



HE KNOCKS

FRED & ELSIE SCAIFE NEWSLETTER

*And whoso shall receive one such little child
in my name receiveth me. Matt. 18:5*



Vol. 2 Issue 2

BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER

Summer 2006

EDUCATION AT BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER (BCHC)

The educational objective for the BCHC is to provide high quality learning for the orphans. When the children have completed three years of nursery school, six years of primary school and six years of secondary school they will be prepared to go out into the society on their own with academic skills to enter into the available job market and with Life Skills that will enable them to care for themselves and eventually their families.

Education at BCHC begins at age two or three. If the children are familiar with Kiswahili, it is often used with them until they become familiar with French. Many times, they have heard only a tribal language. During the three years in nursery classes the children learn French, counting, Bible stories, games, and songs. There are twenty-nine children between the age of two and six in nursery.

By age 5 or 6 children begin primary school. At the primary levels (Standard I, II, III, and IV) children learn French, Kiswahili, reading, writing, mathematics, geography, history, music, drawing, community health and Bible. Soccer and other sports are introduced.

There are forty-two children in Standard I, fifteen children in Standard II, eleven in Standard III, and five children in Standard IV. Standard V and VI will be added in the future as needed.



The Children in Standard III

By the end of Standard IV a child is expected to choose a department he or she decides to pursue as a vocation, such as a teacher in primary school, a secretary, an accountant, etc. Then at the end of Standard VI they take government tests to see if they are qualified for their chosen vocation.

BCHC is currently into the third semester of the school year 2005 - 2006. The three terms per year are September to mid-December, January to mid-April, and mid-April to mid-July.

Train a child in the way he should go
and when he is old he will not turn from it.
Proverbs 22:6

Education cont'd

The language program, as in so many African countries where tribal languages are spoken, is composed of French and Kiswahili. Starting with the Kiswahili language, the nursery children also begin to learn French. By the time they are six years old, they will have separate classes in both French and Kiswahili. Plans are being made to introduce English classes in the Fall 2006 term.

With the help of a French Immersion School, BCHC has added over one hundred books to enrich their curriculum. Bisoke and Furaha say "the addition of children's books in French brings the standard of education at BCHC to a higher level". Also they feel their teachers "are hard working and are more dedicated to teaching with the availability of these materials."

Teachers do have textbooks for themselves, but not all of the children have textbooks. Getting textbooks is a goal for the Fall semester. Textbooks can be purchased in Bunia, but storybooks and books about animals, places, people, etc. are not available in the DRC. Furaha says, "Story books and other children's books make BCHC look different from other Congolese schools and the additional books help the children to speak better French."

The children are bright and eager to learn. Many were excited to find out that they would have school when they first came to BCHC. Some of the children's comments were, "I used to go to school when my parents were alive, but after that there was nobody to pay the school fees for me." Besisa said, "Praise God for BCHC opening a school so I can learn like any child."

THE FACES OF BCHC

When Bisoke and Furaha were first going out into the countryside to determine the need for BCHC, the orphans' stories captured our hearts and minds. We would like to share three of the orphans' stories. At our request, Furaha has taken pictures and elaborates on the individual stories. The stories are tragically similar, but BCHC gives hope for their individual futures.

1. Bakaswara Mugisa

Bakaswara Mugisa is in Standard III. She lost both parents during the civil war and did not have a place to live. Her father, Kagwahabi, was beaten and killed by the rebels. Her mother was Razia who, after the death of her husband, ran away with Bakaswara's two brothers and one sister to Oicha as refugees. During the confusion of war, Razia did not know where Bakaswara went. After one month Razia died and left the



children in Oicha. Bakaswara came to us when we started the work for the orphan children in Bunia. Arrangements were made for her to stay with Beitaka Kyakuhaire.

Bakaswara likes the word of God. She plays soccer, sings, and dances. But she dislikes hearing that the war will come again to Bunia or about the death of anyone. She wants to finish her education in primary and secondary school then go to the university to become a doctor in the hospital. She also wants to be reunited with her two brothers and one sister here in Bunia because where they are staying in Oicha is not good, their health is not good, and they are not studying. They are staying with a 72-year old lady. Please keep praying for Bakaswara so that one day she can be with her brothers and sister again.

2. Kabagambe Mateso

Kabagambe Mateso is in nursery school and lost both parents during the civil war. Kabagambe's father Mateso, his mother Maria, four brothers, and two sisters were beaten and killed by the rebels. Kabagambe was left alone after the death of his parents, sisters and brothers, so he ran away as a refugee. He followed adults until he reached Bunia where he became a street child.



The Faces of BCHC con't

When BCHC began operating, arrangements were made for Kabagambe to stay with Miriamu Lotsove.

Kabagambe likes to hear the word of God, play soccer and sing. But he also dislikes hearing that the war might come here again. He needs to complete his education through the secondary school level and start working. He wants to become a secretary.

3. Kamuhanda David

Kamuhanda David is in nursery school and lost both of his parents during the civil war when he was 8 months. After the death of his parents he did not have a place to stay; when BCHC was opened, we arranged with Kamwima Charlotte to give him a place to stay.



Kamuhanda's father, Krikeida, was beaten and killed by rebels during the civil war. After the death of her husband, Kamuhanda's mother came to Bunia as a refugee. She was pregnant and after three months she gave

birth to Kamuhanda. Eight months later she died, because the condition of life was so difficult. She was doing a small business. While searching the rural area for goods to sell one day, robbers fatally shot her. It's unfortunate, Kamuhanda does not even know the faces of his parents.

Kamuhanda likes to hear the word of God, play soccer, sing, and listen to music. He also dislikes hearing that the war might come again to Bunia. He needs to finish his education and wants to become a teacher in the primary school.

Closing:

Furaha also sent us the following greeting and appreciation note:

Dear Fred and Elsie,
Receive our greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. How are you doing, we hope you are fine? The children at the center and all the staff asked us to pass their greetings to you and to all people who know about BCHC and have been supporting us.

Furaha

FRED'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Several readers have asked about how best to help Africa. Remember the Chinese adage "You can give a man a fish and he will eat that day, but if you teach him to fish then he will eat all the days of his life." Teaching and enabling Africans to do a job is an effective way of making an everlasting contribution.

Some key things have taken place since our last newsletter. A nurse, Mary, has been hired to care for the health needs of the children; a big thank-you to the donors who have made this possible. We have found it very important to get better control of the health needs of the children. Mary sets up her clinic each day under a Mango tree and if it should rain she moves into a classroom until the weather clears, then back to the Mango tree. Shall we call it the "Mango Clinic?"

The BCHC has bought a Suzuki Escudo Station Wagon! We extend a big thank-you to our friends in Arizona for making this possible. It really does beat walking especially if you are carrying a sick child to the hospital.

We are so thankful for the support we are receiving and our prayer is that such support gives the contributor a sense of fulfillment. We know that the support is rebuilding young lives in Africa.

In His Service,
Fred

ELSIE'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

There are three emphases to the overall education of BCHC orphans: formal education, Life Skills training and spiritual training (described in our second newsletter). In this issue, formal education is described. Life Skills training is concerned with those skills an individual needs for personal living, examples are: homemaking, gardening, home maintenance, etc. Many of the orphans have not had the benefit of training by parents so BCHC covers such training as well as the normal primary and secondary school curriculum.

A new sewing program called "Les Filles des Dorcas" in French and "Wasichan ya Dorika" in Kiswahili (Daughters of Dorcas) has started. The name was taken from Acts 9. There are thirty-eight girls



from age eight to sixteen. According to their abilities, the girls are working on skills ranging from threading needles and using scissors to making "nappes" which are used as tablecloths, chair covers or a wrap-around skirt. These may be used at BCHC or sold to help support this project. With two very generous gifts, Furaha was able to buy some basic supplies and materials to start Les Filles des Dorcas.

The dental program has started. The evaluation has been completed and shows that all children need some major treatment. Toothbrushes and other dental materials were obtained and the children are now following appropriate dental hygiene. An excellent dentist is treating them; he was given an award by the government for being the best dentist in the Ituri District.

Kasime Neema

"I am very happy to learn how to make things in the Les Filles des Dorcas program."

The gardening program is just getting underway. Funds were contributed to buy seeds and tools. The children are full of enthusiasm but lack any gardening skills. Bisoke and Furaha are looking forward to

teaching the children and growing some of the food for the orphanage.

We'll keep you informed as other Life Skills programs are defined and initiated.

In His Service,
Elsie

Please cut off and return

Please check the following box(es) and return this slip to Elsie Scaife, 8500 Franlo Rd. #101, Eden Prairie, MN, 55344.

- I want to be a part of the e-mail prayer network and my e-mail address is _____.
- I am able to financially support the children at BCHC with a gift of \$_____. I am particularly interested in the _____ program for the orphans.

Please make checks payable to Christ Presbyterian Church to ensure that your gift is tax deductible. On the memo line, please enter "Bunia Children's Fund" and send to the above address.

For comments, you may Phone #952-826-6474 or email us: earscaife@aol.com or FHScaife@aol.com