



## Hope Matters International: History

### Why Hope Matters

In a world that at times can be completely overwhelming, if one can hold on to hope they can often push through situations that would have otherwise seemed impossible. Kenyans have an incredible ability to hold on to hope that things will get better. It is our desire through the organization of Hope Matters to not only encourage that hope, but more importantly to point families and individuals towards the one Hope that will always prove true, Jesus Christ.

### The First Steps

In the spring of 2013, William and Michelle Kiprop founded the ministry of Hope Matters International. But their journey into ministry began long before that. At age 15, Michelle made her first trip to Africa. She already felt stirrings in her heart that God was calling her to a life of fulltime work in Africa, spreading His love and hope. While volunteering to help build an orphanage in Mozambique, she had a minor eye injury. There was talk about what could be done to get her help. At that time, she realized that as an American she had the ability to leave the country and seek the best help possible; but what about all of the Africans around her? And what about those who had life-threatening injuries or illnesses? God used that summer to open her eyes to the physical needs in Africa. Meanwhile William was growing up in Kenya. In the late 1990's he was introduced to a Christian organization that focused on national empowerment. He went through their sustainable agricultural and development program as a student. After graduating from the program, he went on to work with the ministry teaching others about practical development as a form of ministry. William and Michelle first met in 2004 while Michelle was volunteering with the same organization. They eventually fell in love and were married in 2007.

### Laying the Foundation for Hope Matters

After becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner in 2007, Michelle moved to Kenya to serve full time with along with William. Although their organization was not a medical one, they had a relationship with a local rural medical clinic. She began to volunteer in this clinic providing comprehensive family care. She started learning about things like malaria and delivering babies by the light of a flashlight in the middle of the night. After just over a year of serving in this clinic, she was asked to take over administration of the facility. Over the next three years, she was able to help put systems in place for tracking patients, accounting, implementing evidence-based- medicine, resuscitating distressed newborns, implementing

preventative healthcare, developing patient education programs, overseeing the launch of dentistry and optometry departments, as well as initiating mobile outreach programs. In 2012, she stepped back

from her administrative role and handed leadership over to the national Kenyan team. She watched them thrive in this role as she coached from the sidelines and continued to treat patients. William continued to serve with ELI during this time in the areas of agriculture, community development, and helping to manage guest services.

## **The Birth of a Dream**

In 2012, William and Michelle became aware of some serious medical and development needs outside of their village. As they began to step out, they saw serious needs and hurting people. They were reminded that they had a call to make a difference where it was most needed. They realized that God had brought Michelle to her village and its clinic for a season. When they looked around, they realized that the needs of their village were being met. Others had captured the vision and were making a difference. It was time for them to move on. God had given them five years of preparation together, to bring them to this point of stepping out in faith to launch Hope Matters. The organization was founded in March of 2013 with a major launch of the ministry taking place in October that year. The ministry began with a community health outreach program focused on education, prevention, and some basic treatment in grossly underserved areas.

## **Village of Hope Medical Centre and Village of Hope Hospital**

On May 1, 2015, the first Village of Hope Medical Centre was opened. It was located in Kipkarren River and offered services for patients to come in on a walk-in basis to have their basic illnesses and injuries treated. During 2018, ground was broken and a borehole for clean water was drilled for the Village of Hope Hospital. In 2019 we were asked to take over the management of the clinic Michelle first served in when she moved to Kenya. And in 2020 the Village of Hope Hospital opened its doors to begin providing more advanced care in the communities we serve.

The hospital provides urgent care, emergency, outpatient treatment, medical inpatient admissions, laboratory, pharmacy, maternity, ultrasound, physical therapy, dental, optometry, and radiology. We have one operating theatre for OB/GYN cases, visiting surgical teams, and eventually trauma cases. In the future we are looking to add additional surgical theatres along with an Intensive Care Unit (ICU). We are currently beginning to lay the groundwork for a desperately needed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

We strive to go beyond basic treatment. That's why we also provide Preventative Care. We strive to promote a strong preventative program that addresses screening and early intervention for conditions like Malaria, HIV/AIDS, High Blood Pressure, Diabetes, Cervical Cancer, and Chronic Lung Problems. As part of this program, we run a monthly Diabetes Support Group meeting. We are passionate about Spiritual Health and have a chaplaincy team on-site at both of our facilities to provide spiritual care and counseling.