

Bridging Generations Under the African Sky

How ADOSC and the Diocese of Maseno South brought GrandCamp to Kenya, igniting a movement of Biblical discipleship across generations

By Brett Kucera

GrandCamp has been a cherished pillar of ministry within the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina (ADOSC) since 2013, hosting 13 transformative camps over the past 13 years. Born out of Cavin Harper's founding vision for Christian grandparenting and championed locally through the dedicated initiative and faith of Cathy Jacobs and Peter Roethermel, this ministry has touched hundreds of families across North America. But in August 2026, GrandCamp took a historic leap across the globe—bringing its intergenerational magic to Sub-Saharan Africa for the very first time.

The vision was first sparked when Sherry Schumann, President of the Christian Grandparenting Network, felt God's call to expand GrandCamp into Kenya. Partnering with ADOSC GrandCamp Director Wanda DeLorge and Rev. Fred Onyango, Schumann traveled to Kenya to share the concept with lay leaders and clergy in the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), Maseno South Diocese. The response was overwhelmingly enthusiastic, and ambitious plans were laid for an August 2026 launch.

Step-Up Leadership & Providential Grace

Then, unexpected life events intervened. A family health crisis prevented Sherry Schumann from making the journey. When Dr. Lee Jones and his wife, also named Lee Jones shared this development to my attention, I sensed an immediate call to step into the gap.

I volunteered to lead the teaching curriculum, provided the Joneses and my wife, Sherry, would serve alongside me. Having observed the "Miracle Worker" themed GrandCamp at Epworth By The Sea in Georgia earlier that summer, I saw clearly how the curriculum could be adapted for East Africa. Having traveled to Kenya four times previously, Sherry and I possessed the cultural fluency and trusted relationships. In particular, I heavily relied on Rev. Elisha Nyambori to translate in and out of the tribal Luo language, ensuring the message resonated deeply within the local context.

"Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your mighty acts to all who are to come." — PSALM 71:18

Fruitful Partnerships on Display

The historic four-day, three-night camp unfolded at the Huma Girls School, providing a vivid showcase of long-standing global mission partnerships. Dr. Lee Jones, a leader in

Prince George Winyah's First Fruits campaign, expressed deep emotion seeing the tangible impact of years of shared ministry between ACK and ADOSC.

Grandparents and grandchildren were housed in a beautiful new dormitory built through the generosity of St. Helena's, Beaufort. Clean water for cooking, sanitation, and modern restrooms was supplied via PGW's investment in Water Mission International. Meanwhile, the school's brand-new, gymnasium-sized multipurpose building hosted worship, teaching, and fellowship.

"Seeing the multipurpose building in action was exhilarating! It serves as a cafeteria, chapel, and gathering place for the girls at Huma. It was the perfect venue for GrandCamp," Dr. Jones explained.

Connecting Two Receptive Generations

Rev. Emmah Omondi of ACK All-Saints Maseno was deeply moved by the ministry's unique approach. "GrandCamp did something most church programs don't do: it connected the two most spiritually open generations," Omondi shared.

For many Kenyan grandparents, the camp offered a profound epiphany. While elders traditionally serve as primary caregivers, many had not envisioned themselves as intentional spiritual mentors. Retirement had left some feeling sidelined into basic babysitting. GrandCamp reminded them of their high calling as spiritual anchors, giving them a second chance to pass down their faith with intentionality.

Vibrant Gospel Teaching & Interactive Worship

The Gospel came alive for the children through immersive lessons on Christ's miracles—including the Nativity, the feeding of the five thousand, and turning water into wine. Kenyan children, accustomed to rigorous school recitation, eagerly memorized all five camp scripture verses with remarkable ease.

A central highlight was a dramatic visual illustration of the Atonement. I explained the Gospel using two shirts: one clean white shirt worn by Jesus and one sin-stained shirt worn by man. As Jesus offers to trade shirts, campers witnessed how Christ takes our punishment while gifting us His righteousness.

I asked the children, *"Do you accept the deal Jesus is offering you? It's His gift to you."* It was immensely gratifying hearing the children publicly accept Christ's grace.

Music filled the air throughout the camp, combining African praise rhythms with interactive camp songs. Meanwhile, Mrs. Lee Jones ("Teacher Achieng") led local Sunday School teachers in directing arts, crafts, and children's Bible lessons, creating a collaborative model that enriched local church leaders for long-term ministry.

Equipping Elders Through "Grand Bits"

The enthusiasm of the Kenyan grandparents was contagious. Three grandfathers in their late 70s and 80s sat faithfully in the front row, dancing and singing with joy. Elders were particularly eager for the "Grand Bits" modules—practical training designed to help grandparents bridge modern cultural gaps, share personal testimonies, and stand in prayer for their families.

One grandfather shared that rapid cultural changes had left him unsure how to communicate faith to his grandchildren. After GrandCamp, he felt equipped and confident to lead his family spiritually.

Voices from the Camp:

- **Reuben Aloo (Parent):** *"Unlike before, our children now take family devotions much more seriously. May God richly reward you for making GrandCamp happen here!"*
- **Francis Ochieng (Grandfather):** *"Our youth have strayed from Biblical values. Now that ADOSC has equipped us, we are going to take this information and teaching and spread it to the rest of the world."*

A Generational Legacy Sown in Faith

The powerful rhythm of daily family devotions culminated with each child receiving their very own Bible—a first for nearly every child present. "Watching grandparents reading and discussing scripture with their grandchildren was profoundly inspiring," noted Sherry ("Akinyi") Kucera.

Summing up the significance of the trip, Rev. Fred Onyango of St. Paul's Summerville reflected on the strategic milestone reached in Maseno South:

"The first-ever GrandCamp in Kenya, and possibly Sub-Saharan Africa, was a timely, strategic culmination of a deeply impactful vision that will affect the church and society for generations to come. It was amazing to see the small epiphanies the 103 grandparents experienced through teachings, testimonies, and family devotions as their hearts opened to their biblical role. While Kenyan grandparents have always served as primary caregivers and cultural leaders, this ministry leverages traditional respect for elders into an intentional, spiritual legacy."

As the team returned to South Carolina, the seeds sown in obedience continue to take root across East Africa, promising a harvest of faith for generations to come.

Brett Kucera is the Youth Minister at Prince George Winyah. He also serves on the Mission and Outreach Committee and plays bass guitar with the church's praise team. Since joining PGW in 2021, Brett has served as the head of PGW's technical ministry, taught music at Prince George Preschool, and participated in nine missions representing the church. He is currently in the discernment process for ordained ministry.