



**ANNUAL
REPORT 2018**

OUR VISION

[How Bethanykids wants things to be]

Children in Africa with disabling impairments due to medical conditions achieve optimal physical, social and spiritual quality of life through action guided by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

[How BethanyKids is working to get there]

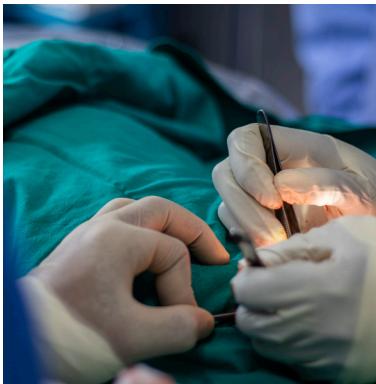
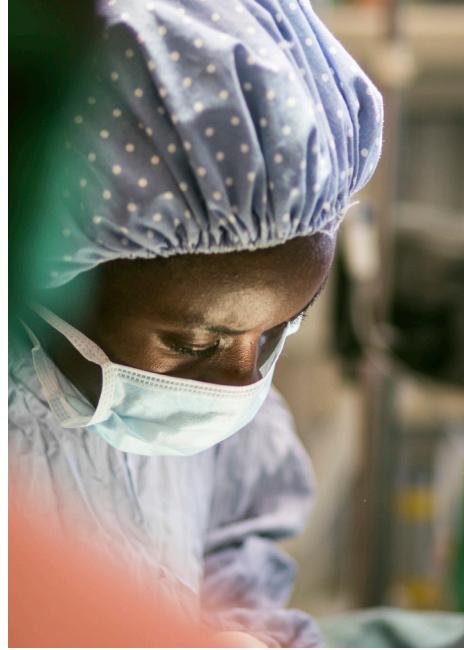
BethanyKids is a compassionate Christian mission transforming the lives of African children with surgical conditions and disabilities through pediatric surgery, rehabilitation, public education, spiritual ministry, and training health professionals.



Our commitment to the bold Vision and clear Mission of BethanyKids remained strong in 2018 thanks to the determined efforts of our Board and staff. Two new rehabilitation programs were launched. By God's grace we overcame a major challenge with our neurosurgery program. A pediatric surgery trainee graduated and returned to his home country.

May you rejoice with us as you read just a little of what God accomplished in 2018 through the ministry of BethanyKids!

MALCOLM D. ROBINSON,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SURGERY

The number of children operated on continued to grow in 2018 with 2,546 in 2016 followed by 2,979 in 2017 and 3,221 in 2018.

Just over half of the surgery took place in Kenya with the remainder split between our surgery programs in Madagascar, Ethiopia, Uganda and Sierra Leone. We were grateful to CURE International for the secondment of neurosurgeon Dr. Emmanuel Wegoye without whom we faced at least a temporary closure of our pediatric neurosurgery program in Kenya. Our surgeons at all sites remain highly committed to working with BethanyKids and to serving the people in their respective home countries. Dr. Lebbie remains the only certified pediatric surgeon working full-time in Sierra Leone.

Recognizing that they're scattered across the Continent of Africa, our surgeons came together for a Retreat experience in 2018 near Addis Ababa to share in fellowship, in learning from each others' experiences as surgeons, and to receive spiritual nourishment.



The words were terrifying to the young, single Mom. Water on the brain. Delayed development. Paralysis. Surgery. What at first had seemed like a pimple on Joseph's back grew and grew until Mary finally took Joseph to the local hospital to ask if something was wrong. It was then she heard these difficult words.

Already shunned by her family, Mary couldn't cope with the news and so it was her sister, Lydia – in school and studying hard - who got Joseph to BethanyKids at Kijabe Hospital and watched over him while doing her best to keep up with her studies. BethanyKids operated on Joseph to address the hydrocephalus – one of hundreds of infants cared for in this way in 2018. But they also watched out and cared for Lydia in the enormous responsibility she had taken upon herself for her sister.



“Let the little children come to me ... for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”

- Matthew 19:14



A worried child is prepared for his surgery in Myungsung Christian Medical Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

REHABILITATION

A new initiative by BethanyKids has begun at the Joytown Primary School with the making of orthotics such as Ankle & Foot Orthoses for students at Joytown School who need them as well as for children in the community. There is a great need and very little access for this type of assistance.



The distribution of wheelchairs is expanding beyond the students of Joytown School through our recently introduced Assistive Technology (AT) program.

A team consisting of a physiotherapist, a wheelchair technician and a spiritual mentor identify children around Kenya – often through Mobile Clinics - who can greatly benefit from a wheelchair. They determine the specific needs and then build a wheelchair that is custom-fitted to those needs. Community education about disability is also a component of the AT program along with sharing the Gospel and Discipleship.

Haggai, a Massai boy, lost both his parents when he was a young child and grew up living with a guardian. As a 13-year old with spinal deformities, club feet, and lower limb and trunk weakness, Haggai had at no time received even one session of therapy. He had done his best to fit in at school and learn his lessons, but encountered discrimination and rejection because he couldn't toilet himself and had to wear diapers.

After being admitted in 2018 to Grade 3 at the Joytown Special Primary School in Thika, Kenya, the BethanyKids rehabilitation team got to work. They focused especially on improving the strength in Haggai's upper body.

Now, with stronger arms and some wheelchair mobility training, he can manage some of the basic activities of daily living such as transferring himself from his wheelchair to his bed and from his wheelchair to a toilet. He enjoys greater independence and attends classes with confidence to get the education he needs for his future.



“Joytown is a very good school and I don’t want to be taken to another school.”

- Haggai



Occupational therapist Luke McAuley assesses a young child at a mobile clinic in the rural area of Machakos, Kenya.

MOBILE CLINICS

Courtesy of Child-Help in Belgium and People's Church in Montreal the Mobile Clinic team received a new vehicle in 2018 for its trips to designated locations around Kenya.

Along with more comfortable rides, it has more space for supplies and taking wheelchairs along to the clinics – something the team has wanted to do for a long time.



The team held 82 clinics and saw 3,625 children in 2018.



Imagine spending your day – every day – on the floor, unable to get up. That’s what life was like for 7-year old Emmanuel. He simply could not sit up without a lot of assistance. One day his Mom heard about the BethanyKids Mobile Clinic team coming to Mombasa and somehow managed to get her son to the Clinic. Our team can only do so much during a 1-day clinic visit, but they took time to assess Emmanuel’s condition and come up with a plan. He and his Mom were taught some rehabilitation exercises to do at home, and as a result Emmanuel can now do more with his hands and take part in simple play activities.

Even more life-changing was that on a later visit BethanyKids put together a specially fitted wheelchair designed just for Emmanuel. So not only is he no longer confined to spending his days on the floor, but – with help - he can get around in his wheelchair and see more of his surroundings. We can’t possibly imagine the difference this has made for Emmanuel and his Mom.



“I don’t have to go all the way to Kijabe to get help for my child. BethanyKids comes to me!”

- Mom



A mother and her child
awaiting surgery in
Mbarara, Uganda.

MEDICAL TRAINING

Dr. Amon Ngongola completed his 3-year training as a pediatric surgeon at the end of 2018. He has returned to his home country of Zambia where his plans were not only to care for children needing surgery but also to join the faculty of the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka in its pediatric surgery training program. In this way Dr. Ngongola wants to equip others to care for even more children in need.

“I consider myself blessed and privileged to have been a trainee at BethanyKids and I hope to improve standards of care for children in Zambia - at least to the standard that BethanyKids offers, which is remarkable for a resource-limited setting.”



There are currently four trainees in the program from Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda.

DISCIPLERS MINISTRY

Pastor Mercy began the BethanyKids Disciplers ministry many years ago. It involves several hundred Christian Moms who have brought a child to BethanyKids in Kijabe for surgery at some point.

They've received training to help them connect with other families who have a child with a disability, to share the gospel with them, to disciple them in their faith and connect them with a local church. They also help to identify children who need medical care and arrange for them to get to Kijabe or to one of our Mobile Clinics.

In 2018 many of the women came together at Kijabe to share experiences, to learn more about Discipleship and to worship together.

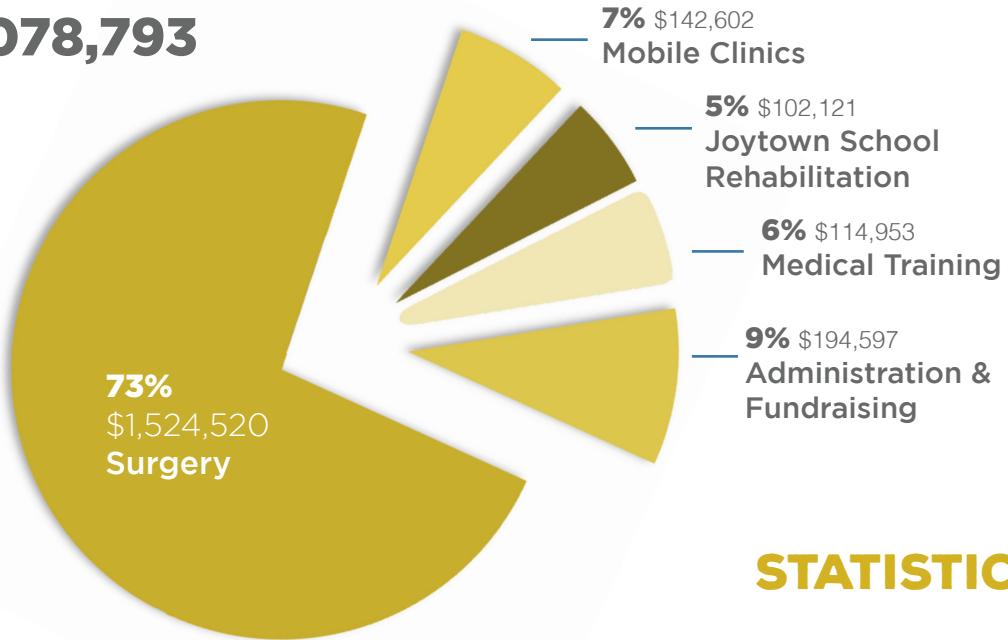
“They are able to know that God is doing a miracle through what they do.”

- Pastor Mercy



EXPENDITURES

\$2,078,793



STATISTICS

SURGERY 3,221

OUTPATIENTS 11,535

MOBILE CLINIC PATIENTS 3,625

THERAPY SESSIONS 7,989

CHAPLAINCY CONTACTS 2,367

WHEELCHAIRS SERVICED 643

Contact us at:

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*if you would like more
detailed financial
information.*



THANK YOU!

BethanyKids cannot fulfill its mission without the support of many people, churches, foundations and other organizations. On behalf of all those whose lives are being transformed, we humbly say thank you.

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