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QUIE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



"All it took was a photo..."

We are very grateful to those sponsors who have taken the time to write to us and share their sponsorship experiences. Sponsorship is a two way street. As a sponsor, you are a herald of good news, and a messenger of hope to the hopeless, but the process does not end there. As you begin to learn more about your sponsored child, you cannot help but be transformed in the process and you begin to love and care for that child. You become a member of that child's immediate family. He or she is no longer "a sponsored child" but

"your child" and you love him, and you pray for her, and you praise the Lord for bringing that them into your life.

We want to share with you a letter we received from one of our sponsors.

All it took was a photo and the Holy Spirit to allow my thoughts to say, "Sponsor my child, make him your child".

I have a son and daughter whom I love, but could I love someone outside my family just as much as someone inside my family? I wanted the answer to be a definite yes.

So I sponsored Ruhan* and have been sponsoring him for about two years. Many times, Ruhan wrote to me in English saying that he tries hard in school, misses his family, and loves to sing in church with his friends. Photo's and letters show me how much he has grown in size and in Christ. I am so proud of Ruhan, he looks so much happier now. Someday I would like to visit him in India so I could know him and his "family" even better.

After World War II, my mother was an orphan at the age of 14 in

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A Personal Note

Congo Update – ICC Children Near the War Zone

“**D**ad, if we were still in our home villages we would be dying with our brothers who stayed home.” *ICC child speaking to our project administrator in the DRC*

If you've been following the news reports from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) you understand that this statement is no exaggeration. Over the past few months, M23 rebel forces have caused a major humanitarian crisis in the eastern part of that country. We've been monitoring the situation and have been concerned about the safety of our ICC children who reside on Idjwi Island. The following are excerpts from messages we received during the height of the conflict.

November 27, 2012

“News coming out of Congo is not good this morning. The city of Goma is completely shut down--no one allowed in or out. Boats between Goma and Bukavu are stopped and there is no way on or off Idjwi. All the food production areas around Goma and Masisi and Rutshuru are empty and there is no food in Goma. Desire sent a boat to Kibuye on the Rwanda side of the lake in order to see if there was any food, but there is very little food in Rwanda and the prices are extremely high for anything that is there. Efforts are being made to get some food from Uganda via Rwanda. “ *Dr. Barry Wecker, ICC partner in Canada*

December 15, 2012

Up to now the situation in Eastern Congo is still scary. Goma town is full of two groups; one side is full of government soldiers and another side is full of M23 soldiers. Three days before they had allowed boats and vehicles by the transport authority to move to Goma town but since Thursday, no boat and vehicle was allowed to step within Goma town. Since 26th October, those people who are economically stable have left Goma town. Outside of the town, three refugee camps have been set up and the security here is taken by Congo National Military (i.e. UN). At night many people die due to those rebels and thieves that are still hiding within the town. Your prayers and advice are of great importance to us.”
Desire, Project Administrator



A smile for one of your children, a stark contrast to his peers off the island.

Though the conflict has subsided a bit over the past few weeks, the situation remains tense and hardships continue. Here are details from Desire's latest update.

January 14, 2013

The recent war and the capture of Goma by M23 has left traces that have had an impact on the project activities in the DRC. During this period, our office in Goma has been moved temporarily to Idjwi which hampered the coordination of certain activities. Our Children's Village has experienced difficulties in food supply. To circumvent this problem we were obliged to supply from neighboring Rwanda, but it was inadequate because they too were supplied largely from the DRC. I was even arrested by the intelligence [officials] questioning the motives of supplying from Rwanda which is regarded as a country supporting the M23 rebels.

Although our children in the village were safe, these events have had an impact on them. Some were psychologically traumatized due to the lack of information of the members of their families who live in places taken by the rebels. Because of this situation all children have been deprived of their Christmas holidays. Our students studying at Kanyatsi were cut off from our support. A compromise was made with the officials from the Adventist church who ordered the institute to support our children during this period until the return of peace. They will be repaid.

As for the city of Goma, abandoned by all humanitarians, the population was confined to the fear of being caught by the bullets. My house has received some [damage from bullets], but thanks to God because those bullets did not hit anyone. All our agents living in Goma were also miraculously protected during this difficult period, and we believe that is a great miracle given the gravity of the situation [of those] that lived in the city.

One of our children told me, "Dad, if we were still in our home villages we would be dying with our brothers who stayed home." He asked me to write to Rick and Sharon to thank our many sponsors who have sought to give us food and build houses for us. God bless our sponsors and what they do for us!

Now that the rebels are in talks with the government after having retired from the city, the situation is improving timidly, but the population remains concerned about what happens because they live in a climate of peace or war.

Pray for DRC so that finally it finds true and lasting peace and that the work done for his "children" can be effective. *Desire, Project Administrator*

Quite literally, your continued support is saving lives at the Patmos Children's Village in the DRC. Thank-you for all you do and will do to help make this place a safe haven for orphaned and abandoned children who have suffered so much.

In His Service,



Kent Greve

THE YEAR OF THE SPONSOR

This year we are asking sponsors to share with all of us the blessings they have received through sponsorship. We will be publishing a column that will be entitled "We want to hear from you."

We are asking any sponsor that would be willing to share their personal journey in sponsorship with an ICC child. Please write about your experience and send it to us. You may either mail it to our office, or you can send it to us via email to Doug@forhiskids.org

We may have to edit your testimonies in order for them to fit into the space available, so please keep that in mind as you write your stories. Thank you so much! We are looking forward to reading your experiences.

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ICC'S ONLINE CATALOG NOW OPEN!

DONATE TODAY!

ICC now has an online Gift Catalog from which you may directly support your favorite ICC project! Your purchase may be from you or as a gift on behalf of a friend.

This online gift catalog is a simple and wonderful way to provide much-needed items for our ICC families. Go to our website (www.forhiskids.org) and "click" on the icon that says "Donate today!"

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU - Continued

Germany. She and her two sisters "Waltraut and Ursula" had a baby brother 2 years old "Peter" to take care of. It was Christian sponsors in the United States that brought them to the U.S., and gave them love and a new start in life. These sponsors showed love to a lonely orphan. I feel that any kind effort makes a gigantic difference on someone's life. How do you feel when a child embraces you and holds tight?

I think my sponsored child Ruhan is embracing me in his thoughts and I am embracing him. But the

day we actually embrace, words will not describe the joy, but I will have a tear of joy worth a thousand words.

Robert R.

We thank Robert for sharing such a special letter from his heart. Throughout this year we will be sharing with you letters from our sponsors. We would like to hear from as many of you as possible. We want to hear how sponsorship has affected your life, so continue sending your letters.

**Name has been changed to protect the privacy of the child.*

A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM INDIA

This letter came just before Christmas and we would like to share it with you.

"Dear Friends:

As you celebrate this Christmas may our Lord's birth be experienced in your hearts and bring you joy and hope for eternal bliss. Soon we will enter into another New Year, 2013. May the Lord guide and bless every step that you take and every decision you make.

"God had blessed Sweet Home in many ways. My heart is filled with gratitude as I look back on what our children have accomplished by the grace of God.

"One boy completed Masters in Biotechnology, and received a

medal for his outstanding performance, four have graduated with B.Sc. Degree in Nursing and nine have graduated from Academy. They certainly made me proud. I wish to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your great support and encouragement.

"And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones; and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters fail not."
Isaiah 58:11

With best wishes,
Sweet Home Family,
Lilly F. Kaligithi