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a monthly news blast from Children of Promise

August 2011

Putting It Simply: Can You Help One of These Children?

We have so many children in need who are waiting for someone to love them and offer them hope. Some are children who have been sponsored, but for various reasons have lost their sponsors. These children need loving people to pick up where the first sponsors left off. Some of them are shown below. Simply put, can you help one of these children? They need new sponsors. \$25 per month. Call us at 800-848-2464 ext. 2206 or write Vicky Creamer at vinc@childrenofpromise.org.

INK-081, India

Age: 9

Family Income: \$43/mo.



MYSP-057 Myanmar

Age: 7

Family Income: \$30



ZMP-027

Age: 11

Family Income: \$24



MLW-023

Age: 11

Family Income: \$43/mo.



PHQT-331

Age: 10

Family Income: \$100/mo.



Can you
help?

Kenyan Children in Desperate Need

By Dr. Paul Maxfield, Executive Director

Michel's father was brutally killed during political warfare in the Mt. Elgon, Kenya, area a couple of years ago. He is buried near the little round mud house with a thatched roof where Michel and her sister live with extended family members. Their mother fled on foot at one point during the fighting and has never been heard from since. As I looked inside the house, I saw nothing. They sleep on the ground and cook outside. Michel (at left) is one of the first children sponsored in Kenya. Living conditions are very stark and desperate. So many like Michel need our help. 42 are waiting for someone to care.



As I met with the church leaders there, they expressed deep gratitude for the efforts of Children of Promise in bringing relief, hope, and help to the children of the area. With 1,300 deaths due to the fighting in their area, they have cried out many times to the Lord for help. They believe God has sent Children of Promise to help, heal, and bring recovery to their community through ministering directly to the children. They have targeted 1,500 children in the area, but are focusing on getting the first 50 sponsored. At this writing, we have eight committed sponsors. Won't you consider bringing hope to one of the Kenyan children? (At right, newly sponsored Ayub stands by his home.)

Giving Promise (a regular feature by Dr. Charles G. Wanner, Development Director)

Your gifts to the Making It All Happen (MIAH) fund keep this ministry alive. This year we need to raise about **\$185,000** for this fund. MIAH enables Children of Promise to **PROTECT** and **PROVIDE** for our children, as well as **PROMOTE** and **PRODUCE** media for their sponsorship.

Here's a story about **PROVISION**. Margaret Combs is our Correspondence Coordinator. She is one of our essential office volunteers. "It is my pleasure to serve here. The children are so grateful," comments Margaret. She oversees the reading of all letters coming from our children to their sponsors. Country by country, she monitors the approved list of children to assure that every child is writing to his/her sponsor.



Margaret is always alert for special medical needs. By reading one letter, she discovered that a sponsored child had outgrown a needed leg brace. Margaret relayed this to Paul Maxfield, executive director, and he made arrangements with the local director to replace that brace.

Margaret shares, "Sponsors might not realize how important they are in the lives of their children." The second parent of a little girl from Africa had just died. She wrote to her sponsor, "Now I have no one to love me except you." MIAH provides the tools and resources (office space, training, computers, printers, etc.) our volunteers need to serve Children of Promise.



Children of Promise Sunday

September 18, 2011. You can spread **HOPE**. Senior pastors and church representatives (churches without pastors) received a mailing in mid-June. Will you ask your pastor if your church will participate? If the answer is "no" or "I don't know about this," will you volunteer to help host this sponsorship event? Contact us for more information: 1-800-848-2464 ext. 2139 or cop@echildrenofpromise.org. Or check our website for photos, bulletin inserts, posters, etc., all

downloadable right to your computer.

Thinking About the Kids' Letters

Just imagine sitting down with 330 children in Myanmar, or 864 in Tanzania, or 23 in Russia and helping them each write a letter to their sponsors. Can you imagine what is going through the minds of these kids when they pick up the pencil? Things like . . .

"What should I say to these people who help me so much?"

"What if I don't have the words to express myself?"

"Maybe they don't really want to hear about me."

"What could I possibly tell them that would interest them?"

"How can I adequately say thanks for all they are doing for me?"



It is so easy to look at situations from our own perspectives and our own contexts. Sometimes we get calls from sponsors expressing concern because their child did not write enough or give enough information about themselves. Sponsors naturally want to know their child as personally as possible.

But remember that in many cultures a child does not address any adult in a personal or informal way. It is taught to them from an early age that you respect your elders, especially people who are providing for you. Respect in many cultures means that you address them formally, that you do not bother them with information about yourself, or you don't take their time with a child's concerns. Obviously, this is not our approach and we work with the children to overcome these barriers; however, reality is that we must also work within the cultural context and respect what children are taught in their homes. So, if your letter is not as detailed as you might hope, or if your child's comments are general in nature, please remember that behind those words may be good reasons along with great affection and gratitude.



Children of Promise

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Children of Promise Vision: Across the globe, The Children of Promise child sponsorship ministry will develop adults who lead lives characterized by Christ-centered living; appreciation for, and pursuit of life-long learning; physical and emotional health; leadership and exemplary service in the Church of God and their communities; and commitment to leading and providing for their families.