



Jesus opened our eyes to suffering

*Story by Mary Beth,
a JHC donor*

In the July newsletter, I shared about our family's first trip to Uganda in early 2018. That trip was transformative for my family, and it is a shared experience for



Mary Beth's son distributes shoes and a backpack to a student from a refugee camp in Uganda.

which we will be forever grateful. As a family, we felt such unity serving God together. Our kids witnessed us embracing orphans with the same love with which we embrace them. As parents, we were overjoyed to see the way in which our kids opened their hearts to these children and showed them love. Our children were so moved by the experience that they raised money for shoes and backpacks for the 75 students at the refugee camp we visited. There is no greater joy for us as parents than to see our children respond with action to the hurting they witnessed.

High infant mortality rates

The trip also opened our eyes to the dire need in Africa and the systemic

problems that make it so hard for people to escape the poverty cycle. For example, we learned of the plight of pregnant women in Uganda who have to travel for hours (often on foot) to reach a hospital

to deliver and the risks to both the mother and the baby's health that results. We knew prenatal care was not available to most women, but we were shocked to learn of the high miscarriage rates and infant mortality rates. It was hard for us to believe that many women deliver their babies prematurely (many of whom don't survive) simply because they are dehydrated due to the lack of clean water.

Compelled to act

We immediately wanted to do something. We began partnering with Julie's Heart Cry (JHC) on a few different projects in Central African Republic and Uganda. For example, we learned of a maternity hospital in Kampala, Uganda, that was placing several babies in a single crib and

Continued on page 2



Julie's Heart Cry ... page 2

sometimes on plastic chairs due to a lack of resources. We were grateful that JHC was able to quickly deliver 20 stainless-steel cribs in a matter of weeks to not only meet a practical need but to also offer the hope of Jesus Christ.

When we returned to Uganda in December 2019, we wanted to visit the maternity hospital in Kawempe. We knew it would be hard for our children (ages 11, 14 and 16), but we trusted that God would use this visit for His kingdom. As it turned out, our children were greatly impacted by what they saw in the premie unit. There were multiple babies in a single incubator. The frail babies had little equipment supporting or monitoring them as they

Mary Beth's daughter prays for a grieving mom at the NICU.



would in the U.S. Many babies were obviously not healthy and looked like they may not survive.

“Why did you bring us here?”

We solemnly split off and prayed over the babies. My youngest daughter looked at me and asked if these babies were going to live. I shook my head and told her honestly, “Not all of them.” With



Cyrus Mad-Bondo, center, delivers new cribs to the Kawempe maternity hospital, where they previously had multiple babies in a single bed.

tears in her eyes she asked, “Why did you bring us here?”

Both that moment and that experience were heart wrenching. However, I am grateful the Lord opened our eyes to this suffering. I have great confidence that the Lord will use these experiences to inspire my children to passionately serve the least of these and be agents of change.

Take-aways from our trip

My husband and I are already starting to see our children bear fruit as a result of our trip. Our oldest daughter recently launched a photography business that she is using as a platform to raise money for a rural church in Uganda.

God has allowed us to see suffering that most in the U.S. never will. It is now up to us to steward that gift well by sharing it with others and by investing in kingdom work. We are privileged to be able to do just that through JHC.