



HE KNOCKS

FRED & ELSIE SCAIFE NEWSLETTER

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



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BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER

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WOW - WHAT A YEAR FOR BCHC!

We can see improvements of all kinds in the children. They are eating better, their health is improving and they are getting their teeth fixed. Asimwe Kisémbó said, "I am sleeping very well these days. Before, my teeth hurt, so I could not sleep." Many are learning to sew and make mats and baskets. Most children are very active in gardening and farming. All this and the children have completed another school year! Many of you have contributed - Bisoke & Furaha, the children and we say "Thank-you and God Bless you."

You are truly helping people who are helping themselves, who in turn draw from an active community of volunteers, farmers and businesses. Compound #1 has been purchased and BCHC has clear title. The building has been renovated to provide classrooms for BCHC. Electricity and water have been installed thanks to an Easter Offering from a church in Richfield, MN. Bisoke & Furaha have purchased an adjacent compound that has the start of an excellent orchard. The total compound now measures 38 meters by 138 meters. \$3,500 is needed to construct a building for more classrooms, particularly rooms for a nursery and pre-school for the 26 children between the ages of 2 and 6.



Summertime for Congolese children is somewhat different from our US children's summer. In the Congo school continues until mid-July. Then there is a two-week break at BCHC. During that time the host families keep the children at their homes during the day. By the second week of August the children return to the compound. It is a time for playing, sewing, weaving, gardening, and sports. Now we have a new activity - free reading time is a new, special fun activity for these children.

Furaha says books are extremely valuable to the school in that they help the children learn to express themselves better in French as well as assist the teachers. Library books reinforce the concepts introduced in the text books and it is just more fun to read about nature and science in a story form than reading it in a textbook.

Pathways Books and Music store at Christ Presbyterian Church has provided a new twist on buying appropriate books for the start-up library. The manager (author of the idea) is willing to order books in French. Anyone can participate in this project. Furaha, Elsie and a missionary friend who just recently spent a year in the Congo have constructed a list of French publications as our guide for the library. 100 books have been purchased and are being used at BCHC. As wise Africans say, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." It would be great if you would join us in this venture.

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

Come, walk with us



Clinic – Thanks to a special retired nurse from Pennsylvania, Nurse Mary has been hired and the children really like her. Mary and a colleague examined all the children and initiated medical actions. Plans are continuing to be developed for the proper health care of the children. The clinic needs to be set up so that sick children are isolated. Currently the clinic is determining what medicines need to be bought and stocked.



Dental work - After examining the children Dr. Mandro Dhewi began the process of correcting each child's dental problems. Our friends in Arizona made a significant contribution to the costs. We need \$1000 to complete the current program. The children now have toothpaste and tooth brushes (thanks to an Eden Prairie dentist) and are learning good dental care.



Les Filles de Dorcas - The girls are progressing in their sewing skills with the older girls helping the younger ones to catch on to the finer points of needlework, as Emanuela is doing in the picture. Donations have been made for the materials and sewing notions for the girls to make nappes which have multiple uses such as table cloths, chair covers and wrap around skirts. Thanks to you sewers for the support.



Transport – Children and staff are very happy with the Suzuki Escudo station wagon thanks to friends in Arizona. The car provides a way to take sick children to the hospital or a load of children to the dentist. A motorbike is needed; \$125 has been raised locally and \$1375 more is needed. Bisoke's ministry to children can reach further if he can use a motorbike to travel the many walking paths that interlace Africa.

and 102 children!!



Weaving - Not to be outdone by the girls in the sewing group, the boys asked for a group of their own. They are now being taught to weave mats and baskets for use at BCHC. Does anyone want to suggest a name for the group?



Close of school year - Children receive Certificates of Achievements at the close of the school year. They are so proud of their accomplishments, and it is a very important achievement considering the number of children in the Congo who are not in school. Some children are now ready for Standard 5 to be added in September. (Of course, some children may not know what to do with a certificate – note in the top picture the second child from the left who looks like he is eating his).



Slippers (sandals or flip-flops) – Slippers for all BCHC children were paid for by the children's Sunday School class of a small church in Canton, Minnesota. (Many thanks, kids). Going barefoot on the rocky ground in Ituri Province is very difficult, so the children are excited to have slippers.



Gardens – There are gardens of beans and maize, cassava flower and beans, peanuts and maize, and sweet potatoes. Compound #2 has mango and banana trees for the start of an orchard. All of the children who are large enough take part in planting and caring for the gardens. 600 Kg of beans and 300 Kg of maize have recently been harvested and the gardens are being prepared for the next crop.

ELSIE'S CORNER

What fun it was to have summer-time for reading what you wanted to read! Free reading time defined my summers as a young child; it started with Mother and Grand-mama reading to me and telling the stories of Peter Rabbit, The Three Little Pigs, and all the old nursery rhymes. A little later there was **The Library** where I could go by myself to find Nancy Drew, Robinson Crusoe and new books I liked. The children at BCHC are experiencing such joy for the first time.

Until they arrived at BCHC these children had never had storybooks for young children. Such books were not available to these children. Furaha reports that the story books in French are making a real hit with the children, and having such interesting books to read are contributing to making the BCHC school a superior school. The children are delighted to have something to read besides textbooks which are also in short supply at BCHC.

It is truly a beautiful thing to see a young person involved with what he is reading - watching the expression change as they move out of their everyday life to the new experiences where the world becomes bigger and life more and more exciting. My hope is that we can expand the BCHC children's experience and inspire them through reading the very best of literature in French and learn to love learning through reading.

In His Service,
Elsie

MEET SOME CHILDREN



Tibamwenda Amoti was in standard two last year. He did not go to school after his parents died 6 years ago. He works well in school and will begin standard three next year. He likes to hear the word of God and is the BCHC's best football (soccer) player. He says thanks to the people at BCHC and in the US for caring for him and the other children.



Bonavingi Bujune has finished standard 4 and is entering standard 5. She sings very nicely and is one of BCHC's best choir members. She likes the practice in Les Filles de Dorcas and is now able to make tablecloths. The French books help her to learn more words and will make her French sound good. She appreciates the services that BCHC is giving.



Ndinji Isaka is in standard three. Last year he got the best grades among the orphans. He plays the drum for the choir and likes to play foot ball. He did not go to school for five years after the death of his parents. Now he is able to be educated like any other child in Bunia. Isaka is sure that God has provided other parents who are taking care of him. So he says thanks to BCHC for the services given to the orphans.



Bugambwenada Abwoli was in standard three. She is very happy for BCHC. When she was sick Nurse Mary took care of her. Every day she goes to school and she is also learning the word of God. She did not know how to pray, but then she heard the word of God and the teacher taught her how to pray. Now she prays! She was not able to go to school after the death of her parents. BCHC has allowed her to go to school and she thanks all the people who have helped. She prays that all the contributors will have long lives.

FRED'S CORNER

Prior to retirement my time and energy were spent supporting and raising a family. My work for the church seemed limited to attendance on Sunday. A short time after retiring in 1992, with time and energy on my hands, I got excited about fulfilling my passion for travel and organizational development work in other cultures. I volunteered for the International Executive Service Corps with subsequent assignments in the Czech Republic and Ukraine. That experience led Elsie and me to undertake mission projects for NGOs in Africa, primarily with Daystar University and the Bunia Children's Hope Center.

In Africa it has been a privilege to help a number of students. It is so exciting to help them attain their God-given vision by enabling their talents. It is truly a blessing to see the students graduate and in turn help others. During the summer of 2004, I consulted with newly graduated Bisoke and Furaha in their planning to minister to the Bunia Orphans. Now two years later, it is such a blessing to see their accomplishments made possible with your help! I draw strength and encouragement from your support and the knowledge that more than 100 young lives are being developed in a loving way.

Blessings,
Fred