



WHEN

ONE

DOOR

CLOSES



Empowering Lives
INTERNATIONAL

ANOTHER

DOOR

OPENS

-Alexander Graham Bell



"PRAY THAT GOD MAY OPEN A DOOR FOR OUR MESSAGE, SO THAT WE MAY PROCLAIM THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST." COLOSSIANS 4:3

The door slammed shut with a bang that shook the walls and my heart. **I was locked in the hallway of the Kenyan guesthouse with several important visitors waiting for me outside to catch their plane.** Ahhhhhhhh! I earnestly began praying the prayer that King David prayed in the Psalms: "HELP!" (See Psalm 3:7, 6:4, 7:1, 17:13, and more.) After what seemed like an eternity, someone opened a different door down the hallway and I dove to catch it before it closed. I was finally on the move again and thankfully my anxious visitors did not miss their plane.

Mr. Bell has said it well: it does little good to stand and stare at a closed door with regret. **God has a way of opening new doors that make a way where there seemed to be no way.**

Like the time when . . .

- our journey across a remote part of Tanzania was stranded because our old Land Rover steering had fallen apart. We had no options until I discovered the exact bushing we needed poking out of a mud puddle. Amazing God!
- the neighbor was fencing off his property to block our "shortcut" to the ELI Training Center. God sent a road grader which repaired the impassable road we had always wanted to use. A miracle!
- COVID-19 forced the Kenyan government to close the doors on markets, schools, group gatherings, and trainings. After prayer and planning, we began to see God opening another door of opportunity that friends like you supported immediately! **We dove at the chance your gifts and prayers made possible and now hundreds are being helped in practical and powerful ways through the distribution of Seeds of Hope!**

These are challenging days for people around the world but I want you to see how God's light can shine through a new doorway you help open. Because of you, even more lives will be transformed and empowered now and for eternity!

Diving for more doors,



Founder / International Director



**DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY
ARE OPENING FOR . . .**

A photograph of a diverse group of people, with a man and a woman in the foreground smiling. The man is wearing a blue button-down shirt, and the woman is wearing a blue headwrap with yellow flowers and a brown and white patterned sweater. They are surrounded by other people in a crowd, some wearing traditional headwraps. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and greenery.

**PEOPLE PLACES
& PARTNERS**

IGNITING WORLD CHANGERS AMIDST COVID-19

For 25 years you have helped provide sustainable solutions to crush poverty in Africa. Sharing God's love through the provision of training and skills has always been at the core of ELI. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to rethink what effective ministry looks like during this unprecedented time. **Some doors have closed but . . .**

Others are opening! The network of relationships and dynamic influence that God has helped ELI establish in recent years is a gift that is making a powerful impact today. **Seeds, soap, and messages of hope are being distributed through this network of village leaders to suffering families. Joy, healing, and hope are being restored to one family after another.** As a result roots of countless relationships in East Africa are deepening, which will open even more doors of opportunity in the days and months to come.

Don't miss the following pages which hold exciting snapshots of the powerful impact you are making in PEOPLE - PLACES - and PARTNERS!

PEOPLE

A photograph of an elderly man, Elias, standing in a lush green cornfield. He is wearing a dark brown blazer over a white collared shirt. The corn stalks are tall and vibrant green, surrounding him.

NOT FORGOTTEN

"I had no hope of having seeds for planting any food for this coming year and had no idea how I would survive. God has revealed Himself to me through you people and has made a way where there seemed to be no way."

Elias has reached the golden age of 85. Losing his wife and now his ability to travel freely due to the Kenya restrictions has been hard on him; loneliness has impacted him as much as anything else. His hope for the months ahead is now growing along with his crop from the seeds he received because of the care of friends like you.



"I don't know who you really are and I don't know how you came to know of me but one thing I know: I will remember this day and your help forever."

The absence of seeds and know-how could be seen by the family's barren garden. The little money that Rhoda's husband had just earned motivated him to try to cross the Kerio river to reach a marketplace where he could buy some vegetables to help feed their four children. His valiant effort to cross the river ended up

sweeping his life away, and the chokehold of poverty quickly tightened its grip on Rhoda and her future.

Rains would soon water the area while others in the village were already planting. **The only drops Rhoda's children saw were falling from their mother's face as she prayed for a way to provide for them during the COVID-19 national lockdown.**

God opened a door because of the generosity of friends like you. Because of ELI's training programs in the Tururturu, Kenya area, the Seeds of Hope initiative partnered with village leaders there to help the most vulnerable.

Rhoda could not believe her eyes when she was given her seeds and materials. When everyone gathered to pray and give thanks, Rhoda felt an embrace like she had not felt for a very long time. Your gift reached her hands and gave her hope for a brighter tomorrow.



CRUSHING POVERTY

This grandma has struggled to live on the quarter-acre she owns because it consists mainly of large boulders and has little room to grow food. It's hard to imagine the determination this petite woman has to survive as she sits for hours every day with one tool in her hand: a hammer to crush giant boulders down to inch-size pieces that people doing construction will be willing to buy. Sometimes waiting weeks for a customer, the pile slowly grows while her hope fades because she depends on that income for her very survival.

When leaders in her village partnered with ELI to distribute Seeds of Hope to the most vulnerable, Gogo's (Grandma's) name was on their list. **The little land she has is now full of growing corn**, and she is saving some remaining seeds to replant once she harvests this current crop.

Step by step you are helping ELI build stronger relationships with villages, leaders, and the most vulnerable.

PLACES

Over 40 village areas have been impacted by ELI training within the past few years alone. **Because of the trust developed with local leaders, the doors for distributing Seeds of Hope emergency supplies were open so over 600 vulnerable and grateful families both in Kenya and DR Congo were helped immediately and effectively.**



EXPLORE MORE AT [EMPOWERINGLIVES.ORG/SEEDSOFHOP](https://empowerlives.org/seeds-of-hope)

DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY DOORS YOU HELP OPEN FOR OTHERS?

- **330 orphans** are being cared for through the ELI Children's Homes in Kenya. More than 120 are in college, university, and/or technical schools.
- **700+ vulnerable families** received seeds, soap, farming materials, and spiritual encouragement during this COVID-19 challenge.
- **41 local leaders** serving across 8 African countries are coordinating an ELI empowerment process in their own communities through their own Agribusiness Resource Centers which ELI has trained and equipped them to run.
- **4 fresh water wells** have been drilled and pumps installed in Tanzanian villages within the past two months!
- **16,350 pounds of emergency food** along with school lessons have been distributed in the Keredi slum of DR Congo where the ELI Christian Academy is located.



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When the pandemic restrictions are lifted, please come back and share the message of God's love throughout our village and area!

– Chief Eunice, Mosboti, Kenya

PARTNERS



"It is a priceless gift to be joined across the globe to see God's miracle-working power at work."

THE TONGE FAMILY

“

Our time with ELI in Kenya has shown us that we are part of God's global family. When we started sponsoring a child from the children's home, our hearts and prayers as a family became even more connected. Writing and receiving letters from our sponsored child reminds us how **hundreds of kids whose lives were etched with trauma and loss are becoming young men and women of character, promise, and joy with a passion for making a difference in their community.**

Beyond the children's homes, ELI's work in village communities is amazing to witness first-hand. **It has been awe-inspiring to meet women who were trapped in the dangerous alcohol trade and whose lives and families have been transformed through ELI's training.** Ruth was a brewer but she and her fellow "Women of Change" are mentoring hundreds of other women village by village to renounce brewing and poverty, reconcile with their families, and restore their communities.

Our hearts are knit together and it is a priceless gift to be joined across the globe to see God's miracle-working power at work.

- Barry and Christy Tonge



“

Rock Harbor Christian Fellowship has supported ELI for almost two decades, and last year we signed up for a Village 2 Village partnership that has been an honor to be a part of. We feel like family with our new friends in Africa and have sent two visiting teams this past year.

It is a blessing to partner with ELI to help advance the leadership and discipleship training programs and explore new ideas together to empower the village community for the glory of God.

Our partnership has greatly impacted our global missions program and radically blessed our local church. Just this past month, ELI leadership worked with us to host a 12-hour prayer vigil. We had more people praying during this time than any other time in my tenure as lead pastor!

It is a joy to come alongside an organization that empowers people to become everything God has intended them to be, all the while witnessing God being glorified, the Kingdom being advanced, and His children being empowered both globally and locally. We give thanks to God for Empowering Lives International.

- Pastor Randy



CHILDREN'S HOMES IN KENYA

The care from all who sponsor and support the ELI Children's Homes in Kenya provides so much more than basic needs. In addition to a home, education, food, clothing, and healthcare **the children experience a flourishing community, counseling, and a dynamic spiritual life so they can thrive.**

When positive cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in Kenya, ELI leadership felt it important to no longer allow visitors to come and go from the homes. Months' worth of food and supplies were purchased right away, and additional hand-washing stations were established throughout the homes. When the government closed all schools, the parents, top students in each grade, and many of the high schoolers began working together to facilitate at-home education. **The children have been helping with the chores and even making liquid soap for the ELI Seeds of Hope program which is distributing soap and seeds to communities in need.**

"I am so thankful for my sponsors who supported me. You have made the impossible to be possible. I will use my skills to develop myself, eradicate poverty in my life, and empower my family members and community at large."

- Dickson

LEARN MORE & SPONSOR A CHILD AT [EMPOWERINGLIVES.ORG/SPONSOR](https://empoweringlives.org/sponsor)

THE ELI ACADEMY IN DR CONGO



"You cannot imagine how your help has transformed our lives here in DR Congo. Children with no hope of studying, no idea where their next meal will come from, and no knowledge of Jesus now have the supplies needed to study, eat nutritious meals, and learn about God's love. All of this is because of your support. May God bless you richly!"
- David Mutombo, Program Director

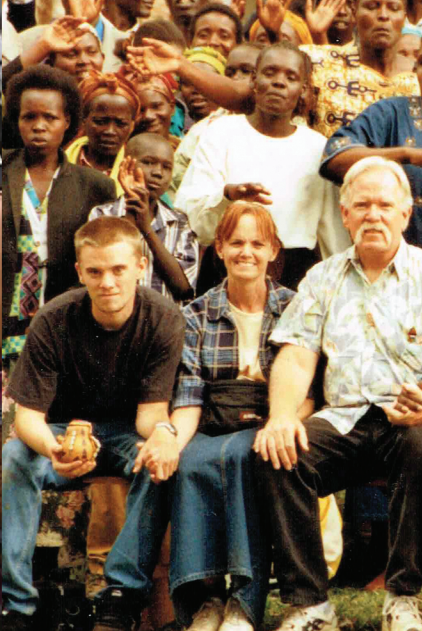
It is hard to describe the impact being made right now in DR Congo. **Even in the midst of a coronavirus lockdown, 650 children and 35 teachers and staff are working together in a creative way that has become a model other schools want to follow.**

The teachers and staff feel they are more than employees or educators. They are coaches and mentors to all of the students from ages 4 to 20. **A better tomorrow for DR Congo will come as these children in the Keredi slum are educated and empowered . . . and the staff considers it a privilege and honor to serve "the least of these."**

25 YEARS OF EMPOWERING LIVES *together*



TOP ROW: JARED ULRICH, DANIEL HARPER, WENDY HUCKINS, ALYSSA BATHALER



SERVING TOGETHER TO CHANGE THE WORLD





**DON'T MISS EXPLORING MORE PHOTOS OF PAST TEAMS AT
[EMPOWERLIVES.ORG/ALUMNI](https://empowerlives.org/alumni)**

SHE'S RUNNING FOR THEIR LIVES!



Last year I had the life-changing experience of visiting Empowering Lives in Kenya with a team from Hillside Community Church. **I saw poverty and suffering, but what captured my attention and heart the most was seeing how God can work through us and this ministry to help orphans, families, and even villages come out of poverty and then help empower others.**

About a month ago I woke up and decided I wanted to go on a run, which is incredibly out of the norm for me. **As I was running I broke down into tears.** The memory of hiking through the hills of Cherangany, Kenya where hundreds of women have been empowered to come out of poverty and bondage to illegal brewing flooded my thoughts and **I knew I wanted to help in some way to empower others still in need.** After days of writing ideas and prayers, my new goal was to run a half marathon to raise both awareness of what is taking place in Africa and money to reach more people. **My hope is that this small spark in my heart leads to a fire where others are encouraged to make a difference as well.**

So . . . I'm going to run for their lives! It will be an honor to donate all proceeds to Empowering Lives International to support more training opportunities for suffering orphans and families in need. **I saw the impact firsthand and I hope you'll join me to help ignite more World Changers in partnership with ELI!**

**SEE, SUPPORT,
AND SHARE
MAEGAN'S RUN!**

**VIEW MAEGAN'S CAMPAIGN AND
EVEN CREATE YOUR OWN AT
[EMPOWERINGLIVES.ORG/MAEGAN](https://empoweringlives.org/maegan)**

YOU OPEN DOORS WHEN YOU ...

PRAY



Sign up to receive an email every 2 weeks with unique and special ways to pray for World Changers who are being ignited.

empoweringlives.org/pray

GIVE



Only **\$25 a month** opens the door for **3 families to be empowered each year.**

Every \$100 empowers another family leader to bring transformation to their home and community.

empoweringlives.org/opendoors

CONNECT & SHARE



Each time you comment on, like, or share our content on Facebook and Instagram you open the door to impact more people in America and Africa.



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**YOU ARE OPENING DOORS
TO EMPOWER LIVES**



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Enhancing Trust



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