

From: Popes Brand Media pope@popesbrand.com
Subject: Re: Bringing Hope to a Hurting World Newsletter Fall 2024
Date: December 24, 2024 at 9:09 AM
To: SHANON VROMAN shanonmv@comcast.net



HopeShines Ministry

Bringing Hope to a Hurting World Newsletter

Fall 2024



Happy Fall HopeShines Family!

Drinking Water Made Possible In Kenya

My name is Robert and I want to share a story of how I listened to God and how He made a difference!!! Last November, Steve mentioned during one of our QT morning bible studies, how Daniel (in Kenya) went and visited another village and how poor this particular village was. My Navy buddy Chris and I felt led to donate a cow as a Christmas gift. Our hearts felt that this would certainly help the village (willing to give what the ministry thought was most needed, but we were thinking, "cow"). Steve and Marty passed on the message to Daniel who replied, "A COW?"



As great of a gift that would be, and it is so needed, the village doesn't even have the ability to give the care required for a cow because they don't even have water! This is when we really opened our hearts to seek out what God wants us to do for this village. We talked about it and just said, "Let's get them water." But wait, EVEN Daniel's village doesn't have water. "What?!" God, what are you showing us through all this? These villages do not even have water in their village! After seeking and stepping out in faith, we reached out to a couple of drill companies in Kenya to get estimates on how much it would cost to bring wells to these villages. That's when Steve forwarded us a link that someone sent him (All God's hand at work through this!). He introduced us to, The Village Drill!



Wow! Really?! More prayers....Lord are we really going here? Only God will make this happen. Is this the way You want us to go? And doors start opening. They say, "Give a Man a Fish, and You Feed Him for a Day. Teach a Man To Fish, and You Feed Him for a Lifetime." The Village Drill is the fishing pole.

After speaking with the people at The Village Drill, we had found out that we don't have to jump in and purchase one (a \$50k dollar commitment, and finding a team to run it), but The Village Drill already had one in Kenya, with a team that runs it! Yea, God! Long story short, God moved many hearts to give and help bring water to Enkiloriti Village in Kenya, Africa! They drilled for weeks, found a great aquifer, and there is a well in Daniel's village!





I can't tell you the amount of Joy it brings my heart to know... if you make yourself available, as Steve says, "Just show up!" God wants to and will use you! I love that! He moves the hearts of men to do His will, His work! And what a joy it is to know God has it all in His hands! From a cow to drilling a well... To God be the glory great things He has done and is doing!

*Side note: Chris and Robert met and served on the same ship together, the USS Leyte Gulf (CG55), back in 1996. They were in the same division together and have remained, "Navy Brothers" ever since. The USS Leyte Gulf was just decommissioned on Sept 20, 2024 after 37 years Active Service in the fleet.

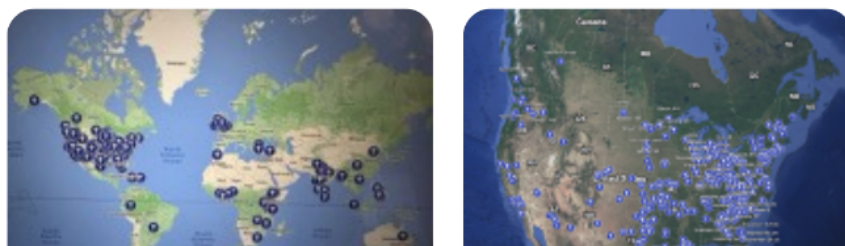
Robert and his wife live in Washington, NJ with their 2 dogs, Sky and Missy and their cat Baby. "We are so blessed! Trust God! In all circumstances of your life! If you find yourself at the bottom right now, with no way out and nowhere to turn, TRUST HIM!" He is a God of restoration after the violent storms of life but remember always... His Will, His Way, His Time and this is not our home!"

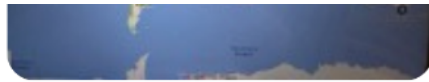
Chris Rigby lives in Birmingham Alabama with his 9 yr old son Kai. "Love God! If not for God, I don't know where I would be".

Bible update

Since 2020, HopeShines Ministry has been able to send approximately 4,000 Bibles around the globe. God is doing amazing work!! Take a look at the many places Bibles are being sent. We truly could not give Bibles out to anyone if it were not for generous donors. We thank you, Bible Givers, for making a global impact with God's word. He is using you to allow others to read His word. We serve a Mighty God!

Where Do All The Bibles Go??





Bibles around the Country



Bibles around the World

QT Bible Study

The QT Bible study is our on-line study, led by me, Steve Leavitt. Every morning at 7:30am CST, I am live on Facebook, Youtube, Instagram and Tik-Tok to teach and lead the Quiet Time Bible Study.

We have just finished the book of Romans, and are continuing to plow through other books of the Bible, seeking God's wisdom and truth through his word. We continue to see the body of Christ come together through the Bible study, exercising everyone's different gifts and watching the body of Christ work beautifully in unison together. People are continuing to grow while other people are hearing for the first time and that is very exciting.

The QT Bible study audience continues to grow with an estimate of about 500+ viewers from all parts of the world. We see new people accepting the love of Jesus Christ into their heart. God has been doing so much good stuff, we have even talked about the possibility of some type of church service on a consistent basis through the ministry. We stay focused on God's lead and look to follow the plan he lays out for HopeShines! We would love to have you join in on any morning. If you are interested please use the link below to join us.

**** Meet Us At The Ark ****



HopeShines Members are invited to meet Steve and Marty at The Ark Encounter on October 17th and 18th in Kentucky. We will also be visiting the Creation Museum. Come join us. You can also join the group chat on the QT with Steve Leavitt's Facebook page.

Where Do All The Bibles Go?

The QT Bible Study

Student Spotlight

HopeShines Ministry supports many students with their education. A handful of our college students have just recently finished up their schooling and are awaiting their exam results or finishing up their attachments. Once received, they can begin the search for employment! The economy in Kenya is horrible and jobs are hard to obtain. We would greatly appreciate your prayers for these students as they work toward their independence and self-sustainability.

Robert finished his attachment where he was learning how to repair computers and laptops and that is the final piece of his college degree. The hunt for a job is on!

Victor is also just wrapping up his attachment which is the final step of his college degree in Land Surveying. He has started the job hunt and has a couple possible leads.

Joseph finished his college class work in website development and is looking for an attachment

Joseph finished his college class work in website development and is looking for an attachment opportunity. Once he identifies a place and completes the 3 months of attachment work, he will graduate and pursue a job.

Danson has also finished his college class work in heavy equipment repair and is in the first month of his attachment. He will finish his attachment in a couple more months and we pray a job opportunity will come from his efforts.

Prayer Warriors Needed

Are you interested in praying for one of our students? There is no commitment other than to say a prayer on their behalf. We can send you a photo and some information about them. We believe in the power of prayer and are hoping to have each of our students covered in prayer by a team of Prayer Warriors who pray for them on a regular basis!

If praying is your Spiritual Gift or if you enjoy having a special person to focus some of your prayers on, we would love to have you join the team of Prayer Warriors for HopeShines Ministry Students! Please just email Marty at martyleavitt@gmail.com or Shanon at shanonmv@comcast.net and we can get you connected to one of our students! Thank you so much in advance!!!

Student Sponsors Needed

HopeShines Ministry has about 32 students that we support in varying degrees. Some are full time college students, some have completed school and are in search of employment, some are still in high school, and others are out on their own, trying to find their way. As a non-profit organization we rely on donations to support these students.

If any of you are interested in sponsoring one of our students, we would love to have you partner with us to help get these kids launched into a self-sufficient, independent life! It would simply require a monthly donation, and the amount can vary depending on the specific students' needs.

If you feel led to sponsor a student, we can chat with you about which student might be a good fit for you and your financial circumstances. From there, we will provide you with some information about the student, a photo and further details on how to start the sponsorship process. We pray that God will lift up those supporters to meet our students' needs!

Crocs For The Deaf School





Thank you donors for your involvement in getting crocs to the Deaf school in Kenya, Africa. We have had several projects that have taken place in the last several months. The students needed new uniforms to perform at a national dance competition. A group of students were able to perform after we donated the monies for the uniforms and won first place! This was a huge honor for the school. We also were able to purchase a very nice curtain to separate the large cafeteria area. They are now able to use the 2 rooms for various events at the school.

Our latest project at the Deaf school is to provide the students with crocs. Most students have one set of shoes that are for their uniform and do not have any other shoes to play in or walk around the small campus in. The crocs are going to make an enormous difference and put smiles on so many faces. When the crocs have all arrived, photos will be posted on social media for you to enjoy. There is still an opportunity to give a pair of crocs. We are labeling the shoes on the bottom with the donor's name for the students to see who gave to them. Soon the shoes will have red dirt on them, but to know your name and love traveled across the ocean will be well received by them.

Introducing Cloe

We wanted to take the time to introduce Cloe our accountant for HopeShines Ministry. All of the positions at HopeShines Ministry are volunteer. Cloe has been absolutely vital to our ministry. We truly could not do this ministry without her and we are so very thankful for the many hours she spends on taking care of your donations and where the money is going. Here is a bit about her. We love you Cloe!!!



"I was raised in Medina Texas. Graduated from Tarleton State University with a BBA in Accounting. Owned and operated a bookkeeping and tax practice for over 29 years. I still maintain a few clients as steady income. Primary career path is being a Real Estate Broker with Sill Realty, LLC and Senior Mortgage Loan Officer with ATX Mortgage Lending, LLC.

My main job in life has been being a caregiver to those God puts in my life to do this for. I have raised my 2 girls, Samantha (32) and Hailey (31). I was blessed with also adopting and raising my granddaughter Jade, she is now 15. For 5 years I took care of an elderly relative which passed in September of 2023. If I were rich, I would just take care of those in need.

Other than that, I love to garden, fish, and just be outdoors and be with my family."

Regards,

Cloe Sill

Donating Stock - Benefits You and The Ministry

If you are considering or planning to make a charitable contribution, either a lump sum one-time or a monthly recurring donation, you may want to consider contributing 'appreciated stock'. The benefit to you as the stock owner is, what we call, a twofer! You are able to avoid paying income tax on any unrecognized gains on the appreciated stock, plus, you get the tax donation

deduction. It's a twofer!!

Illustration: At some point in time, you purchased 100 shares of 'Jesus Stock' at \$20 a share. Your initial investment was \$2000. You feel led to make a donation to HopeShines Ministry. Instead of donating cash/check, you choose to donate some appreciated stock and reap the twofer benefit! You choose 'Jesus Stock' which is now valued at \$40 a share. Your original investment of \$2000 is now worth \$4000. If you were to sell any of the stock at this increased value, you would owe capital gain taxes for that appreciation.

If you choose to donate, say 50 shares, currently valued at \$2000, the ministry receives the stock and you receive a donation deduction of \$2000. Plus, by donating rather than selling the stock, you avoid paying the capital gain taxes on the \$1000 appreciation on those 50 shares.

HopeShines Ministry has the ability to receive your stock donation and it is a pretty simple transaction that your Brokerage Firm can handle with ease. If you find yourself considering a stock donation, please reach out to our Board Member, Shanon Vroman, Shanonmv@comcast.net so we can assist in the process. We appreciate your consideration!!

****You should independently verify this information with your income tax advisor.**

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Our mailing address is:

HopeShines Ministry
9135 County Road 401
Floresville, TX 78114-3686

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