

HOPE CENTERS

for Children of Africa



Bunia Children's Hope Center is beginning a new phase in their quest to become self-sufficient. The tractor and farm equipment arrived in Bunia April 29, 2010.

We praise God for the gift of the equipment. We thank you for your gifts and prayers. As we begin this new chapter, I would like to reiterate the impact the farm equipment will have on BCHC.

1. All land owned by BCHC can now be put in to production.
2. Increased production equates to more food for the children.
3. Increased production equates to selling more product at the market.
4. The product will be sold at the markets by the Women in Development.
5. Lord willing, the farm equipment allows for self-sustainability!

As of today, BCHC has less than half of its land in production. The children are fed one meal per day at the Center. We pray that through God's provision of good weather, sufficient rain and good farming practices, our children will not hunger for food again. The farm equipment will supply the Women in Development the much needed product to sell at the market.

Today most of the women determine the product they want to sell at the market. They then must decide where to buy the product. They must find a location that will provide a good product at the lowest cost possible. The profit margin is small, thereby making this an extremely important business decision. For most, the farther they travel for their product, the more profit they are able make. This however equates to many eighteen hour days, as they walk wherever they go. An eighteen hour work day means



little or no family time.

Once the land is in full production, BCHC can provide the product. The women will not have to walk great distances. BCHC will sell it at a below market price allowing the women to make a reasonable profit. A reasonable profit equals a decent life. Less stress on a working parent equates to a less stressful household.

BCHC has the potential to become a leading producer of crops and vegetables in the Bunia area. Bunia continues to grow. In 2009, Bunia was estimated to have a population of 107,000. Many families continue to move into the area. Bunia is considered one of the safest places to live in Eastern Congo. Each time I visit, I see many new homes. New homes equates to increased demand for food.

Your generosity gives hope for a self-sustaining ministry. Above and beyond that, however; your generosity gives hope for the future and a promise of a better family life today. Thank you!





Bunia, Czech Republic and Poland

October 2009 opened with a number of emails to and from a church in the Czech Republic. They desire to support a ministry in Africa. An invitation was extended, allowing me to share with them, the ministry of BCHC. After leaving Bunia in February, I traveled to the Czech Republic.

There, I met many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. They opened their church for me to share the work of the Lord in Bunia. They are excited to join in support of this ministry. In addition, I was introduced to the Home Missions pastor of Poland. After an extensive meeting with him, I received an invite to be a guest speaker at their annual evangelistic crusade.

After leaving Bunia in June, I will travel to Poland. I have the opportunity to talk about BCHC at two breakout sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Over four thousand people attended the eight day, 2009 crusade.

I would welcome your prayers in asking the Lord to open hearts to the needs of orphans and widows in Africa.

A Time and a Season for All Things

I think back to my days in high school, gazing out the 2nd story window longing to be done with school and working in a squad car. Flash forward some forty years, a blessed law enforcement career is history and my longing is for the Lord to use me in a way that will have a significant impact on His Kingdom. He lays three words on my heart; Aids, Africa and Orphans. What does that mean? Where do I go with that? The Lord knew what to do with it! He heard Fred's prayer asking the Lord to bring someone along-side to carry on with the ministry begun by Bisoke, Furaaha, Fred and Elsie.

As I began working with Fred and traveling to Bunia, I asked the Lord for one full year of working with Fred. The Lord gave me two years. Even though Fred is retiring, he has promised he will remain involved as a consultant. When Fred promised he would only be a phone call away, I smiled, knowing I would be knocking on his door if he didn't answer the phone!

To better acquaint myself with this ministry, I read through all of the newsletters. As a point of interest, they are posted on the website for anyone to peruse. I was thankful for the richness found in the newsletters and thankful for Fred's brother-in-law, Ron Urban. He assisted Fred with the organization and lay-out. Joyce, Ron's wife, said he loved to help because the ministry was so important and this was one way he could help out. The Lord brought Ron home this past year. Time marches on and seasons change but the ministry focus remains the same.

The ministry started by Bisoke, Furaaha, Fred and Elsie moves forward. Orphaned children are living in safe and secure homes. They are receiving an education. They are hearing and accepting His Word. They are discovering HOPE! They have HOPE for the future!



A Memorial to Manuela, Age 13

Many of you joined with us in prayer for BCHC as they mourned the loss of Manuela. She was only thirteen years old when the Lord brought her home. She was the victim of a person's rage. She was an innocent victim. A lady, not associated with the Center, was enraged and wanted to cause harm and hopefully death to another person. She laced food with poison.

Manuela was returning from church. She had spent the morning praising the Lord. As she walked home, a friend invited her to share a meal. Neither knew the food had been laced with poison.

After eating and returning home, Manuela felt a burning sensation in her throat. She died as a result of the poison.

She was buried at the Shari cemetery on April 23, 2010. Even in the tragedy of this death,

we give thanks to the Lord.

In February of 2009, Manuela had given her heart to the Lord. She was baptized in April of 2009.

Today she is with her Father in heaven. She will never again experience pain and suffering. She is no longer considered an orphan. She is with her Father; Forever!

THE DOCTOR IS IN!

The new clinic is open and in full use. The construction was completed and the clinic was dedicated in the summer of 2009. Much to our amazement, the Lord has supplied a doctor to work in the clinic. He is a Bangladesh soldier stationed in Bunia as part of the UN Contingency. Just over a year ago, several Bangladesh soldiers came to the Center to offer their help and support. Today the doctor, Major Hasan, works at the

morning. Major Hasan has requested a meeting with me and his commanding officer to discuss further involvement. We hope to have that meeting during my next visit which will be in June of this

SUGAR CANE PRESS

The Bangladesh soldiers continue to find ways to help the children of BCHC. They delivered a sugar cane press recently. Furaha said they will be able to produce three products with the press. They will make a juice, a local sweet, and sugar; all of which can be sold at the market.

As more opportunities come forth, we ask the Lord for wisdom in crop growth, rotation of crops, idle acreage to rest the soil, and natural means of revitalizing the soil.





How to Help

Please continue to pray for the orphans, the widows, and the staff of BCHC. Please pray for HCCA as we strive to know the heart of Christ and follow in His footsteps. Your prayers are so vital to this ministry. If you desire to contribute financially, please make checks payable to Hope Centers for Children of Africa, (HCCA) and mail to HCCA, 500 Rudy Lane, Buffalo, MN 55313 or continue to send your contributions through Christ Presbyterian Church or Emmaus Lutheran Church.

Please visit our website @ africanhopecenters.org. Any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Glenn Mork at 612-310-2395. Thank you and Lord's blessings to you.



Exerpts From Fred's comments at his retirement party

Although I am retiring from active involvement, I am committed to be a spokesperson for Hope Centers for Children of Africa (HCCA), our new organization here in the US, and for the Bunia Children's Hope Center (BCHC) in Africa. I want to assure you that the work continues. God brought Glenn Mork and me together a couple of years ago. Glenn does an excellent job of handling the affairs of BCHC and has successfully established the new US organization.

In closing, just how effective is BCHC? In Bunia, Glenn met a German Engineer who travels extensively throughout Africa. At breakfast one morning, Glenn described the work of BCHC. Suddenly, the engineer exclaimed, "That is what makes Bunia different, there are no street children!" So when we look at the accomplishments, my prayer is that each one of you feels some fulfillment and realizes that you have made a lasting contribution to Africa. We can conclude that the Lord is not limited in when and how he reaches the human heart and the results can be amazing. **-Fred**



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