



a monthly news blast from Children of Promise

January 2012

**News Flash: Watch for "Give the Cup" in February.**

## *The Dominican Children Have Arrived!*

We are pleased to let you know that the first children's applications have arrived from The Dominican Republic, and we now have children available for sponsorship. Monthly cost is \$25. Below are several children needing sponsors from Guandules, an urban slum area in greater Santo Domingo. Call today to sponsor one of them or another child. Our sponsorship associate, Vicky Creamer, can also be contacted at [vrc@echildrenofpromise.org](mailto:vrc@echildrenofpromise.org). These children's family incomes range from \$0 to \$156 per month. Homes are very crowded, one or two-room dwellings. All are involved in the ministry of the Church of God and are worthy and needing help.



DRG-009



DRG-011



DRG-006



DRG-008



DRG-004

## *Typoid Epidemic in Kenya*



We have received word just this week that a typhoid epidemic has struck the town of Cheptais in Mt. Elgon, Kenya, where our sponsored children live. The town has been closed by the district health officer until the situation is under control. Eleven (11) of our 27 sponsored children have been hospitalized this week and are under treatment. Please pray for these children and their families, many of whom are also sick. We are facing some considerable hospitalization costs for these children. If you would like to donate to the Emergency Fund to help defray these costs, please indicate Emergency Fund Kenya on your check. If you donate online at our website, click the "donate online" button, fill out the form, and make sure that under the FUND category you select Emergency Fund. Then in the comment section, make sure that you write Kenya. Thank you for helping to keep our children alive and well in Kenya.

## *Q & A: Gifts for Children*

**Q. Can I send my child a package of toys, clothes, and goodies?**

A. Unfortunately, no. We cannot send boxes or bulky packages to your child. In fact, we can only send items that are the sizes of greeting cards (bookmarks, photos, hair barrettes, thin coloring books, flat box of colored pencils, etc.). There are three reasons for this. 1) Sending packages through customs causes taxes to be assessed on your gifts, and these costs must be borne by your child's family. The gift suddenly becomes a burden. 2) Postal delivery in developing countries is unreliable and unsafe. Many things have been stolen over the years. 3) While we used to be able to hand-deliver many gifts from sponsors when we visited the countries, high baggage costs now prohibit this. We simply can't afford to pay for extra luggage on the trips.

**Q. So, how can I provide something special for my child?**

A. That depends upon the country in which your child lives. In some countries, you may send a monetary gift that we can pass along directly by designating the gift for your child by name and number. The family will be consulted and

something the child needs will be purchased. In other countries, the directors have requested that we not send special monetary gifts directly to individual children due to cultural and logistical factors. In some villages, it causes great distress and difficulty when one child receives a gift and other children do not. In other cases, the children are so spread out and so numerous that meeting with families and purchasing these special gifts each month is just not feasible. Therefore, in some countries monetary gifts are combined into the Christmas fund and distributed once a year equally to the children as Christmas gifts. The list below lets you know which system your child's country uses. [Gifts Are Combined and Distributed Equally:](#) Thailand, India, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ghana, Myanmar, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Nepal, and Jamaica.

[Gifts Can Be Sent Directly to Your Child:](#) Russia, Lebanon, Honduras, Colombia, Egypt, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Zambia, The Philippines, Haiti, Peru, Malawi, Kenya, Dominican Republic.

### **Q. Can't you just give the cash to my child?**

A. No, we do not give cash to children. We have an obligation to make sure that the gift goes toward something the child needs. Cash given to a child may end up in the hands of other family members and the proper use is not guaranteed. In some cases, if others in the village/community know about a cash gift, the family could be in danger.

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

The Olympia-Lacey Church of God in Washington committed their 2011 Christmas outreach effort to Children of Promise. For the last three years this congregation, pastored by *Matthew Klaus*, has participated in the Advent Conspiracy—deliberately redirecting giving from self-serving to self-giving purposes. Year one focused on providing safe drinking water through an international program. Year two found them building homes for devastated Haitians. Year three was to Children of Promise.

Office Administrator, Stacy Conway, stated that in all their Christmas efforts, they “**wanted to offer a gift that made a difference**”. Beginning in November, the special COP offering was promoted each Sunday by video and print in their bulletins. They also downloaded a full set of color posters from our website, and used the COP logo in their promotional material. On Christmas Eve, persons were invited to come to the altar and present their Advent Conspiracy gift. *And their gift is making a difference!* Six children were sponsored, and \$8400 was received. Thank God for their loving and compassionate gift! They gave the gift of HOPE.



### [Speaking of Christmas Gifts . . . . .](#)

Our sponsors (you!) gave very generously to our special Christmas gift project this past holiday season. The funds have already been sent, and the following gifts are being purchased for children who need them:

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| 55 pairs of socks (Puerto Asis, Colombia)               | 77 Bibles (Malawi, Zambia);                   |
| 90 Blankets (Tanzania, Russia, Uganda);                 | 58 Water Purification (Myanmar, Philippines); |
| 41 Jackets/Sweaters (Nepal, Rwanda);                    | 55 Pairs of Shoes (India);                    |
| 34 Deworming Treatments (Peru, Myanmar);                | 19 First Aid Kits (Philippines);              |
| 20 copies of “Where There Is No Doctor” (various sites) | 27 gifts for encouragement of the directors.  |

**THANK YOU!** What a wonderful outpouring of love upon children who needed just a little more this past Christmas.

### [Help Us Send Our New Directors to Tanzania](#)

Scott and Deanna Compton and their family are due to arrive in Tanzania to begin the leadership transition process in May of 2012, assuming responsibility from Ron and Carol Baker. Presently, they are at 43% of their necessary funding. **Support is desperately needed.** Please consider supporting the Comptons on an ongoing basis, or talk with your church missions and/or budget committees about supporting them through Living Link. Call Candy Power at 765-648-2129 for specific information.

### **Children of Promise**

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#### [Children of Promise U. S. Staff](#)

*Dr. Paul Maxfield, Executive Director*

*Linda Mason, Assistant Director*

*Dr. Charles Wanner, Development Director*

*Vicky Creamer, Sponsorship Associate*

*Linda Young, Accounting Associate*

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