******To: Potential Missionaries

From: Dave and Jen Bell / Directors Mahali pa Maisha

Greetings from Kenya!

Have you felt called to the mission field? Mahali pa Maisha (MpM) is looking for the right servants God may be calling to serve long term in Africa.

Please allow me to introduce myself and the ministry of Mahali pa Maisha.

I am Dave Bell, originally from Indiana where my wife, Jennifer and I owned and operated a Tool and Die shop until God broke our hearts on a mission trip in 1999 and called us to “sell out” and follow Him. He took us on many adventures until we were ultimately called to full time service here in Kenya serving the Least of These.

My wife and I started this ministry eight years ago after living in Kenya since 2004. Time and time again, while working with children’s homes, we witnessed orphans that had no chance of ever having a family. The majority of children in these homes were there until age 18 as they had no provision for them to be united, or reunited with a permanent family. And most homes were ill equipped to care for abandoned infants at even a basic level.

One of the final straws that pushed us into starting MpM, was an experience we had while visiting a local home. They had just received a newborn which had been left in a garbage heap. The Director of the home told us they needed formula, diapers, and medicine for the baby. When I asked her why they would accept an infant knowing they could not care for it, her response sickened me. She stated “If this one dies, we can always get another one”.

It was then I realized that for too many homes, these infants are little more than an opportunity to get donations.

It was then we felt confirmation to start a place that focused on taking in abandoned infants and doing everything in our power to get them a family. A Place of Life, which in Swahili, is Mahali pa Maisha.

We were not prepared for the situations, and condition of many of our infants, some from trash heaps, some from pit latrines, many near death when we pick them up from the police station. But through the years we have seen miracle after miracle as many come back from the brink of death, and turn into healthy and happy little ones.

As of May 1, 2022, we have rescued 273 infants. 69 have been reintegrated to extended biological family, and 160 have been placed with their very own Forever Family.

Unlike most children’s homes in Kenya, our focus is not on “raising” children that have been abandoned. We strongly believe that God is the creator of families and each child deserves a Christian forever family where they have the support and mentorship to grow wholistically for their entire lives.

With that in mind, our process is to make sure an infant is as healthy as possible, complete all legal paperwork, and if no biological family is found, then work with registered adoption agencies to find a family. Our goal is to see a child in a family by the age of nine months.

And because we feel strongly that every child needs to grow up knowing who Jesus is, we only adopt to Christian families who live out being true to the Gospel.

This calling to serve here is not an easy one. It will require being sold out to God and having an open heart and mind to follow Him down some often-frustrating trails since the little ones are not a high priority in this culture.

But the rewards are incredible. As we keep in contact with most of the little ones who God allowed us to care for in the early part of their lives, we get to watch them grow up into beautiful children as they blossom under the nurturing of a caring family and the never-failing love of a Heavenly Father.

We would never want to limit who God may be calling to serve, but because we are looking for someone to ultimately take up the reins of running this ministry in Kenya, in our mind we would see a strong, committed couple who have a track record of being solid in their marriage, spiritual walk, and emotionally balanced.

If you are interested in seeing what this position looks like we have created a Job Description that is available by emailing me at dbell@mpmkenya.org. Note that the job description is not the starting place, rather it is what we would be looking at for new MpM missionaries to ascend to after 12 – 18 months on the field.

Initially we would ask potential missionaries to come and spend a few weeks with us so we can get to know each other before they would commit to a longer period of time.

The next step, after a time of prayerful consideration on both sides, would be for them to come “full-time” and work side by side with us to learn the fine details. During this time the focus would be on preparing them to step into the role of leading the ministry here.

If you have an interest and Calling to serve long term, please contact me, or if you have questions feel free to ask. We also have Board members that may be near you who are more than willing to speak to you in person.

Sincerely,



Dave Bell

Director Mahali pa Maisha

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