



PROJECT
LUCAS

ONE
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CHILD



OUR STORY

While Scott and Alisa Dishong were living in Nairobi, Kenya serving as missionaries, they felt led to adopt a baby boy. His name was Lucas. While going through the adoption process, they were burdened by the extreme poverty that they saw in Kenya every day. The average Kenyan lives on less than \$2 a day, and there are over 3 million orphans in Kenya.

Because of these statistics, along with the joy that Lucas brought them, they felt a calling to help other children that were less fortunate. One day during the adoption process, Scott met a little girl named Mary. Mary's parents could not afford to send Mary to school even though she only lacked a 50 cent notebook. This inspired Scott and Alisa not only to help Mary go to school, but also to help other children attend school.

So along with some dedicated friends they decided that God was leading them to move back to the States and start a non-profit 501c3 organization. The purpose of Project Lucas is to help children and families in Kenya that live in extreme poverty to see, feel, and hear the Gospel while equipping them to escape poverty.

Thirteen years later, thousands of children and their families have been given hope for a better future through Project Lucas. Today Project Lucas supports:

-  **The Project Lucas Community Center**
in Ruiru, Kenya
-  **The Project Lucas Academy**
(a preschool and early elementary school)
-  **A Child Sponsorship Program**
-  **A High School Student Sponsorship Program**
-  **Backpacks for Africa**
-  **Annual Mission Trips**

That's a brief overview of our story – it all started with a little boy named Lucas and a little girl named Mary. Over the last decade God has been so faithful to Project Lucas. We believe we have modeled a Biblical strategy on sharing His love and grace to help children and families escape extreme poverty.

We have an overwhelming passion to help children and families in Africa to realize the hope that can be found in the gospel. We want them to feel, touch and see how the gospel works and can change their lives. In the following pages of this booklet you'll see pretty cute pictures, our strategy and core values. Thanks for taking the time to learn more about Project Lucas.

Our son Lucas has taught us that we cannot change the entire world, but we can change the entire world of one child. We're going to start in Kenya, one child at a time. Will you join us?



SCOTT AND ALISA DISHONG
Founders of Project Lucas

LUCAS
at 5 months old

OUR PURPOSE

TO HELP CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES IN KENYA
THAT LIVE IN EXTREME
POVERTY SEE, FEEL,
AND HEAR THE GOSPEL
WHILE EQUIPPING
THEM TO ESCAPE
POVERTY.

We have specific core values that guide
us to carry out our purpose and mission.

Our core values are birthed out of one
belief we hold firmly:

THE GOSPEL CHANGES EVERYTHING

We believe in the transforming POWER
of the gospel.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 states: "If any
person gives their life to Jesus Christ,
they become a new person; old things
pass away, new things come."

We believe the gospel is best described
in **1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4**: "For what
I received I passed on to you as of first
importance: that Christ died for our sins
according to the Scriptures, that he was
buried, that he was raised on the third
day according to the Scriptures."



OUR CORE VALUES



WE BELIEVE THAT WHEN THESE VALUES ARE WORKING TOGETHER IN THIS ORDER, PEOPLE CAN ESCAPE POVERTY.

A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

It all starts with a relationship with Jesus Christ: a Savior that gives hope in any circumstance!

"To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." [COLOSSIANS 1:27](#)

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The Spirit works in us after salvation, and His spirit gives us power to do things that are beyond our human power.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." [2 CORINTHIANS 3:18](#)

THE WORD OF GOD

The truth of God's Word is active. As we open ourselves to it, we are set apart for God. Because of the new nature birthed in us through the Gospel, we have soft hearts that can receive God's truth in the Scriptures.

"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth." [JOHN 17:17](#)

THE PEOPLE OF GOD (THE CHURCH)

Spirit-Filled People doing the work of God along with the power of the Gospel working together in people's lives brings glory to God.

"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." [PROVERBS 27:17](#)



OUR PARTNERSHIPS

Our core values direct our partnerships to fulfill our purpose as an organization. Our partnerships fall under three areas:

EDUCATION (KENYA)

- 👋 The Project Lucas Academy
- 👋 High School Sponsorship
- 👋 Backpacks for Africa
- 👋 Adopt a school
- 👋 School feeding programs
- 👋 Community study rooms
- 👋 Community tutoring

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (KENYA)

- 👋 Child Sponsorship
- 👋 Bible Distribution (Developing)
- 👋 Project Lucas Community Center
- 👋 Table Banking
- 👋 Job/Business Training (Developing)
- 👋 Church Planting (Developing)

AWARENESS (USA)

- 👋 Partnership
- 👋 Advisory Boards/Teams
- 👋 Volunteer
- 👋 Missions trips
- 👋 Board of Directors
- 👋 Prayer teams

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As Scott Dishong was serving in Kenya as a missionary, often he would visit an orphan care center. There was this little girl named Mary. She was one of his favorites. He would play with her and talk with her and be silly with her a lot. But one day he was there when all the other kids were at school, and Mary was there by herself. In Kenya at the time, elementary school had just been made free for all elementary-aged children. But Mary wasn't in school that day. Scott asked Mary why she wasn't in school, and she got overwhelmingly embarrassed, put her head down, and wouldn't answer him. He asked her several times, but she would not say. So Scott went over to ask one of the workers at the center why Mary wasn't in school. They explained to him that even though school was now free, Mary's family wasn't able to afford the school supplies that she needed to go. This just broke Scott's heart that poor little Mary sat out of school all by herself for several weeks because she didn't have a few school supplies.

Scott asked what she needed and found out all she needed was a notebook. So Scott got in his car and drove to the closest store. He pulled out 1000 shillings (which was equivalent to about \$15) and was expecting that this notebook must have been really expensive. Sometimes in Kenya, supplies like that are in high demand and the prices are expensive. He figured he would only get about 50 cents or a dollar back in change. But after he handed the store clerk that 1000 shillings, Scott received 950 shillings back in change. It was only a 50-shilling notebook, just over 50 cents. It was at that moment Scott's heart broke, knowing that a 50-cent notebook prevented sweet little Mary from going back to school. So he took that notebook, gave it to her parents and explained to them that he wanted her to have it. Mary was able to go to school that day.

Scott began to realize how many other children weren't able to go to school because they couldn't afford simple supplies, such as shoes or pencils and pens or a backpack. Scott wanted to do something about that. That moment changed his life.

That's how Project Lucas got started. Scott and his wife Alisa came back to the US and, with some dear friends, started Project Lucas. The first time Scott made a trip back to Africa, they decided to pass out backpacks with school supplies. They passed out 50 backpacks. There was a big ceremony with parents, guardians and city officials in attendance. They were very excited. Scott and his friends felt pretty successful.

Afterward, as Scott and his friends were driving out of the village in a taxi, they were pulled over by two African mothers. They were on the side of the road as they waved down the taxi. Scott went out to talk to them, and they asked him, half in English and half in Swahili, why he gave them a backpack full of supplies. Why did he care? And Scott told them that he loved them and loved their children. They continued to ask Scott why over and over and over again, many different ways. They were poking at his chest, saying, "Why, as a white man, are you doing this? Many missionaries come here and preach to us and leave. But you left us hope. You helped us to feel and touch hope." And as Scott continued to talk with them, he was able to share the gospel with them. After about 30 minutes of conversation, Scott and the mothers put their arms around each other and prayed the sinner's prayer right there on the street as they gave their lives to Jesus.

At that moment Scott realized what it meant and what it felt like to feel, to see and to touch the gospel. That backpack represented hope to them. The hope of a better future. The hope of education. Scott began to understand that a simple backpack can change lives. A simple backpack gives an introduction to Jesus. Backpacks for Africa started because of those two experiences. The first time Scott gave a notebook to little Mary. The second time we gave out 50 backpacks, and those two mothers accepted Christ. Since then we have given out thousands of backpacks and have shared the gospel with thousands more.

MARY'S STORY

"MANY
MISSIONARIES
COME HERE
AND PREACH TO
US AND LEAVE.
BUT YOU LEFT
US HOPE. YOU
HELPED US TO
FEEL AND
TOUCH

hope."

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