

Called By God Times 2

By Violet Votaw

One day we had a missionary at our church who spoke. I don't even remember where she was from. I just remember praying to God and saying I thought I would go on a mission trip some day but I'm too old to go on a mission trip now. But God had other plans for me. The next day I got a magazine in the mail that had a few pages on Kenya, Africa. I got very inspired reading it. Two days later I turned the TV on and there was a program about Kenya, Africa for 1 hr. which I watched and got very excited. A few days later there was a full page in the newspaper on Kenya, Africa. We didn't get the newspaper at that



time. I just decided I wanted to look at one. Of course with all that I knew God was calling me to go to Kenya, Africa. I talked to one of the ladies at church who goes on a lot of mission trips and I told her what was happening with me and that I felt I needed to go to Kenya, did she know of any trips to Kenya. She laughed and said yes, there is one in just a few months and we have one spot open. I didn't have money to do a big trip like this so I prayed and sent out letters to friends and family but the church said I

couldn't send any to the church members. God sent all the money for my trip to the penny. The last check came the day I left, just before I left for the airport. I went to Kenya, Africa in 2006 and again in 2009.

My trip to Kenya was a good experience for me. The people there are so nice and friendly, and very open to God and his word. We visited churches in different towns in the area. I helped teach the children outside. The adults were having a service in the one room church. The children would all hold onto you like you were someone special. They were so much fun to be with. We also went to New Dawn Orphanage where high school students from different tribes come to learn. The students there are all fun to be around and they are happy they had been chosen to be there. Each person on our team picked a student to sponsor. I picked Raphael who is the clown of the school and just a sweetheart. When I first went to New Dawn in 2006 and met Raphael and the other students, they had just come to the school and they were very skinny. When I went back in 2009 I didn't even know Raphael when he came up to me because he was a man by then and he had some meat on his bones. He emails me now that he has graduated. I also met a teacher the first year that I went, Beatrice. She is a beautiful wonderful teacher and we became best friends. When I went back in 2009 she had gotten married and had a cute son. We just cried and hugged when we saw each other again because we were so happy to spend time together. I have been able to watch New Dawn grow and it is amazing what God and his people have done there. I was blessed to have gone.