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Summer 2022

100 S. Pine St #145, Zeeland MI 49464

## Kenya Trip Reflections

By Mark Ismond, Living Threads Board member and International Needs Staff

Many of us have returned home from a week of vacation that took us out of our normal routine. It can take days to get back on track. I've had several times of re-entry, and none has been as difficult as returning from the recent Living Threads and International Needs partnership trip to the Kibera Slum in Kenya. The intense awareness of extremes is what has kept me up at night:

- The extremes of financial lack right next to the extremes of wealth (no running water and no sewers but a Porsche and a Maserati dealership a half mile away).
- The extremes of life and death (every person I met had lost family members or friends in the last year...everyone!)
- The extremes of litter and trash next door to lush gardens and homes.
- The extremes of abuse against the weak—the accepted discrimination of anyone with a physical or mental handicap, and against women and girls who face abuse and rape daily with zero legal response.
- The extremes of those with no hope or no concept of hope versus those that DO have a hope and a joy found in Jesus.



Mark makes a new friend.



Bible Club Student

What a joy it was to celebrate the launching of 2 new Bible Clubs funded by International Needs during our visit. Living Threads is honored to partner in the support of all nine Bible clubs in the Kibera Slum.

Children, who have no reason to hope, hear about the hope and love of Jesus because of the Bible Clubs—their lives are transformed when they realize they are loved by their creator! I wish you could see them as they shout out the Bible verses they memorize weekly during Bible Club Talent Time. They see the extremes every moment around

them, but, because they know Jesus their lives are transformed. They delight in praising God in spite of the extremes that they deal with every day.

May you be encouraged to know that the ministry happening in the Kibera Slum is thriving, effective, meaningful, and life changing for our brothers and sisters living thousands of miles away, but so very close in our minds and hearts!



Talent Show—a favorite of the kids

## Comforted by a Childbearing Loss Pillow from Living Threads Shared by Christie Bishop

In 2015 our world was shattered when we miscarried our first baby. It's not something you forget or want to forget. Even after having 2 children, we still think about the one we lost.

We received this pillow from our parents for Christmas of 2020, and our special pillow sits on our couch every day reminding us of our baby that we never got to hold, but still treasure deeply in our hearts. Not in a sad way, but in a way that keeps our baby's memory alive and reminds us that God always has a plan (even if we don't understand it at the time).

We know that we will hold that little baby in heaven one day. The pillow is such a beautiful way to remember.



Pillow back

Pillow front

*Childbearing Loss Pillows are a tangible way to bring comfort to a family who has lost a child to stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion. There are 5 pillow fronts and 3 pillow backs to choose from. The pillows are pre-made and assembled in days. To learn more visit [livingthreadsministry.org/childbearing-loss-pillows/](http://livingthreadsministry.org/childbearing-loss-pillows/) or call the ministry at 616-748-6505.*

## Missed, but not Forgotten: Family Heirlooms Restored Shared by Lucy Kolean



Handmade family heirlooms are a treasure. The wonderful volunteers at Living Threads along with Jill's skillful guidance have created several keepsakes for me using handmade items: a yo-yo quilt bedspread using my maternal great grandmother's handiwork, two table runners using my husband's mother's handkerchiefs and two large pillows using my fraternal grandmother's embroidered tea towels, a family quilt and a flower girl dress worn by my younger sister who passed away at 5 1/2. Instead of just sitting in a drawer these items are now pieces of distinctive creative keepsakes that I can enjoy and hand down to future generations.

*Did you know that Living Threads restores and repairs ancestral quilts that are in need of some tender loving care? We also finish quilts that were started by grandmothers, aunts or other relatives who have passed away. If you would like to know more about these services, please give us a call at 616-748-6505. We would be honored to repair, restore or finish a quilt that has been in your family for generations, but needs some extra love.*

*We are  
Hiring*

Be a Part of  
God's Story



livingthreadsministry.org  
616.748.6505

## *Living Threads is seeking to fill a full-time position for an Associate Director of Development and Operations.*

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- As a Christ-centered ministry, Living Threads is looking for a committed evangelical Christian who demonstrates a personal faith walk with Christ for this position.
  - Visit our website at [livingthreadsministry.org](http://livingthreadsministry.org) to see the job posting for a list of desired qualifications and responsibilities.
  - To apply, or for a detailed job description, contact our Executive Director, Jill Dannenberg at [jill@livingthreadsministry.org](mailto:jill@livingthreadsministry.org) or by calling 616-748-6505.
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### **Why Work for Living Threads?** *By Barb Terpstra*

I tried to retire from Living Threads in December of 2021.

As a matter of fact I gave my notice 6 months before I actually planned to retire, and yet, here I still am. I didn't change my mind about retiring, but the job pool has been slim. Not just for Living Threads, but for everyone. So, why did I stay?

I stayed because working at Living Threads is not just a job—it's a chance to be in a community of people who try to walk the walk of Jesus. A community of staff and volunteers who enjoy being together and delight to use their gifts for the honor of God.

I stayed because, as with many small non-profits, if I left, other people would be carrying the burden of doing this job, and their own as well. I just really didn't want that to happen.

I have such affectionate feelings for this place and the people in it. I feel so lucky to work with like-minded people, to use my talents and know that they are being used to complement the talents of my co-workers. If you are reading this and sense God calling you to something new and exciting, I'd encourage you to prayerfully consider our new Associate Director position and ask God if He's inviting you to be a part of the Living Threads team.



Living Threads  
2022 Annual Benefit Dinner



*Seeds  
of Hope*

October 27, 2022  
*Macatawa Legends  
Holland, MI*



Invitations will arrive in your mailbox by mid-September



Bible Block of the Month  
Quilt for 2022-23

**4 Seats  
Left!**

**Bible Block of the Month Classes  
September 2022-May 2023  
“Seeds of Hope”**

- Bring your doubts and fears to the surface and face them honestly during the “Hope” Bible Study.
- Allow the great hope we have in Jesus Christ to calm your fears and fill you with joyous anticipation
- Learn to make curves in a quick, easy and non-stressful way!
- Visit [livingthreadsministry.org/classes/](http://livingthreadsministry.org/classes/) to learn more

Our hearts are *exploding* with gratefulness

**YAY!!**



*Thank you for participating in our \$12,000 Board Match.*

Your partnership in the mission of Living Threads brings such joy! What an abundance of blessings! *Because of your generosity* we exceeded our goal by \$3,000!

**\$15,130**

*We thank God for you and your support of Living Threads!*