew God had provided and would make it all stretch. I was compelled that the mountain concept was something God indeed gave me one day back in Texas! It was something that came to me one day out of the blue when looking for ideas on the internet of how we could design our playground when I came across kids playing on dirt piles. Needless to say, donations kept flooding in and we were able to spend even more than we set of our initial 35k goal to make it all complete! For those who have not seen the final results, here is our webpage showcasing the finished playground. <https://afm.ngo/2020-christmas-playground>
 - o This playground was truly a dream come true for Stephanie who initially brought the need to light for us at AFM. Our children have never seen more than a simple swing that we built them. Otherwise, their only playground experiences in life have just been plots of dirt!
 - o When we opened this up for all the children to play, their excitement was overflowing, and it's now filled with play by hundreds of kids each and every day! So much joy came with this amazing Christmas gift to all our kids and Lord willing it will be here for many years to come! Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

2. Christmas day started with opening up the park to all the children to play their hearts out, and then we were able to celebrate Christmas meal with the kid's favorite food, fried kuku, chips and soda! (Kenyan unbattered fried chicken, fries and soft drinks)
3. Stephanie wanted me to let you know that one family so graciously provided for this entire Christmas meal as a gift to us all. As she reminded me, *"Our Christmas Day food was donated for "chips kuku" soda, mandazi (doughnuts), chapati (tortillas) and samosa (deep fried meat pocket)."*
4. You may well have seen the photos! It's an expensive thing to feed 130 plus mouths with fried chicken, fries, and sodas even in Kenya.
5. Because our Playground fundraiser was topped off in November, we felt the need to push forward with two more very important needs that we had been waiting to do for a couple years. We felt to be in less of a survival mode as all the years before, so we put out the need for both a **dining hall pavilion** and a large **storage pantry room** for a place to organize and store our food supplies for all Mercy Ministries needs. We posted the fundraisers in within two weeks you all gave and filled them to overflowing! The money came in faster than we expected! It truly was an amazing thing to see! As you began to give, yet another of our large donors and Business Sponsors, was led by the Lord to pay the entire price balance of both our Storage Room and Dining hall fundraisers!
6. Jeff, Stephanie and I are crying tears of thankfulness for all God is doing through you His people who heard His call to give and then gave sacrificially. We were left speechless! What can we say? **Praise God for allowing us to be a part of his Work in this world!**

MORE BLESSINGS FROM A LARGE DONATION TO HELP US LAUNCH 2021 WELL.

1. Our Uncle Seiko Bands business sponsor sent us proceeds from yet another Cyber Monday sale from to allow us to now build out the school with more classrooms and build a Carport and campus Workshop for Karson!
2. We are now into January and constructing things as fast as we can, dealing with all the busyness that it all entails as well as re-launching our Mercy Christian Academy.
3. In another turn of events, we are onboarding another 24 students that we have decided to help from another ministry that needed a place for their kids to be educated and fed. They are yet another ministry that had been working in Kenya for years building up a school, only to have it stolen away from devious "pastors" with whom they were partnered much like what happened to us early on in when the Bys's arrived in Kenya.
4. But God! **He has built us up for such a time as this!** They were referred to us, and are now transporting their kids over to our school! This Ministry and Work

in Kenya is finally becoming something of great stability able to not only continue on what we began, but to continue to expand to be a place of rescue for the sake of Christ to more and more of the poor and the needy of Kenya and to help other ministries as they come into need. The year wasn't all a bed of roses, and we had our shares of struggles and pains, most of which I have not mentioned in this yearly review, but looking back we see how God is always making beauty from ashes and repairing us cracked vessels with seams of gold!

SOME OTHER NOTEWORTHY THINGS STEPHANIE WANTS TO INCLUDE:

1. In 2020 we had 5 babies born to our staff!!
2. We are constantly taking care of medical needs. Small ones here and there, making sure sick children and adults get seen by a doctor, and that we have 2 therapist that come to our home weekly to help our kids in need. I would say that we take care of 1 medical need outside of our home a week. Sometimes less and sometimes more. Plus, we have 2 kids outside of our home that we provide medications for since their family can't afford them and 2 that we provide therapy for weekly.
3. Despite COVID-19 and the challenges we have faced with church meetings our church has grown, a lot actually!
4. Additional note from David: We have a large staff of workers and many of the ladies bring their babies or children to spend the day with us at Mercy Home as they work, and we get to love on them daily also. We are one huge happy family! With all our kids and staff, when our school isn't in operation, we feed about 150 people daily at Mercy Home. This increases to about 270 daily when school is in session. As you can imagine it takes a lot of resources to make this work thrive, but it's happening by God's grace moving in you all!

Thank you to all our Supporters, for hearing the call of God to stand with us month to month and give. Your investments into AFM Ministry in this way is reaping a harvest that shall last far into eternity bringing glory to God forever and ever. Amen!

David Shelton, AFM president,

on behalf of our AFM team, Jeff, Stephanie, Catie, Karson, Kenneth & Joel.

God bless you all and have a truly blessed 2021 living for Jesus!

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within

us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

(Eph 3:20-21)