

# THE ANAJALI ADVOCATE



ABOVE: CLEARING THE RUBBLE

LEFT: THE NEW BUILDING READY FOR CHURCH SERVICES

## The Amazing Mission Trip - February 2012

Thirteen people ages 13 to 70 descended on the Anajali School in the Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya, February 17 - 28. People who had been strangers a few days before soon became friends as we banded together to serve the people of Anajali. From violin playing by Andy to knitting classes taught by Lori, each served in their own way. Many of us moved several ton of dirt in sacks

thrown over our backs negotiating the narrow alley by jumping over sewer ditches and dodging children until we reached the dumping area some distance away so that a new classroom structure could be built. on the school compound. (See picture above.) De-worming of all students and teachers along with presentations in the classrooms filled our time. Students wrote thank you

letters for the gifts, and letters to pen-pals and sponsors. A visit to the high school land allowed us to raise the sign announcing the high school soon to come. We felt like the Children of Israel as we walked the boundaries of the "promised" land. Knitting classes saw seven ladies learn to knit dish clothes, hats, and sweaters. Praise be to God who is with us always.



THROUGH THE ALLEY



DOWN THE HILL



BRINGING IN THE LUMBER

Monday morning I woke up feeling a little weak and wobbly, but then I saw the Eastford Church had prayed for me on Sunday. I wasn't sure how I would be able to help with the construction project, but I was covered with prayer, which made all the difference. We filled bags with dirt and carried them down into the slum and dumped them into an open pit. We had some local men working with us who would fill the grain bags full then hoist them on their shoulders to navigate the narrow



Susan teaching Joel to read through the use of Assistive Technology.

alley way. I put only a few chunks of dirt into my bag each time. On my first trip through the alley way the residents made fun of me because my bag was so light. I thought of the parable of the widow and two coins as told in Luke 21. I wasn't sure the story really applied but I knew God loved me no matter how much dirt I carried.

Susan LaSante



Pictured above is the dumping place for all the dirt and rubble that the team removed from the building site on their backs in sacks. We began dumping where Wayne LaSante is standing in this picture and continued to dump until we had filled a good part of this hole.

The building takes shape where the rubble had been.



Above: Resting after a long day of moving dirt in bags over our shoulders.

One meaningful aspect of the trip for me was seeing the “hands and feet” of Christ expressed through my fellow teammates. All used not only their acquired skill-sets, but also their spiritual equipping to serve the Kenyan people and each other. Washing dishes (or each other's laundry), making lunches, scrubbing bathrooms, caring for injuries, and sharing possessions were the norm as we lived and served in physically crowded conditions. The words and prayers of others often lifted me. I nearly cried when someone remembered that I wanted coffee and brought

### Lori and her Knitting Class



some home from a trip to the store. I kept the little Nescafe mug as a reminder of our Father's concern for me, even thousands of miles from home. Even though many of us arrived as strangers, we departed two weeks later as friends. In the words of the old Twila Paris song: “How beautiful are the hands that served...how beautiful is the body of Christ.” *Bwana Asifiwe, Praise the Lord! Amen!*

Lori Cooper

This was my fourth trip to the Anajali School. Every trip has a special memory. Our first project was to lug dirt in burlap bags from the construction site for a new class room to a pit some 300 yards away. We carried the dirt through a narrow alley, over open sewer ditches and down a road to the pit. Twice I had someone ask me why I, a 70 year old man would travel half way around the world to lug dirt for children from the slum. All I could tell them was that when God gives us the ability to serve Him and asks us to, we do it regardless of where or what the task is because we love Him.



Having the opportunity to share Christ outside the Anajali family was a new and rewarding experience. *Bradford Blodgett*



*During this trip I was deeply moved. While working with the students at Anajali I realized how much I take for granted. Of course there were the material possessions such as clothing and food, but what really struck home was my access to excellent resources in my education. These kids often struggle to see in dim classrooms, share erasers and desk space, and have*

*little stubs for pencils. Here at home I just walk over to a desk, turn on the light, and sit down in a comfortable chair. I was quite convicted by these little details and am now trying harder in all of my studies!*

*Andy Cooper*



*The people in Africa have nothing and we have it all, yet they still appreciate what little they have. They do not blame God for their poor living conditions or their hard lives. They praise Him and worship Him daily. We have everything we want and need, yet we forget to thank God. The children do not complain about their twelve hours of school, six days a week. They always arrive and leave with smiling faces. Kids in America grumble and complain about too much schoolwork and not having enough clothes. I can now truly see what real thankfulness is.*

*Audrey Cooper*



*My experience was without equal. This was my first mission trip. I hope to experience others but I don't know how any could be surpassed by the Anajali Mission trip. I worked hard, learned much and loved more.*

*Linda Bird*



Wow, after being back from Africa for about a month, I still cannot get over the pull in my heart for those who have so little, those living amongst great devastation, those with virtually nothing to grasp onto. Nothing has ever compared to my experience in Nairobi. Flying several hours across the ocean to a place where God shines brightly through the lives of many there has been truly life changing. I've learned so much from this trip, from being humble and content for what God has already given me to realizing I can be happy no matter what circumstance I am in as long as God is the center of my life. Now, as I write these few jumbled thoughts and reflections, I cannot express the longing I have to hop right back on a plane and fly back to continue working among those amazing people. I made several dear friends both in Africa and on my mission team whom I will cherish forever. God has blessed me tremendously

throughout this whole experience. He has blessed me by first giving me this great opportunity to go, by all the people who generously supported me both financially and prayerfully, and by implanting wonderful memories and life lessons that I hope will remain for a very long time. Thank you everyone who supported me.

*Alyssa Amsden*



Saturday afternoon the team with Wellingtone, Leonida, and their son Dickson headed out to the land for the new high school. There we met John (in center of the picture in the yellow shirt) who had sold us the land. We were able to walk the boundaries placing a pile of stones at each point. We were treated to a meal of roasted goat along with a platter of intestines, which consisted of heart, liver and other goat innards. The climax of the trip was raising the sign that announces the coming of the Anajali High School. May it come soon. Pray with us to that end.

*Anne Blodgett*

Back Row: Susan LaSante, Wellingtone Nabwoba, Debbie Sheehan, Linda Bird Steven Siler  
 Middle Row: Andy Cooper, Anne Blodgett, Leonida Nabwoba, John (the seller) Dickson Nabwoba, Wayne LaSante, Lauren Siler  
 Front Row: Audrey Cooper, Alyssa Amsden, Lori Cooper, Len Cooper.  
 Not Pictured: Bradford Blodgett as he could not walk much because of his toe injury.

# Tragedy Strikes a Young Anajali Girl's Life

It was a joy to see my friends at the Anajali School! This was my 4th visit to the Kibera Slum so I had the opportunity to cultivate relationships with many people there. They have become an important part of my life! One of those people is Godliver, a child sponsor. Not long before our trip, she was brutally beaten and raped on her way home from school. I longed to see her and hold her in my arms. I knew she needed tender loving care. So I asked my son's girlfriend Natalie, who works with troubled children in the Boston area, for advice. She sent

Godliver a journal to write down her feelings to God. Natalie wrote to tell her how special she is and that God made her unique and one of a kind. She also sketched a picture of Godliver which made Godliver we both sobbed uncontrollably. My heart broke for her because I realized there is nothing I can do to make her pain disappear. But I do know our God is able to redeem and restore and heal. That's what He does best!! I believe He has a good plan for Godliver and will use what was meant for evil for her good and

His glory. Please pray for Godliver to experience the deliverance and victory that only JESUS can give. "For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

*Debbie Sheehan*

Postscript: Godliver was raped again on March 18, 2012. She is now living at the school with the caretaker's family. She is receiving counseling three times a week. Pray for her healing.



## Praise and Prayer

1. Healing for Godliver.
2. Funds to finish the new building at the school.
3. More sponsors to help meet the financial needs of the Anajali Primary School.
4. June 28 - July 10 mission team to Anajali.
5. Praise God for His faithfulness to Anajali Ministries and to the Anajali Primary School.

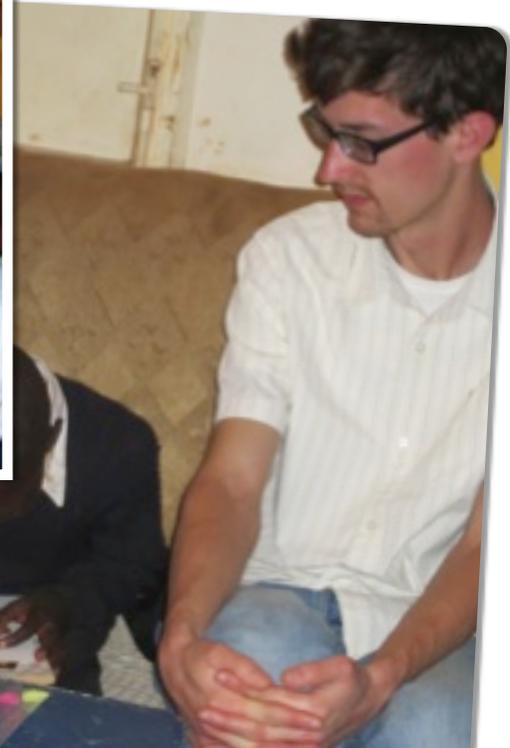
*Anajali Ministries*  
PO Box 46  
Scotland, CT 06264

[www.hecareskenya.org](http://www.hecareskenya.org)

Tel: 860-456-0231

*Anajali Primary School*  
Wellingtone Nabwoba: Head  
Teacher.  
Kibera Slum, Nairobi, Kenya.

# MORE PHOTOS FROM THE MISSION TRIP



Top Left: Lauren and Alyssa teaching in the classroom.

Middle Left: Wayne helping with the dishes.

Bottom Left. Kennedy, Len and Andy working with students helping them write thank you notes for their gifts.

Top Right: Steven helping a child with a thank you note.

Bottom Right: Linda and Teacher Benard with two of the anatomical charts donated by a company in the US to the Anajali School.

## GIFTS FROM AMERICA

---

Students show off their new pencils in school colors of blue and white. Each pencil shows the name of the school. The young people were delighted with this gift from a lady in Connecticut.

Godliver received new shoes and white socks which she put on immediately with joy.



GIFTS OF PENCILS MEAN SO MUCH TO STUDENTS WHO STRUGGLE JUST TO HAVE ENOUGH TO EAT.

April 2012  
Anajali Ministries  
PO Box 46  
Scotland, CT 06264