

# Mercy Ministries



AFM Africa

A Division of AFM Ministry



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Compiled by – Jeremy B. Strang  
General Editors: David Shelton, Jeff Bys, Stephanie Bys  
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# Contents

AFM Ministry Story	7
AFM Ministry – Motto, Mission, and Beliefs	11
The Bys Family Story	15
Mercy Children’s Home	19
Mercy Christian Academy	25
Mercy Baptist Church	29
Trip to Kenya	35
Serving Opportunities	39
Our Staff	41
Giving	49
Final Thoughts: <i>Our Chief Need</i>	53



# AFM Ministry History

*About-Face Missions* Legacy



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**T**he undertaking of AFM Ministry, formerly *About-Face Missions* came about through a series of events that can only be attributed to God. A chance Facebook connection between two Texas based Christians, each having a passion for missions, resulted in an idea which one month later led to the formation of this group. David Shelton and Jim Ball met in April of 2011 originally as co-volunteers for Global Media Outreach through Facebook, and since working in the same city, met for lunch – a friendship began.

David had been volunteering as an online missionary with Global Media Outreach for a couple of years prior. The Lord had connected him to an orphan teen named Ronald Mutebi in Uganda the previous year, who was surviving on the streets selling drugs. David led him to Christ. After observing how Ronald's life had been drastically changed by the Lord, and that he was struggling to survive without family in a third world country, David and his wife felt led by the Lord to help extend the love of Christ to him by becoming surrogate parents, putting him through boarding school and mentoring him online.

Ronald, 15 at the time, had a 19 yr. old friend in the gang, who was also trying to earn enough for school and survival, named Stanley. After Ronald had an encounter with God and met Christ. Soon he dropped out of the gang, in spite of the fact that it could cost him his

life. Stanley saw the change in his friend and soon followed. He also gave his life to Christ despite threats of murder from the gang leader. As a result of dropping out of the gang, Stanley, like Ronald, was unable to continue school in 2010 because of a lack of money. He had yet to complete the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

During this time, David mentioned to Jim that high school was expensive for Ugandans and that many of the children, orphaned because of HIV, were forced to drop out of school. This touched Jim such that he began praying about helping in the same way should it be the Lord's will.



**Ronald with his new wife**

Although Jim knew God had called him to help, he was unable to shoulder the cost of such an undertaking by himself. After some thought and prayer, God led Jim to post the situation on Facebook to see if friends would be interested in helping. In less than three days, a few Facebook friends had come to help, allowing Stanley to return back to high school and provide him with basic food and rent needs.

Shortly thereafter, the Lord gave Jim an idea and desire to move forward. He thought, *"If the Lord could orchestrate such a "miracle" for a youth in Uganda using Facebook in connecting people, why couldn't it be used to connect Christians to those doing God's work in real time?"* This led to the idea of *About-Face Missions*, (AFM). The Lord used this experience to amaze Ronald and Stanley's school administrators in Africa when they learned that a few Americans who had never met these boys were committing to help them graduate. They



too gave glory to God in seeing this along with the local Church which the boys became members.

Jim and David Shelton partnered together in early summer of 2011 to form AFM ministry based primarily from Facebook contacts. The name came to them partly as a play on words since this began as a Facebook ministry. They felt strongly that God had called them into international mission work and to share the gospel, demonstrating the love of Christ, through helping the needy as they were able.

About this time both David and Jim had recently what they called a 'radical life-change' to give up the life of living for sinful self, and to serve the Lord with all their heart. Both men will tell you that they both had 180 degree turns in their life directions...an about-face! This is a military term that means to turn around. So naturally it made sense to call this new ministry About-Face Missions.

As the work grew and built more relationships with pastors in less developed countries of the world, they were led to incorporate in May 2013 as a Texas Non-Profit and become a fully functioning 501c3 NGO founded on the principles of Christ as seen in the Bible. Thus began AFM Ministry, Inc, doing business as About-Face Missions as recorded and filed in Dallas County, Texas USA.



**David with baby Makena in 2019**

In August of 2019 the decision was made by the board of directors to transition from their original ministry model of working primarily through indigenous pastoral support to focusing largely in Africa with Jeff and Stephanie Bys. To reflect this new direction, *Mercy Ministries – AFM Africa* was established which umbrellas all of the orphan home,

school, church and discipleship ministries in Africa. *Mercy Ministries – AFM Africa* is a large division of **AFM Ministry**, formerly named *About-Face Missions*.

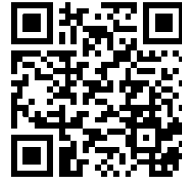
**AFM Ministry Website**

[AFM.ngo](http://AFM.ngo)



**AFM Facebook**

[facebook.com/AFMafrica](https://facebook.com/AFMafrica)





# AFM Ministry – Motto, Mission, and Beliefs

## **Motto:**

Proclaiming Christ in Africa and around the world!

## **Our mission:**

Following Christ's commission to make disciples of all nations and extending his hand of compassion following the Biblical mandate to exercise pure religion of caring for the poor and needy especially the orphaned and widowed. We do this now through a more focused approach with our Mercy Children's Home, Mercy Christian Academy, Mercy Baptist Church, pastoral equipping, and various community outreach ministries in Kenya/East Africa through led by our boots on the ground Bys family missionaries in Kenya.

## **Our beliefs:**

1. **Doctrine of Scripture.** The Bible is God's unique revelation to mankind, the inspired, infallible Word of God. As such, it is the supreme and final authority and without error in what it teaches and affirms in its original languages. No other writings are vested with such divine authority.
2. **Doctrine of God.** There is only one true God. He exists eternally as three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit —

each fully God of the same essence, yet each personally distinct from the other. The term Christians have coined to describe holy God is "the Trinity". This truth comes from Holy Scripture, the Bible. God is the creator of everything. God is sovereign over everything.

3. **Doctrine of Sin.** Everyone, regardless of race, gender, social class, or intellectual ability, is created in God's image and for communion with God. But because of sin, that relationship was broken and all of humanity was separated from God, the source of all life. Because of the fall, everyone deserves God's judgment, we all are inheritors of the first man Adam's sin. We all have sinned and need saving.
4. **Doctrine of Salvation.** Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and God gives salvation and eternal life to those who trust in him. Salvation cannot be earned through personal goodness or human effort. It is a gift that is received by repentance and faith in Christ and his death on the cross and resurrection from the grave. All those saved are born of God's Spirit.
5. **Doctrine of Christ.** Jesus Christ called the Son is the second person of triune God, in time was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary — he is God that came into human flesh. Always fully God called the Son, but became also fully man. He lived a sinless human life, yet willingly took upon himself our sins by dying in our place and on our behalf, providing his blood payment for us. He rose bodily, victorious over death. He ascended to Heaven and is at the right hand of the Father as the believer's advocate and mediator. Some unknown day, he will return to consummate history and to fulfill the eternal plan of God, as rightful Judge and Lord over all creation.

6. **Doctrine of the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit, the third Person of triune God, convicts the world of sin and gives new life to those who trust in Jesus. He is not a force, but a person of God. The Spirit regenerates believers to new life. He indwells all believers and is available to empower them to lead Christ-like lives. The Spirit gives them spiritual gifts with which to serve fellow believers and reach out to a lost and needy world.
7. **Doctrine of Judgment.** At the final judgment, after Christ's return and end of his millennial reign on earth, unbelievers will be separated from God by the Son, bound and cast into hell forever. Believers will be received into God's loving presence and will be forever rewarded with joy, joined to God the Son as his forever Bride, eternal heirs to the Kingdom of God.
8. **Doctrine of the Church.** All who repent from sin and trust in Jesus alone for their salvation are members of the body of Christ, the one true church universal. Spiritual unity is to be expressed among Christians by acceptance and love of one another across ethnic, cultural, socio-economic, national, generational, gender, and denominational lines. The local church is a group of believers of any size who gather for worship, prayer, instruction, encouragement, mutual accountability, community with each other, and as a witness to the world for Christ.
9. **Doctrine of Baptism.** Baptism is not a requirement for Salvation, but a ritual of water baptism following Christ's example commanded of all new Believers, given by another Believer, and to follow if at all possible soon after coming to faith. It is a public profession of faith in Christ that you have died to your old life living for sin, and are raised up a new person in Christ now living by the Spirit at peace with God. It identifies you as a Christ follower. Like the Lord's Supper, it is

one of the two commanded ordinances for all true Believers to follow as a unique identification that you belong to Him.

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AFM Ministry has a more detailed doctrinal statement than above, yet we understand that there is room for differing interpretations in what we consider the “non-essentials”. The above statement of faith, we consider the essentials of Christian faith. Thus, it is possible to be a member of "the Church" even though you may not agree with the full doctrinal statement of AFM.

We welcome all members of the Body of Christ to join with us in prayer, encouragement and/or financial support of our mission to fulfill the call of Christ. Yet every staff member and long-term<sup>1</sup> missionary we send, or who we partner with to any significant extent, will be asked to submit to our more detailed theological beliefs.

### **AFM Ministry Beliefs**

[afm.ngo/our-faith](http://afm.ngo/our-faith)



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<sup>1</sup> Anything more than a 10-day trip

## The Bys Family Story

Jeff and his wife, Stephanie Bys (pronounced *Beese* like *Geese*), set out during November of 2016 with their 7 youngest children. The ages of their children at the time of the move were Caitie (16), Karson (13), Brendan (11), Ava-Joy (10), Violet (6), Aspen (3), and Reed (2). The Bys family sold all they owned while also giving away careers and savings to serve God as full-time missionaries. They desired to help the needy under a clear call by God to do so. But why Bungoma, Kenya?

***“Few Kenyans feel that the street boys are worthy of their time or resources. They appear to many as a lost cause. But we know better because of the Word of God!”***



Their reasons were many, but ultimately it was through a mission trip made by Jeff and AFM’s David Shelton that created a love for Kenya in the entire Bys family. On the trip, Jeff got to work side-by-side with Kenyan pastors, and he saw many unmet

needs in the villages. God was leading him to do something; it was the love of Christ that compelled him. Jeff and David saw how they could do so much good with relatively few resources. With their desire to do the

most good and by God's divine leading, they chose Bungoma. They also saw a receptiveness to the Gospel in the Kenyans. As the Lord Jesus said in John 4:35, "*the fields are ripe unto harvest but few are the workers.*" The Bys want to be faithful workers and deliver the Gospel message through acts of compassion along with teaching of truth. Where God leads, they will go, and it seemed very clear that Bungoma was the place God was calling them to go and be his hands and feet.

Kenya has many orphans due to rampant disease and poverty. These issues coincide with a lack of education to kill so many poor among them, and it only takes a small amount to radically change that! The streets of Bungoma are also filled with abandoned boys struggling to survive. These boys, known as "*street boys,*" are outcasts in the society and even among the local churches of Kenya. Few Kenyans feel that the street boys are worthy of their time or resources. They appear to many as a lost cause. But we know better because of the Word of God! We read that God has rescued us, sinners, by the loving compassion of Christ Jesus who was brought from death to LIFE by the Spirit! And this is His mission for us, so we go without fear trusting in our Mighty God to help us be his ambassadors of faith, hope, and love, even to the most outcast of the world! God is with us!

Together we are all building a life-changing Gospel ministry called *Mercy Ministries – AFM Africa*. AFM Ministry, which supports many Gospel ministries around the world, cannot do this alone. We are trusting that God will provide for monthly needs through fellow believers like you. Through AFM Mercy Children's Home, we hope to change many lives for Jesus! The Bys family has given it all for Jesus to serve the little ones of Kenya. Will you join us in giving with them and being our partners in Kenya? We need your prayers, your weekly and daily encouragements, your visits to see them, and your financial help. Help us change their story as we grow fully devoted followers of Christ.



## **Sending Church**

Jeff and Stephanie’s sending church is Revival Church of Fall Creek, WI  
in the USA – [revivalfc.org/](http://revivalfc.org/)



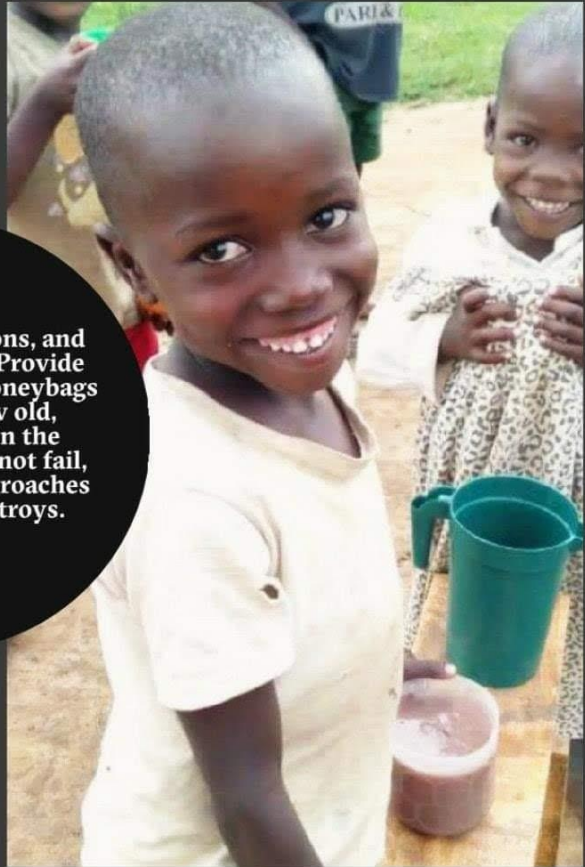
Interact with us on Facebook!

[facebook.com/MercyHomeKenya/](https://facebook.com/MercyHomeKenya/)

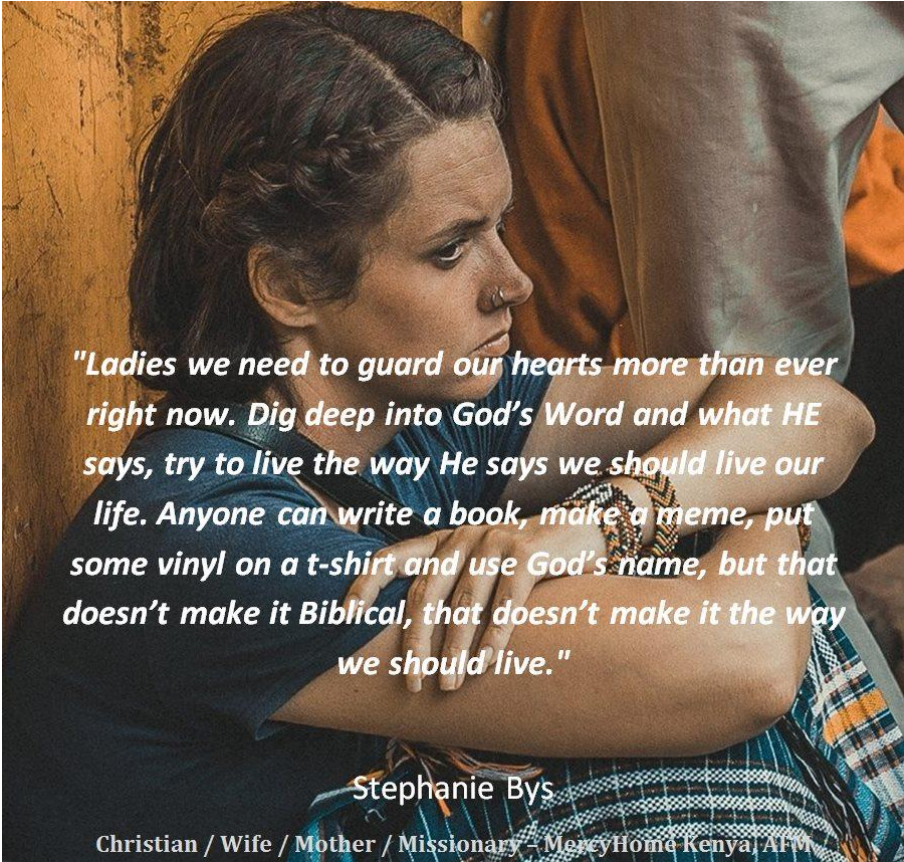


**Sell your possessions, and  
give to the needy. Provide  
yourselves with moneybags  
that do not grow old,  
with a treasure in the  
heavens that does not fail,  
where no thief approaches  
and no moth destroys.**

**LUKE 12:33**



# Mercy Children’s Home



*"Ladies we need to guard our hearts more than ever right now. Dig deep into God's Word and what HE says, try to live the way He says we should live our life. Anyone can write a book, make a meme, put some vinyl on a t-shirt and use God's name, but that doesn't make it Biblical, that doesn't make it the way we should live."*

Stephanie Bys

Christian / Wife / Mother / Missionary – MercyHome Kenya / AFM

## TRUE RELIGION

*“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”*

James 1:27

## OUR MISSION

*“We provide a safe, healthy, and loving home where children can thrive spiritually, mentally, and physically. Our family is focused on equipping our children to be productive Kenyan citizens as disciples of Jesus Christ so that they may believe the Gospel and live their lives for eternity, in response to what Christ has done and is doing.”*



## MERCY CHILDREN'S HOME

Mercy Children's Home launched in 2017 outside the city of Bungoma, in the small village of Kaya. Jeff Bys and his family were commissioned to direct and manage this work for AFM Ministry because of the passion that God put into them for orphans and the needy. As of July 2019, we have 88 orphans/at-risk children, 9 Bys family members, and our social worker living at MCH. We employ a staff of 25 workers who help us take great care of the kids that God has given us.



*“Mercy Children’s Home is an outreach of AFM Ministry’s broader discipleship and church-planting ministry to teach the world gospel-centered knowledge of God (theology) and provide a Christ-centered model of loving God and loving others.*

*With that being said, we take very seriously what we believe about God and his Word as it affects everything we do in some form or another. Our beliefs affect how we go about reaching, teaching and multiplying for the Lord Jesus.”*

— David Shelton, AFM Ministry President

# Mercy Ministries

## AFM Africa

## Watch the Movie



*Surrendering the American Dream for Christ and Kenya*

[afm.ngo/bysfamily](http://afm.ngo/bysfamily)





Stephanie and Sherry of our Kenya Mercy Children's Home



# Mercy Christian Academy



## OUR MISSION

*“We provide a Christ-centered education in a safe and healthy learning environment to children in need, we equip our students with love, knowledge and skills to help them to see God’s great works through their education. Our primary focus is that they may believe the Gospel and live their lives for eternity, in response to what Christ has done and is doing.”*

## BACKGROUND

We began MCA in January 2019. Kenya is on a year-round school calendar which begins in January and is split into three terms with a break in between each term. Currently, MCA has grades PP1 (pre-school), PP2 (kindergarten), and grades 1-5. We employ 7 certified teachers and 1

teachers' assistant. We have a current enrollment of 104 students. The majority of our students also live at Mercy Home, but we have been able to include 40 other children living in our community within our enrollment. We have been blessed by McKinney Christian Academy of McKinney, TX who donated beautiful, high-quality uniforms from their school for us to use. It worked out perfectly that we have the same initials as them, so the monograms are perfect!

It is our desire to be an authentic Christian school. We begin every school day with a chapel service and every student goes through a Christian Religion Education course. We have also partnered with nearby missionaries, Education in Christ, who are former teachers from the US. They are mentoring and training educators to teach the glory of God in every subject, every day.

## COMMUNITY IMPACT

Even though the public-school system in Kenya is free, schools are allowed to charge several fees for various purposes such as enrollment, desks, exams, and PTA. With such a high number of people living in extreme poverty near us, many children either do not attend school or their educations are interrupted often because they are sent home until fees are paid.

These are all children that come from very difficult backgrounds of poverty. They were not attending school or their education was often interrupted because they were being sent home due to fees. We have one boy attending whose step-father would pay fees for his biological children, but not his step-son. So, the boy, desperately wanting to attend school, was getting up early every morning and working late hours every evening, collecting and carrying water in jerry-cans in order to sell to pay his fees. The school allows us to help out in these difficult circumstances.

*“We are so thankful to everyone supporting MCA through prayers and donations. We wish each of you could get the chance to see first-hand the tremendous impact you are having on these children and their families!”*

— Stephanie Bys

For more information

[afm.ngo/mercy-christian-academy](http://afm.ngo/mercy-christian-academy)





Pictured above is a young boy named Sadic who we rescued off the streets of Bungoma, Kenya in August of 2019. This was a joint effort of Mercy Ministries and the local Bungoma government who aided us in rescuing him. He is now in the Mercy Home program under Jeff and Stephanie's care.

# Mercy Baptist Church



## MISSION STATEMENT

*“Our mission is to convey the whole counsel of God for the sake of calling sinners to repentance and the sanctification of the saints through the power of the Holy Spirit, proclaiming Christ and Him crucified in the means of grace, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. All of this we do out of love for Him who first loved us.”*

## BACKGROUND

Although about 70% of Kenyans identify as Christian, the majority are influenced by the Word of Faith movement, New Apostolic Reformation and the so-called prosperity gospel. A large percentage of Kenyans are biblically illiterate, and very few pastors have received any training. There is also great need for solid biblical resources to edify the Church in Kenya.

## WHAT DO SUNDAYS LOOK LIKE?

Mercy Baptist Church is currently meeting under a tent at the front of the Mercy Ministries campus. Sunday School begins at 10 am. Congregants pray, sing one or two hymns, and Jeff teaches through Keach's Catechism. Service begins at 11 am. We work very hard to plan a service that edifies the saints and brings glory to God. Everything we do in the service centers around the Word of God. We pray, sing hymns and psalms in English and Swahili, read Scripture, either Jeff or pastor Leonard preaches, and we close by partaking in the Lord's Supper and the singing the "Doxology." We feed the children of our community after service, and we are blessed to have many of them attend the service with us.

## OUTREACH

Church Plants & Partnerships: We have planted a church in the nearby village of Tulumba. We also partner with 3 other congregations: one in Tulumba village, another in the village of Talitia, and a third in the village of Bukembe. Mercy Baptist Church is a part within a network of 5

congregations all working together for the advancement of the gospel in rural Bungoma county.

We also partner with Pastor Elly Achok of nearby Mumias. Elly and his team of lecturers run the Wisdom Training Center, which meets at the Mercy Ministries campus every Saturday. They are teaching our local pastors courses in theology so that they can earn a certificate or diploma.

Furthermore, we are currently sending 4 pastors from the churches we partner with to KReST (Kisumu Reformed School of Theology) where they are studying for a bachelor's degree in theology.

Most Mondays, Jeff and other Mercy Baptist Church pastors go door-to-door for evangelism and passing out tracts and other Biblical resources to the communities we serve. We are also partnering with pastor Elly Achok and his team for some upcoming street preaching, more to come on this soon!

Sub-ministries: Sharon Bible School is a ministry founded by AFM board member Jim Clark that we have adapted to use in training many local church leaders and laypeople in how to better learn from the Bible as their teacher. We have renamed this program in Kenya to *Mercy Ministries Discipleship Classes*. Through the *Mercy Ministries Discipleship Classes*, we provide study materials to local churches, teaching them basic Bible study methods

Our students go through 41 weeks of studying the books of John and Acts, and Jim Clark is currently working on translating an entire verse by verse study into Swahili so these students can now work through Romans. Just recently end of August 2019 we graduated over 120 students from about 6 area churches from our Discipleship classes.



We currently have about 7 to 10 more area churches requesting us to start these Bible training basic classes at their churches. However, due to their limited resources the only way this can happen is if we can find more donors to sponsor a class. We would like to raise up sponsors to help us with purchase of Bibles for all class members, as the great majority don't have one – monthly sponsors of a class would be very much welcomed as well. We provide beans and rice for a meal once a week to the class as well as print out all their study material for the members. To provide a small monthly salary for a teacher and these supplies, each class costs us about \$100 a month to run.

Would you pray about helping spread the Gospel and make disciples in this extremely important way? For \$50 a month will provide half a class, \$25 a fourth or \$100 will help a class of 20 or so for an entire month! This is the Lord's calling and work!



When giving simply specify "*Mercy Ministries Discipleship Classes*" or just "*Discipleship Classes*".

This ministry is vital to AFM and Jeff's desire to see this ministry grow much more.

*"I believe that through much prayer and obedience to the Word of God by His faithful, a foundation has been laid whereby an authentic Christian Church is growing in Kenya and east Africa. It is our desire to do our part in training up and sending out elder-qualified men for the advancement of the gospel throughout Africa."*

— Jeff Bys

For more information  
[afm.ngo/mercy-baptist-church](http://afm.ngo/mercy-baptist-church)





## Trip to Kenya

**H**ave you ever considered missions for yourself? Maybe it is something you have briefly pondered but never taken serious; or maybe it is something you have given thought to but decided against it for one reason or another; or maybe you are seeking where or what the Lord would have of you in terms of missions. Regardless of your situation, you should know that it is absolutely the will of God that we all partake in being missional. What do we mean?



First of all, there really is a true religion. James tells us exactly what true religion is. He says, “*Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*”<sup>2</sup> Notice that there is a *pure and undefiled* religion before God? Not only this, but did you notice that it is active in that it is to visit orphans and widows? Furthermore, did you notice that it is also *to keep oneself* (our own person) *unstained* (or unconsumed; untainted) *from the world*?

Keeping these things in mind, let us consider secondly what Jesus Himself says to His disciples, “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy*

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<sup>2</sup> James 1:27

*Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”<sup>3</sup> Now if we only take these two passages of Scripture together, we would have this: “In all places live holy unto God, helping the most-lowly treated people, avoiding the snares of this fallen world, and teach, preach, and call all people to come to the knowledge, love and true saving grace of God, here, there and everywhere, living set apart for His glory.”<sup>4</sup>*

For in reality we are to be indigenous missionaries right where we are, and yet, we are to be about helping those who leave their homeland and serve other people groups. The founder of HeartCry Missionary Society<sup>5</sup> says it like this, “*You are either called to go down in the well or hold the rope for those who go, either way there ought to be scars on your hands.*”

So would you consider taking a trip to Kenya and helping serve? If so, we would love to talk with you.

Some basic things to consider if you are interested in going over to Kenya are listed below. Obviously there are many more, but these are few to get you started

- Do you agree with the foundational beliefs outlined on our website at [www.afm.ngo/our-faith](http://www.afm.ngo/our-faith). If considering a longer than two week trip, you must agree with our full doctrinal statement here: [www.afm.ngo/docs](http://www.afm.ngo/docs)
- Do you strongly believe that the Lord is the conviction behind your feelings?
- Are you cultivating a dedicated prayer life?
- Are you a member of a local Church with believers who will commit to pray with you?

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19, 20

<sup>4</sup> Author’s paraphrase

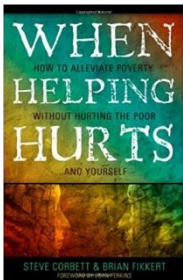
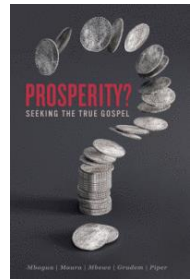
<sup>5</sup> Although we are not affiliated with HeartCry Missionary Society, we do agree on the Gospel, the laboring for Christ’s sake and helping to fulfill the great commission.

- Are you harboring, holding onto and living in any unrepentant sin?
- Are you willing to provide 2-3 references from Christian leaders who personally know you?
- Why do you want to go? Emotions or conviction? Personal or others centered?
- Do you have the ability to fund the trip yourself or willing to enlist the help of friends, family or your local Church?
- How do you believe the Lord is having you to serve? Generally? Specifically?
- What timeframe are you considering? Sooner or later? Shorter or longer?
- Do you have healthcare needs that may not be available in a third world country?

## Helpful Considerations

### ***Prosperity? Seeking the True Gospel***

FREE download: [thegospelcoalition.org/publication/prosperity/](http://thegospelcoalition.org/publication/prosperity/)



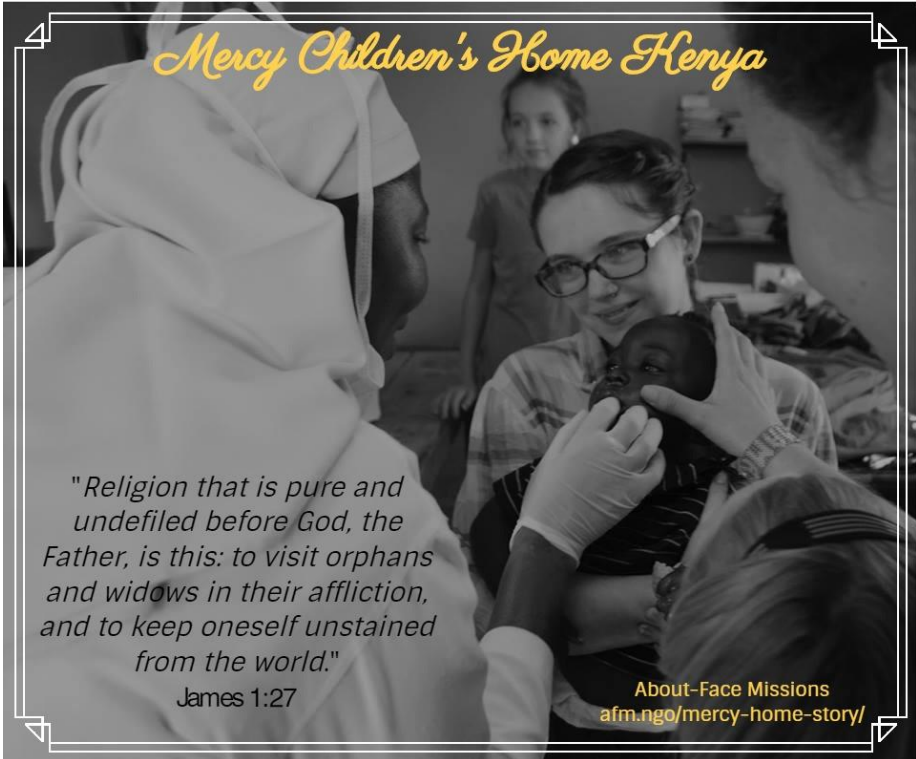
***When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor... and Yourself***

## **How to apply for an AFM Kenya mission trip**

The first step is to answer the key points below. Then submit your statements to us via email at: [info@afm.ngo](mailto:info@afm.ngo)

- 1.) A summary about themselves and family
- 2.) Why they want to go on a mission trip to Kenya
- 3.) What they feel they have to offer to help out or what they would like to do
- 4.) Most importantly, describe their testimony in 3 parts
  - a. Their life before following Jesus;
  - b. What happened that brought them to true faith in Christ;
  - c. How has their life changed, what difference has knowing Christ made in their life.
- 5.) Then answer the 3 questions below:
  - a. On a scale of 1-10, how sure are you that you are going to be with God in heaven. (10 being absolutely sure)
  - b. If you died and stood before God in heaven and He asked you, “Why should I let you into My heaven?”, what would you say?
  - c. Who is Jesus Christ to you personally?

## Serving Opportunities



The ministry opportunities seem to be ever so vast and open as never before, especially with the digital and travel age in which we live. It is so very true of what Jesus said, *“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”*<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Luke 10:2

Regardless if you can leave the country or not, regardless if you have little or much, there are opportunities galore. Below are just a few of our needs and projects.

- Agricultural knowledge and skills training or consultation
- Daily Supplies – food, housing, travel expenses
- Travel limitations – need for a van(s)
- Medical Supplies and help – supplies needed, workers with healthcare experience, expenses for medicines and hospital visits
- School start up project: people with school operational skills to help us develop a solid Christian school program.
- Bibles and resources for biblical training – resources and men
- Church planting / Evangelism / Bible Teaching
- Care for the children – playing, reading, caring for and befriending the children / sports ministry outreaches
- Building skills and resources to come and consult on how to improve facilities and campus. We prefer to hire locals for labor to benefit the community.
- Outreach to the poor neighbors and widows – basic needs, food, shelter, being a friend to those who have none.
- Helping the Mercy Children’s Home staff with their work and befriending them
- VBS type children’s ministry help





## Our Staff

AFM Ministry (About-Face Missions) is currently all volunteer staff since we are a small non-profit ministry trying to do the most for the Lord with the resources God has given us.

More can be read at: [afm.ngo/our-staff/](https://afm.ngo/our-staff/)



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### David Shelton, AFM Founder, President, Director, Board Chairman

**D**avid is employed in the health care industry and gives his free time to oversee our ministry and reach more people for Christ. His professional experiences have been primarily in technical services and small business operation. David's passion has always been evangelism and discipleship which led him to foreign mission fields where he travels frequently working with ministers helping equip, encourage and spur them on in evangelism and discipleship. He served on evangelism teams with ministries such as Bill



Glass Prison ministries, Needhim ministries, I am Second, and Global Media Outreach (GMO), as team leader and on-line missionary that focused on using the internet to reach and disciple people for Christ.

[David's Facebook](#) | [AFM Ministry Facebook](#)



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## Jeff and Stephanie Bys – AFM Ministry Missionaries

Jeff and Stephanie have been married for 16 years and they have 10 children and 1 Granddaughter. They are originally from the Dallas/Ft Worth Metroplex. Jeff and Stephanie are now full time missionaries with AFM, serving with their 7 youngest children in rural Western Kenya. They are overseeing Mercy Ministries-AFM Africa and the various ministries that fall under that. Jeff and Steph have big hearts for orphans and fully believe that God led them to take His call for them in Africa.



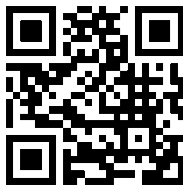
**J**eff Bys – AFM Vice President, Director of African Missions and Board Vice Chairman, Co-Director of Mercy Children's Home, Co-Director of Mercy Christian Academy, Pastor/Elder of Mercy Baptist Church-Kaya, Director of Mercy Ministries Discipleship Classes

Prior to being a missionary Jeff was a district manager of restaurants for 18 years. He is gifted in pastoring the people of God. He has been a leader in churches where he has served in children's ministries, youth pastoring, and as a lay preaching pastor. He led a small church in the Dallas, TX area for a time and is firmly grounded in Biblical reformed theology. Jeff is currently enrolled at The North American Reformed Seminary where he is in the Bachelor of Divinity program. One of Jeff's main focuses in Kenya is teaching the Gospel and training and teaching pastors. Jeff's prayer is to one day be able to reach unreached people groups in Kenya and East Africa with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**S**tephanie Bys – Co-Director of Mercy Children's Home, Co-Director of Mercy Christian Academy

Before Stephanie was a missionary she was a full-time, homeschooling Mom. As a child Stephanie always dreamed of being a Mom. However, she never dreamed God would bless her with so many to love. Over the years Steph served alongside Jeff in children's ministry and youth ministry. Steph's main focus in Kenya is anything to do with children; the children that live inside her home and those outside. Steph's prayer is that God would continue to change her heart to be more like His, and in doing so that would influence others in the way children are to be loved and cared for.

[Jeff's Facebook](#) | [Stephanie's Facebook](#) | [Mercy Home Facebook](#)



## Jeremy B. Strang, Public Relations Director, Board Member

**J**eremy is a Christian, husband, father and author. *“I am simply a Christian, a husband, and a father. I am merely a man seeking to further know and continue walking with my great and mighty God. I am literally a story of a stone in the making. Read more of my story, [“Grace Upon Grace.”](#) However, we have come to know him as that and much more. Jeremy is also employed in the healthcare industry, but volunteers his time and talents to help this mission grow and thrive. Jeremy has a great passion for the Lord and a heart for missions. Jeremy also has a side venture with his son called, [“Man Finds Coffee”](#), which you can follow along on their website or [Facebook](#) page.*



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## Jim Clark, Discipleship Director, Board Member

**J**im is a retired scientist but a lover of Jesus and the Gospel! He and his wife Donna have a long history of love for Bible study. Jim has taken many of these lifelong Bible study lessons and created an on-line school for the poor called 'Sharon Bible School' which is now part AFM ministry works. Through his passion to see people go out and evangelize and make disciples, Jim also developed a tract ministry to help get Bible tracts in the hands of the poor indigenous pastors around the world



at very low cost through internet download. Jim and AFM partnered to work with our various ministers over the years and it only made sense to merge our efforts and unite under one umbrella ministry. So we invited and Jim accepted the position of AFM Director of Discipleship. Jim is continuing his work of developing and translating much of their Bible study lessons into local languages for our various pastors as well as his Gospel tracts and are continuing the Sharon Bible School a branch ministry of About-Face Missions under Jim's leadership.

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### Joel Toland - Financial Administration, Board Member

**J**oel is mature in his faith, and leader in the Church and one who has a heart for making disciples for Christ. He is employed for a major airline company as a systems architectural engineer and is an active member of Watermark Community Church and co-leads community group with David. Joel is disciplined in his faith and in his life and leads others in both word and deed. He is both a sacrificial giver of his time and money helping AFM manage its books and a current consultant on the board of directors. Joel is married to his wonderful wife and theologian Holly Toland and lives in the Dallas metroplex.



## James Kinsella, MD - AFM Advisor, Board Member and Pastor of Revival Church of Fall Creek, WI

**J**ames Kinsella, MD is married with 7 children. James is the Pastor and Elder of Revival Church of Fall Creek, Wisconsin. In addition to his family and church duties, he has recently come on the AFM Ministry board and has a deep passion



for the glory of God and for people to come to the knowledge of the truth as found in the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. James works full-time as a Radiologist with Marshfield Clinic in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. You can learn more about Revival Church and listen to their messages on their website.

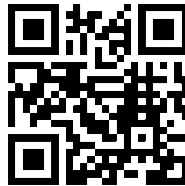
### Devin and Rachel Kinsella- AFM Webmasters - Media & Program Administration (pictured above on the left)

**D**evin and Rachel are a young married couple who are also the son and daughter-in-law of James and Elissa. Devin and Rachel are also now veteran mid term missionaries who spent some time in the field serving alongside the Bys Family learning the life they live and the mission God has begun with AFM in Kenya. Their time serving in the field with Jeff and Stephanie gave them a deeper appreciation for foreign missions and the roll and value that we all play in making these good deeds turn into reality.

Upon their return to the States, both Devin and Rachel desired to continue serving with us as they were able. As a result, they have committed to volunteer their time and talents in helping AFM redesign, organize and build our website. This is a huge help for us to better tell the narratives of what God is doing in and through us all. They are a great asset to our growing team of volunteers and we value them greatly!



[revivalfc.org/](http://revivalfc.org/)









## Giving

Many people have been asking us, “*How can I give or support the ministry financially?*” We hope that this will help provide some clarity as to how you can be a part of this mission.

However, we would first ask you to consider, “*What is your motivation for giving? Are you feeling compelled by the Spirit of God to give or by guilt?*” The last thing we want for you is to give due to some sort of guilt, but rather would desire that “*each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*” (2 Corinthians 9:7)

If you still desire to be a part of this mission with giving financially, below are a few links to get you started.

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## One Time or Recurring Gifts

You can give a one-time or recurring gift by visiting:

[afm.ngo/giving-mercy](https://afm.ngo/giving-mercy)



## Special Fundraisers

Our special fundraisers and projects can all be found by visiting:

[afm.ngo/fundraisers](https://afm.ngo/fundraisers)



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## Sponsorships

Maybe you are looking to sponsor a Mercy Children’s Home or Mercy Christian Academy child. If so, visit:

**Mercy Children’s Home**

**Mercy Christian Academy**

[afm.ngo/mercy-home-sponsorship](https://afm.ngo/mercy-home-sponsorship)

[afm.ngo/mca-sponsorship](https://afm.ngo/mca-sponsorship)



## Giving Paypal

PayPal Donate button to use with or without an account. You may also send via paypal by sending to our info@afm.ngo email address. Be sure to leave a note for designation purposes. If left blank, will go to the general fund.



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## Giving Outside of North America

To give by Check, make checks payable to:

AFM Ministry  
4034 Wiltshire Dr.  
Garland, TX 75043  
USA

Be sure to include memo on check for Mercy Ministry or Bys family.



# Final Thoughts

## Our Chief Need

*“Now Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.’”<sup>7</sup>*

*“In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence.”<sup>8</sup>*

*“And He told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.”<sup>9</sup>*

**W**ithout a doubt our greatest need, your greatest need, is for people to be a godly people of prayer. We need people who will, if they have not begun already, to cultivate a devoted prayer life with God. We need people who will be “*shut-up to God*”<sup>10</sup> alone with Him without the distractions of the world. We need people who



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<sup>7</sup> Luke 11:1

<sup>8</sup> Hebrews 5:7

<sup>9</sup> Luke 18:1 (2-8)

<sup>10</sup> Old terminology that refers to being set apart and devoted to God in times of private and devoted worship and prayer unto God.

will not only pray, but be a people who will be devoted to their God, being constantly “*transformed by the renewal of their minds*”<sup>11</sup> and set apart from the trappings of this world. We need people who will live out the Gospel, not only publically, but in their home with their families and in the most secret of places. The Christian life of communication with God must be grounded in humility as Christ our Lord lived and taught – humility in prayer, in love and in service to Christ.

Although the best way to begin growing in prayer is to simply read the Bible, seek God in prayer and turn away from worldliness, we also know that often books can be of great value. Below are a few books to help you in this process.

- *Humility: The Beauty of Holiness* – Andrew Murray
- *The Hidden Life of Prayer & The Prayer-Life of Our Lord* – David M. McIntyre
- *The Path of Prayer* – Samuel Chadwick
- *With Christ in The School of Prayer* – Andrew Murray
- *E.M. Bounds: The Classic Collection on Prayer* – E.M. Bounds
- *Revival Praying* – Leonard Ravenhill
- *The Lord’s Prayer* – Thomas Watson

## **Eternity Stamped**

*“Lord, stamp eternity on my eyeballs.”*  
Jonathan Edwards

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<sup>11</sup> Romans 12:1, 2

# Mercy Ministries



## AFM Africa

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***“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”***

Matthew 28:19, 20

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# Proclaiming Christ in Africa and around the world



AFM Ministry

