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VILLAGE LIFE



This spring Mark had the privilege of visiting with a dear brother, Wario, and a group of young men the village of Wario's youth on the Ethiopian and Kenyan border. Wario's village has never had foreigners visit before Mark and the team came. Wario's family welcomed them with open arms and unlimited Ethiopian hospitality. The men walked miles to the water source with villagers, slayed and cooked goat for a meal, participated in coffee ceremony, and communicated with broken sentences. It was a trip of a lifetime for Mark to visit the home where Wario was born and meet his family.



WOLBERT MINISTRY UPDATE

MANY LORD MY GOD, ARE THE WONDERS YOU HAVE DONE, THE THINGS YOU PLANNED FOR US. NONE CAN COMPARE WITH YOU. NONE CAN COMPARE WITH YOU: WERE I TO SPEAK AND TELL OF YOUR DEEDS, THEY WOULD BE TOO MANY TO DECLARE." - PSALM 40:5

TRAVELING MAN

Mark has gone to East Africa countless times over the past eleven years. He has the system of packing and travel locked in. Earphones, zip ties, power bars, hand sanitizer are a few of his travel tips to cover necessary bases. It is no surprise that passing through the "gauntlet" of 8,633 miles traveled is filled with adventure and fraught with challenges. Sometime if you would like to hear some miracle or hair-raising stories give Mark and jingle. He is prepping right now to travel for the third time to Ethiopia and Uganda this year.

- He will be partnering with a stellar group of men to support and train pastors in Uganda who are shepherding churches in refugee camps.
- He will be leading a team of men to meet and serve ministry partners in Ethiopia.
- He will be serving and encouraging pastors and evangelists in remote areas who are already proclaiming the Gospel. He is currently raising support funds for this group of men and women.



THE TIMING WAS RIGHT, AND THE HARVEST WAS WHITE.

Mark purchased the THE JESUS FILM in the Borana dialect 5 years ago. The film was projected from a laptop to a battery run projector onto canvas sheet on the side of a mud and stick house. A wireless speaker blue-toothed to the laptop gave everyone a chance to hear the truth of the Gospel story. The stars were brilliant, cattle were lowing, and the villagers were intent on listening and watching the film in their native tongue. At the end of the movie all were invited to surrender themselves to Christ as their Savior and follow the teachings of the Bible. The response was instantaneous with everyone raising not one but both hands extended toward Heaven. Please pray for the Borana people. They are being shepherded by a young leader who lives nearby.



GIRLS!

All babies are beauties! These three girls are all the apple of their parent's eyes. Each one has a story that is book worthy. Their brave birthmothers chose life for their unplanned and yet to be born daughters. Although grief and loss are a large ingredient in choosing a family to love and parent your child, they are all confident that the choice they made is the right one. The first powerful love that these stunning baby girls received was the sacrificial love of their tummy mommies. They are too young to conceive of what this means but someday they will understand. Their forever parents will tell them, and it will be a priceless gift for them to carry for the rest of their lives.



BIG BROTHER MAKES AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Sharon sat at the breakfast table with her two sons before taking them to school. While eating their cereal, Caden announced to his mother that the family was going to be getting a girl, a sister for him and his brother, Justin. Sharon humored Caden and tried to gently let him down and that they were probably not going to be having any more children. Caden was insistent, "Mom, were getting a girl." Sharon tells the story so with excellence as she shrugs her shoulders as she chuckles and unbelieving responds to Caden, "Okay, Caden."

Caden and Justin are the adopted sons of Andrew and Sharon. Liane placed them in their family years before as brand new baby boys. They have wonderful relationships with the birth families of their boys. A sister being added to this family was a desire of Andrew and Sharon. Liane had no knowledge of Caden's announcement. It was the next morning after the breakfast table conversation when Liane received the call about a little newborn baby girl who needed a family. Imagine how Sharon and Andrew listen now when Caden has something to say!! Meet, Jade Kathrine Louise.



PARTNER WITH US

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<https://give.actioninternational.org/missionary/wolbert>



MOTHERS

Anytime a birthmom decides to choose a family for her child it is profound. J was determined that adoption was the very best choice for her and her baby. She met the future parents of her child and she was more at peace and relieved that hospital details were in place before delivery. She invited Lynn, adoptive mom into the delivery room. She gave permission for Lynn to cut the umbilical cord. She requested that Lynn be the first mommy to hold this precious gift. The nurses prepared Lynn to hold this fresh baby girl, skin to skin. The nurses brought another bed into the delivery room so that she could lay down and bond with her baby. Everyone in the room was quiet as this incredible transfer occurred. Both mothers in beds next to one another. Before birthmom was taken to her recovery room and adoptive family was moved to their room, both mothers stood in the middle of the room hugging, both in their hospital gowns.



SOBERING EXCHANGE

Over the years Liane has made many trips to hospitals while a birthmom is evaluated to see if she is in active labor or not. When an adoption is the plan there are many households that are on ALERT while they wait for the green light call. It was a couple of weeks from the False Alarm until they received the green light call from Liane. They could hear the first cries of their baby girl. It was because of birthmoms decision to not meet them that Liane ferried their baby girl next door to their open arms and tear stained faces.



SUMMER VISITS

Adoptive families and birth families look forward to the time that they can be together. They catch up on each other's lives and engage with the baby that both love. These visits happen a couple of times during the year. Pictures and developmental updates are also shared regularly throughout the year. This summer Autumn's mother was not able to visit but she was thrilled to spend time with her youngest half-brother. Little Simon's adoptive family loves Autumn so much and she loves them!

M made a courageous decision to place her son at nine months old. As one would only imagine the grief and loss surrounded her decision. She wanted her son to bond with his new Mommy and Daddy, so she decided to have no contact for almost nine months. Recently they were reunited to spend time together. The joy of having him in her arms, smelling his hair, and hearing his giggles, worth the tears of goodbye.

Contact and supportive relationship between birth families and adoptive families can be fun, supportive, encouraging, emotional, informative, healthy, restorative, and strong. Liane facilitates the exchange of pictures and updates as well as visits.

