



A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger

Steve Peifer , Gregg Lewis

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger

Steve Peifer , Gregg Lewis

A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger Steve Peifer , Gregg Lewis
A Dream So Big is the story of Steve Peifer, a corporate manager who once oversaw 9,000 computer software consultants, who today helps provide daily lunches for over 20,000 Kenyan school children in thirty-five national public schools, and maintains solar-powered computer labs at twenty rural African schools.

Steve and his wife, Nancy, were enjoying a successful management career with one of America's high tech corporate giants during the dot-com boom of the 1990's when, in 1997, he and his wife Nancy discovered they were pregnant with their third child. Tragically, doctors said a chromosomal condition left their baby "incompatible with life." The Peifers only spent 8 days with baby Stephen before he died.

Seeking to flee the pain, Steve and Nancy began a pilgrimage that thrust them into a third-world setting where daily life was often defined by tragedy—drought, disease, poverty, hunger, and death. They didn't arrive in the service of any divine calling, but the truth of their surroundings spoke to their troubled hearts. A short-term, 12-month mission assignment as dorm parents for a Kenyan boarding school turned this ordinary man into the most unlikely internationally recognized hero, and his story will inspire you to pursue similar lives of service.

A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger Details

Date : Published March 19th 2013 by Zondervan
ISBN : 9780310326090
Author : Steve Peifer , Gregg Lewis
Format : Hardcover 326 pages
Genre : Nonfiction, Cultural, Africa, Autobiography, Memoir

 [Download A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears o ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger
Steve Peifer , Gregg Lewis

From Reader Review A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger for online ebook

Jonathan Esterman says

While the book may be published, the journey itself may never be over. This book is about Steve Peifer, former middle-manager in corporate tech America, who ventured beyond his comfort zone. Both him and his wife were expecting child. During a medical visit, they were informed their soon-to-be son had trisomy 13 and would not survive. Instead of seek an abortion, they determined to carry the child to term and as a result, had a son for eight days, before the child's unfortunate, yet expected, death.

To help cover the pain, Steve and his wife journeyed to Africa for a one-year mission to help the hurting people there. While it was not a goal of Steve to be in Africa, his wife longed for the experience, and so they went. Ten years later, this book was published to tell of their experiences in Africa since that time. To quote Steve at an awards ceremony for their work, "Africa gets under your skin and won't let go." Steve was transformed by a simple visit, from ideal American life to the mission field. This book, by Steve himself, captures the hearts of those who read it and draws them into the field as well. It's much like the land, in that regard: infectiously addictive.

When I was contracted to review this book, I asked my wife to read it and I would hold a guest review for her. Instead, these are my words, at no offense to her. This book is one to inspire missionaries, and my wife has always had a missionary's heart. Her inability to pick up the book, however, is not because of that, but because of the part of her heart that is a mother and not wanted to feel the pain of the lost son. That said, I can totally understand: Steve writes very convincingly and openly. Such said, while this book may be perfect for ministries, it may not be perfect for those with small children in their lives. It is a heart-wrenching tale that brought them to their point, but also a solid point as well: G-d takes the broken hearted, heals them, and uses their wound to heal others as well. In reviewing this book, Steve has a detailed accounting of their work, both successes and failures, in Africa. From providing lunches and improving attendances in schools to teacher strikes and the murder of replacement teachers, Steve shares it how Africa really is. This isn't the typical missions report at the local church (condensed with highlights of successes, requests for more funding, just a general overview) - this is a missions ledger.

For those considering missionary work, this is a good book to read before you go. Consider it a primer on missions work. While I may not be the right one to enjoy the book, as it is not much traditional read, I do admit this: Steve tells it like it is and does so unapologetically. It's a great book in that regard.

Karen says

A Dream So Big is a story of a family's journey past the pain of losing an infant to the dream of impacting a nation of children with no hope. Written with an extremely dry sense of humor, this book takes you through a 10+ year journey in the life of the Peifer family. In this book you will meet Steve and his wife Nancy, his children Matthew, JT, Stephen, Ben, and Katie. You will also meet missionary children at a boarding school in Kenya where the Peifers work and fall in love with thousands of children across the country of Kenya. You will thrill to wild animal sightings (like baboons on the front porch), live dangerously through the precarious roads and drivers in Kenya, and cry at the description of children on the dirt floor of a public school, too weak to sit up because they haven't eaten in three days.

Steve's witty voice is carried throughout the book with actual e-mails written by Steve to their stateside

supporters describing the life as dorm parents at the missionary boarding school. You can't help but laugh at the descriptions of Steve learning to speak Swahili in such a fashion that the teachers are rolling on the floor with laughter.

With everything you will learn about Kenya and being a missionary family, the biggest thing I hope you will gain from reading this book is to not "make peace with the fact that there are hungry children". This statement jumped out at me and kind of slapped me in the face. I had a moment of thought about the kids here in the US that are going hungry, but then God reminded me that these precious little lives are someone's children too. These kids don't have even a fraction of a chance that even the poorest kids here in the U.S. have. Our kids can go to school and get breakfast and lunch for free and have 1 teacher for every 30 kids. They get textbooks and libraries where they can read to their heart's content. They will have access to computers and can achieve anything they want. These Kenyan kids have 1 teacher for several hundred kids. They have little to no textbooks. Their parents have to pay an outrageous sum to send them to public school and then have to provide their school uniform on top of that. There is simply nothing left, and these are the fortunate families. Drop out rates for elementary school kids are over 50%. Corruption and greed are abundant.

This book was a breath of fresh air for me. Bravo to Zondervan for allowing Steve to tell his story and a great job to Gregg Lewis for co-authoring this book. An even bigger thank you to Steve and Nancy Peifer for listening to the still small voice that wouldn't be silenced that allows the lives of so many people to be touched.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Zondervan Books. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Missy says

This book will change your heart and open you up to seeing the children of Africa like Jesus does! I highly recommend this book.

Bethany Turner says

"Having fulfilled the purpose the Father had for him, he returned to the Father." - Stephen Wrigley Peifer's tombstone

Stephen's death has led to thousands of Kenyan children receiving at least one hot meal a day. His death has led to Kenyan schoolchildren learning computer skills. His death created hope for the children and future of Kenya. God can take any situation and use it for His glory. He can provide hope to a nation through the death of an American baby.

This book is outstanding. I cannot recommend it highly enough. I laughed. I cried. I was inspired. I was stimulated. I was given hope. I even threatened my husband I was going to move to Africa. But never did I feel guilty or inadequate.

Do not read this book if you don't want to be changed.

Jill says

When Steve met Nancy she was determined to be a missionary, but Steve wanted nothing more than to live his life securely on American soil. Somehow, even with their differences, they were convinced God brought them together for a purpose and though Steve still assured Nancy active participation in missions was never to be, he would still contribute to missions financially. Whether Nancy thought things would ultimately change or not, she married Steve and together they created a family.

When Nancy found out she was pregnant at the age of 40, she and Steve were both surprised and excited at the same time. However, their excitement would soon turn to concern when they were told their child would be born with trisomy 13, a genetic disorder with an extra chromosome on the thirteenth pair. Most pregnancies do not make it full term or the baby is stillborn, and those who survive live two years at the longest. Stephen Wrigley Peifer lived eight days.

Seeking to flee the pain of their loss, Steve and Nancy Peifer signed up to be dorm parents at a school in Kenya for a year. But this one-year experiment became a 13 year journey to end the tears of hunger.

“A Dream So Big” is the re-telling of the events leading up to and including this monumental decision to be an unlikely hero living life in the center of God’s Will after the excruciating pain of losing a child. It is a story of what can happen when God puts two people together to live life in a world filled with pain and sorrow and how those two people can make a decision to give their lives to help others when they have suffered loss. It tells of how their hearts became broken for the kids who desperately needed help in order to survive. Their son, Stephen, through his death, saved thousands of kids in Africa from dying from hunger. What a marvelous picture of what God did for us—allowing His own Son, Jesus, to die on a cross to save the multitudes of sinners who would later turn to Him in their spiritual hunger so that they could have eternal life.

Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from Zondervan in return for an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission’s 16 CFR, Part 255: “Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising.”

Pastor John says

My wife, Patti, and another member of our church first met Steve Peifer during a trip to visit Keith and Jamie Weaver, missionaries sent by our church to the people of Kenya. There, Patti met Steve and worked with this beautiful wife Nancy in the library at Rift Valley Academy. I first met Steve at my home church when we invited him to come and tell us about his efforts to feed hungry school children that he describes in A Dream So Big. Since then Patti and I have answered a call to pastoral ministry and have not only followed Steve’s adventures through his regular emails, but have, on several occasions, invited him to speak in the churches where we were serving. I don’t think that his story has ever failed to astound his listeners.

Steve is an average, middle class guy whose life was turned upside down and who, through no particular

plan of his own, ended up in Kenya, Africa seeing things that most of us cannot imagine, and doing things that we would be afraid to do. Throughout this story, Steve insists that he is not an amazing man, just a man through whom, God is doing amazing things.

In A Dream So Big, we meet Steve, Nancy, and their family before the adventure began, at home, in Texas. We walk with them through one of the most difficult times that a parent can imagine, the loss of their child, Steven, and then follow them as they head to Africa. At first, their African adventure is intended to be just a year away to sort things out and to process the pain and the trauma of losing a child, a time for their family to be together and to heal. But, as Steve often points out, Africa changes a person. After a year in Kenya, the Peifers feel called, if not compelled, to return on a more permanent basis, and it is then that the real adventure begins.

Not content to see children lying in the dirt at school because they are weak from hunger, Steve sets out to change the world, or at least his little corner of it. Steve asks, and with the help of his friends and supporters in the United States, begins to provide lunches for two schools nearby. Two schools become four, and then ten, and by the end of the book become a truly extraordinary number. Providing food not only allows the children to be free from hunger, but gives them the strength to get an education and an incentive to stay in school. Even with these successes, Steve is not content. Building on the feeding program, Steve and his friends begin to build solar powered computer centers.

Just because I said the word computer, do not be tempted to think that this is just another story about wealthy, white Americans swooping in to “rescue” Africa. Those stories are old and they often are the picture of “Ugly Americans” with all the cultural insensitivity that you might expect. That is not Steve’s story. Steve builds a program in which the villages take ownership of their schools and their computer centers. The parents know that when these children finish school and head into the city to find work, as most of them do, that they will find good paying, skilled jobs instead of living in the slums fighting with untold thousands of others for a handful of unskilled jobs. The school children, their parents, and many others have seen Steve’s vision, and it is a vision that can break the back of poverty in Africa. It is a vision that can change the world.

I highly recommend A Dream So Big. As you follow Steve, Nancy and their family on this amazing adventure, you will laugh out loud at the ridiculous situations in which Steve finds himself. But you will also weep at the poverty and hopelessness that he sees all around him. A Dream So Big invites you, not only to follow along, but to be a part of this incredible adventure. I have no doubt that Steve Peifer is changing the world, one child at a time. When you read this book, you will discover that you can too.

Mary says

Really FUN to read. Best quote, " When you start to think the ice cream in Kenya tastes good its time for a furlough." I was encouraged. Final line in the book is so true, "Once you find his purpose for you, you too will discover a dream so big."

Dottie Parish says

A Dream So Big is an incredible true story that will delight, inspire and educate all who read it. Due to overwhelming grief at the loss of their infant son, Steve and his wife, Nancy, decide to spend a year at a school in Kenya as dorm parents to the children of missionaries.

Peifer recounts delightful and humorous stories about their children, JT and Matthew, and the family's adaptation to and experiences in Kenya. He tells similar tales about the boys they house parent. Family trips during school breaks give a marvelous picture of the stunning natural beauty of Kenya. Of course the travel is often on dirt roads and in the midst of much poverty.

Near the end of the first year Peifer visits a classroom in a government school and notices many of the children are lying on the dirt floor. He asks the teacher "Why are so many of your students lying on the floor?" The teacher replies, "This is Thursday. Most of the children haven't eaten since Monday. If they try to stand or even sit they will faint."

Peifer can't get these children out of his head. As a result, after a year back in the States, he and his family return to Kenya to help in the mission school as dorm parents and teachers. They also decide to adopt two month old abandoned Kenyan twins, Katie and Ben.

After teaching a few years Peifer becomes the school counselor guiding students as they apply to colleges. With Pfeifer's help several of the students for the first time ever are accepted at Harvard, MIT, Stanford, Dartmouth and Cornell.

In addition to his caring connections to his students Peifer reaches out to help a number of government schools. With friends and relatives raising funds in the US, Pfeifer sets up a lunch feeding program for these schools. Attendance jumps – kids come to school in order to eat. The schools with the worst attendance now have the best attendance. Later Peifer develops solar powered computer labs for these same schools – giving the children hope for their future.

This one year adventure became thirteen years of amazing experiences living in another culture and thinking outside the box to find ways to help Kenyan children escape starvation and find hope for their future. Read this book and enjoy descriptions of this beautiful country, insights into our wealth in comparison to their poverty, and be challenged to do something to make a difference.

Naomi says

"A Dream So Big: Our Unlikely Journey to End the Tears of Hunger" by Steve Peifer (with Gregg Lewis) is a moving look at how one family's journey through grief led them across the world to Kenya, Africa and how God has used them mightily in that nation.

Steve and Nancy Peifer were not planning on having a third child, but God had other plans for them. Their son, Stephen, was born with Trisomy 13 and died eight days later. As they grieved for their son, they began to feel a need for a change of scenery to escape the all-consuming grief. They met with friends who had worked as teachers at Rift Valley Academy, a boarding school for missionary kids in Kijabe, Kenya. Though that meeting, they found out that there was a need for dorm parents. They signed up through African Inland Mission for a one-year stint, packed up their belongings and their two older sons, and headed for Africa. One year turned into over 14 years.

Over the course of their work there, they have each served in various capacities in the boarding school. Steve had occasionally helped with relief missions delivering food to the families of school kids in nearby villages. But it was entering a classroom and seeing an entire room of kids lying in the dirt because they hadn't eaten in days and were too weak to sit up that caused an eventual shift in Steve's focus and ministry in Kenya.

After soliciting donations, he launched a feeding program through area schools that would provide a hot lunch to students. After these programs began, enrollment increased. As Steve continued to ponder how to help the Kenyan people pull out of the dire poverty and hunger that they lived in, he decided to open computer centers to train students in technology in the hopes that they would be better equipped for the future. The programs have continued to expand and now include Kenyan leadership. Steve continues to work for Rift Valley Academy as their guidance counselor.

This is an amazing book that brings to light such a serious subject that most Westerners would probably prefer to sweep under the rug. The issue of hunger is foreign to most of us in America, but a life-or-death reality that occurs daily in so many other parts of the world. I felt caught up in their journey and found myself cheering them on as they opened their first two feeding programs, as they expanded to include more schools, as they opened their first computer center. It's a fantastic example of how God can use ordinary people for His glory, how God can turn grief into something incredibly beautiful. I highly recommend this book. Be prepared to have your perspective on life altered!

If you are interested in more information about Steve's ministry with the feeding programs and computer centers, please visit their website at kenyakidscan.org.

(I've received this complimentary book through the Book Sneeze program in exchange for a review. A positive review was not required and the views expressed in my review are strictly my own.)

Nancy Peifer says

What can I say...it's my husband's book! I think it's great!

Nina Marie says

Africa feels like home everytime I read this book! Steve Peifer's story is really inspiring. I wish to be like him when I grow up

Sharon says

The book for review is "A Dream So Big" by Steve Peifer with Gregg Lewis.

This novel falls into the genre of biography, autobiography and personal memoirs

Be prepared to be humble when you read this book. Over the last few weeks and months I have been praying to the Lord to share with me other things I needed to be grateful for. Then this book arrived in my mailbox. It was not a book I requested but was chosen for me from a group to review. I will say this was his way of saying here, be humble.

This book is the story of Steve Peifer who use to work for a corporation and oversaw numerous consultants in the field of computers. Life was good for his family of two boys and wife until Nancy gives birth to their youngest Stephen. Tragedy hits when the young baby is diagnosed with a condition that will shorten his live massively. Within days of his birth he dies.

Trying to get their lives back in order they embark on becoming missionaries in Kenya. Uprooting their young sons they trek after much preparations to become dorm parents to a group of young boys at a school. They decided a year would be enough to do the work of the Lord.

They were incredibly wrong as they came across a kind of poverty that would overwhelm even the seasoned missionary. What this family from Texas discovered was droughts, hunger, casualties of war and pain on a level that will bring anyone to tears.

Join the family as the book dives into their experiences and what they learned. Something that was never expected and yet much appreciated and loved.

This book will be released March 19, 2013

Joan Arning says

Steve answers God's call to Africa for one year following the death of his infant son. Almost twenty years later, the Peifer family is still in Africa feeding hungry children and setting up computer classrooms.

You may laugh or cry as you read A Dream So Big. You will be saddened at the great need but Steve's humor (sometimes bordering crude) will make you laugh. Sometimes you have to laugh to keep from crying! This true story will stay with you and make you appreciate all that you have. I recommend this book to others. It may change how you look at your life.

Eg says

It is a rare occurrence to meet a truly extraordinary person. Several years ago, while on a flight I met Steve Peifer, former Oracle Systems executive, now Christian Missionary. Steve has dramatically changed the lives of countless school children in Kenya by feeding more than twenty thousand of them each day. The food program has reduced the drop out rate from fifty percent to close to zero, Additionally he has used shipping containers to create computer labs to teach the children, (many of whom have never even seen a computer), computer skills. By the time the children graduate from school they are certified in the use of Microsoft Office.

Steve Peifers lunch and computer programs are bringing "real change" to the children of Kenya. Their lives are
FOREVER changed and the cycle of poverty is BROKEN. This is a program where the vision of one family is helping Kenyans help themselves through hard work and determination. AMAZING!

This book details the story of a husband and wife who went to Kenya for a one-year mission trip following

the death of their infant son. That trip changed their lives and led them to become full-time "Life Changers " to the children of Kenya. Their story grips your heart and changes it in one big swoop! It is impossible to read this book and not feel compelled to help. This book details a journey of HURT, HUNGER and HOPE. Peifer's words will jump out and bring tears of compassion and joy to your heart! My soul has been stirred into action and yours will be too. A must read!

Nancy says

If I could, I would give many, many more stars. Although I'm usually a pretty fast reader, this book took a long time to get through --- not because it wasn't wonderful (it is!) but because ever couple of pages I had to put it down because I was crying. And sometimes because I was just so angry! God broke my heart through this book. I have complained to myself when I couldn't afford things or when the money ran out before the end of the month, and now I realize something I always knew deep down, that I am so stinking rich! God has really spoken to me through this book, and I know that there is something new ahead for me --- no, I'm not becoming a missionary, am way too old for that. But there is something

I am grateful for people like the Peifers and those who work with them, people who are in the trenches, who show us what it's all about. All the things I griped about here now seem so trivial! Now I can only give thanks that we are so blessed.

I wish every single American would read this book. It is a life changer!!!
