

ALIVE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF KIDS ALIVE® INTERNATIONAL
FALL 2020

Kids Alive Board of Directors announces new President



Kids Alive is pleased to welcome Corbey Dukes as its new President. This year may be one that has presented more than its share of challenges, but Kids Alive marks it as the beginning of a decade of hope and of marching forward in our mission to speak light into the lives of vulnerable children.

Far from being a newcomer to the Kids Alive family, Corbey spent the past 11 years as KAI's Guatemala Country Director. During these years, he served as Executive Director of the Oasis, Arquilla, Casa Ester, and Families Together ministries, and as Co-Director (with a Guatemalan national pastor) of the Source of Hope School in Zapote, Guatemala.

During Corbey's tenure in Guatemala, he oversaw the transition of the ministry from a traditional orphanage model to Kids Alive's first multi-modal ministry for victims of child sexual abuse, exploitation, and child trafficking.

He also worked with national staff and the Guatemalan government to develop the country's first fostering and family reintegration programs to move children and teens from institutional to family care. These programs make significant use of local churches, mentoring programs, social workers, and legal teams to bring community buy-in and sustainability to this important work.

Kids Alive Guatemala's pilot programs have already become the new models on many of our fields, and Corbey has a deep interest in empowering all Kids Alive ministries to effect change – not just for individual children, but for the environments in each country that determine how children are to be protected and cared for.

Corbey believes in stepping into the hardest areas of ministry to vulnerable children, the places left untouched or poorly served by many government entities and charitable organizations. In fact, he often refers to children from hard places as an "unreached people group."

"I am grateful that Jesus has beautifully broken my heart for the least of these," shares Corbey. "I am passionate and fierce about being His ambassador in the reconciliation of vulnerable children and families to God."

Corbey Dukes received his Bachelor of Science in Computer and Electrical Engineering from Clemson University in 1984, his MBA, also from Clemson, in 1992, and a Master's in Religion from Liberty University in 2008. He has been married to Janie (Stevenson) Dukes since 1984, and they have two daughters, Carlie, 28, and Maggie, 24. Corbey and Janie will make their home in Valparaiso, Indiana.



Our good Father and your compassion have

2020 is nearly over, and the impacts of the global pandemic are still evident everywhere. And while no one has escaped being affected, we see firsthand the devastating effects in developing nations and communities already struggling with poverty. Children perpetually at risk for malnutrition, abuse, neglect, and forced labor are in even more danger, and the interruption to education will be difficult to overcome.

In **Lebanon**, a Syrian refugee family was in dire need of food, living in a tiny one-room house. They had gone months without meat. When we arrived with packages of food, the father began to cry and told us how hard it is that he cannot provide for his family's needs. And this Muslim man, knowing his children learned about Jesus in our school, asked us to pray with them! Bringing food to this precious family gave us the privilege to speak into their lives.

We estimate that about 95% of the families in our **Dominican Republic** schools lost their meager incomes during this global pandemic. Distributing food to these families has opened up opportunities to share about the hope of the Gospel. Your gifts also allowed us to add counselors to our staff, enabling us to better address the needs of children who have witnessed or lived through traumatic events, especially in light of the current uncertainty.



At Escuintla Care Center in **Guatemala**, we are partnering with local legal experts to seek justice for abuse victims and equip them to face their abusers in court. Through our advocacy work, 11 sexual abusers have been arrested and justice is being pursued. All of our 9th graders at Source of Hope School in Zapote graduated from our program, with two continuing their higher education through Independence Fund scholarships.

■ *Young students at our Kids Alive School in Haiti*

So many of the needs in **Haiti** pre-dated COVID-19, and now those needs are even greater. It has been our privilege to distribute food to many families who would be near starvation without our help amid this global crisis. And we are seeing growth in our younger students at our Kids Alive School as we've implemented new Montessori methods which have increased comprehension and confidence.

During the past few years of our work in **Peru**, we have realized that even after years of participation in our programs, our children's families still needed help escaping unhealthy cycles. So, while we still endeavor to meet immediate needs, we are enlarging our focus to build and strengthen families for the long haul. This model of care will include identifying families at risk of separating, enlisting a social worker who will help create a plan of action, and connecting them with a local church and Christian mentors.

Ten families at Lighthouse Family Center are already being served in this way and we look forward to seeing how God will work in their lives. Families here are hungry for both physical nourishment *and* the hope that the Gospel adds to their lives.

■ *Food distribution to a family in Lebanon*



“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times,

brought light and hope to a hurting world

Our work to rescue, redeem, and restore precious lives is now even more critical, and we are seeing God's hand in caring for His children. With your support, Kids Alive has responded and will continue responding to the many needs of this crisis in the countries where we serve.

Zambia was struggling with the effects of a terrible drought before the COVID-19 crisis made the situation an even greater emergency. Our Kids Alive Zambia team was able to plan and implement a two-pronged response targeting two of the hardest hit regions. In the Mongu district, we provided food baskets to many families, and in southern Zambia we purchased and distributed goats to 200 families. We estimate that close to 1,000 people will benefit from this community intervention and outreach.



■ *Strengthening families in Peru*

In **Kenya**, as in other countries where we serve, there have been many negative effects of COVID-19. From jobs lost to schools closing, the impact is severe and will likely be long-lasting. Gifts from our partners have allowed us to provide food packages, hygiene supplies, and educational materials to many households at our Hall Mead School. Three grades will be able to return to in-person learning immediately, while we continue to pray that the rest of the students will return soon.



■ *Food distribution to families in Zambia*

Even though ministry has looked different this year, we continue to be amazed at how God's tender care for His children never changes. We trust that 2021 will bring even more healing and more opportunities to witness the love and the sufficiency of our Emmanuel – God with us!



■ *In DR, our kids stay on track despite the virus*

having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." 2 Cor. 9:8 (NIV)

At the end of this year of isolation, show a child they are not alone!

The physical, academic, and economic impacts of COVID-19 have been staggering, and we don't yet know how long until things feel "normal" again. This Christmas, the kids we serve need to know they are loved and protected in the middle of uncertain circumstances, and you can be a part of brightening their lives.

We teach our children that God is with them, and you can show them that you are also with them in spirit! When you look through the newest Kids Alive Gift Catalog, you'll find many ways to give. Here are a few:



■ Handwashing stations

Instruction in proper handwashing protocol means little in places where safe water, soap, and sanitizers are unavailable. Encourage kids and families to keep themselves and their communities disease-free with new handwashing stations. (Exact costs for these stations vary from continent to continent, but their value is the same everywhere!)

\$1,000 for four stations \$250 for one station



■ Warm blankets

Blankets provide comfort, protection from the elements, and something a child can call their own. A little extra comfort at the end of such a disorienting year will be treasured. Always a favorite!

**\$100 for two families
\$ 50 for one family**



■ Tablets/mobile devices

The switch to distance and digital learning is difficult anywhere, but it can be impossible when a family cannot afford the necessary technology to keep students connected. Your gift provides a tablet device and data plan for a student learning and studying at home during COVID-19 school closures.

**\$190 for one student
\$570 for three students**



■ Personal care kits

A child's ability to take responsibility for their own health and the safety of those around them builds self-confidence. Give a child soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, drinking cup, and towel to encourage habits that safeguard health and promote community well-being.

**\$30 for two kits
\$15 for one kit**

Would you like to honor someone special in your life by sending a gift in their name? Let us know and we will send your loved one a greeting card telling them!

Please consider sharing the KAI Christmas Gift Catalog with others who are looking for tangible ways to give during this season. If you call us at 1-800-KIDS-330, we will make sure you have extra copies to give away. Your generosity will be contagious to those around you, and we are grateful for your partnership in bringing light and hope to kids who desperately need it!

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19 (ESV)