



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

Winter 2006

“He Hath Provided”

In 2005 the Bunia Children's Hope Center purchased a compound that measured 164 ft. by 246 ft. An existing building was renovated for classrooms and a school started for the education of the orphans. The building with three rooms allowed two grades to share each for the 2005/2006 school year. One class would meet in the room and the other outside and the classes would switch back and forth depending on the need. When it rained both classes would use the room at the same time. Not the best accommodations for the school but at least the education of 102 children was restarted. Later in the year a clinic was started under a mango tree and a decision was made to move the BCHC office to the compound. So two rooms were added to the building. Water and electricity were installed – great benefit in terms of reducing the risks for those who carried the water.

On Sept. 1, 2006, we received an e-mail from Bisoke and Furaha informing us that they had been successful in purchasing a second compound that measures 125 ft. by 289 ft. It is adjacent to the first compound. This compound has mango trees, bananas and sugar cane. There were no buildings on this compound, so the BCHC Council decided to construct another building for classrooms. The construction is about completed and students are starting to use the rooms.



Much has happened in a short time thanks to our contributors' support. Bisoke sent a note to us that expresses the appreciation of the BCHC: “Thanks a lot for what you are doing for BCHC, we have nothing to give you but we ask God to bless you. Praise the Lord - He is doing for BCHC the big work. Let us tell you, without your involvement, this work could not be done. God used you to help us do His work here in DRC. Thanks a lot for your involvement for BCHC.” And, of course, Elsie and I thank you so very much – your contributions and support for our passion have touched us deeply.

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

Baraka

Baraka is the registered name for the school at the Bunia Children's Hope Center. The name means "blessing" in Swahili. After one year of existence (required by law) the school has been officially recognized by the Board of Education in the DRC. Registering the school permits the students to take the official exams at the end of Standard VI and receive a certificate. In order to have the school registered each child must have insurance which costs \$1 per child and \$2 for the official registering of each child's grades.



It is permitted and common for school classes in the DRC to have between 40 to 50 children in a class. Last year the largest class at Baraka was 25 children.

Furaha and Liripa Giome, the Education Manager, feel that eighty more children divided among the

classes will not stretch their capacity beyond reason. The three new classrooms added to the three original rooms will accommodate the increase in numbers of children.

Welcoming New Students

Baraka has eighty new students. These children have been selected from the group of orphans that have been attending the Weekend Program that meets on Saturday. These orphans are delighted and eager to attend school. In an African child's view, being in school means several things. It builds a child's self-esteem and enables them to learn how to read and write. The skills developed enable the children to get jobs that permits them to have a reasonable living standard. It means a person is educated--a step up on the social scale. In the case of Baraka, BCHC's school, it means God has provided and the child is blessed.

The weekend program was started by Bisoke and Furaha as they began to assess the number of orphans in the Ituri Province in the fall of 2004. On Saturdays the children come for a full day of activities including singing and dancing, hearing the word of God, learning and acting out the Bible stories, a meal of porridge and a time for sports and games. Until this fall the program included 148 children; now 80 of those children have been selected to become part of the full BCHC programs.

Bisoke and Furaha are so aware of the necessity for the DRC to have a population that is literate that they are eager to add these children into the BCHC activities. They realize that it gives these orphans hope for a way out of poverty and a chance for a better life. It also serves and benefits the community - understood best by contrasting a "street child" versus a child with a "home" and someone who loves and cares for them.

Challenges of 2007

As we look forward to 2007, BCHC faces a number of challenges that are a natural part of being a successful, energized organization performing a vital service for the Bunia community by caring for the orphans. For our contributors, we hope you see the results of your gifts. For those of you who want to join in, it is easy - just follow the instructions on the last page.

A big challenge is the continued development of the education for the orphans. A major emphasis will continue to be placed on the quality of education. This translates into stocking a library – a number of US volunteers are engaged in finding appropriate French language books for the school. We are shipping the books via US Postal Service M-bags at \$1.05 per pound to Mission Aviation Fellowship in Kampala, Uganda. MAF then flies the books to Bunia, calls Bisoke who in turn picks them up at the airport. Contacts have been made with French Immersion school parents to collect textbooks that their children have used. The manager at the bookstore of Christ Presbyterian Church defined an on-going program to have congregants purchase books as a contribution to BCHC. Many books have been sent or carried to BCHC through this program. Other education challenges include teacher training, raising money to pay the staff, growing the life-skills programs, and introducing appropriate technology (teaching science and math will require appropriate material and equipment).

Another significant challenge is to improve the medical situation. The dental program has been very successful and activity will continue on an as-needed basis. Hiring a nurse and setting up a clinic on the compound has been successful. Now we need to develop an inventory of medication, find a way of supplying them at a lower cost, and be prepared to properly treat orphans diagnosed with AIDS. Currently there is a young girl with AIDS and arrangements are being made to provide medication and proper nutrition for her. Malaria and typhoid management and control are being investigated. A water purification system is needed. Eye and hearing analyses need to be performed.

We need to keep improving the facilities – more toilets, housing for students to live on the compound, improved food preparation facilities, improved clinic facilities, and computers for education and administration.



A major area of concern is proper nutrition and health. Currently, an evaluation of the nutrition for the orphans is underway. We want to investigate the use of solar ovens and will experiment with one in the coming year. The use of a peanut grinder for making peanut butter and processing other foods will be investigated. Giving each child a complement of clothing & footwear is needed along with bedding materials and personal hygiene equipment.

There is still need for a motorbike. The van that was purchased is heavily used, but there are paths that a motorbike can travel that the van cannot.

Elsie's Reflections

One of our challenges is how to send over 200 Bibles for the children at BCHC. We have an idea and have made the first contact, but please pray with us that the challenge will be met.

Have you ever needed a Bible while on a trip--needed God's word--encouragement, peace or just something to read? Have you ever looked around the room and found a Bible placed there by the Gideons? I have and I am thankful for Gideon International.

The Gideons are still providing The Word in thousands of places around the globe and in many languages. We have contacted them asking for 235 Bibles in French for the children in the school, the Weekend Program, the teachers and all the staff of BCHC. There are several steps that have to be taken before this can be accomplished. It may take up to three months before a Gideon group can be contacted in the DRC, and they make contact with Bisoke to determine if it is possible and how to get Bibles into the Bunia Children's Hope Center.

Bible is a class in the curriculum of BCHC. It will be a blessing for all the teachers and the students to have this text. In this setting the vocabulary of the Bible can be taught for greater understanding of the text and the children will learn where stories and significant verses are located. Stories and verses for memorizing can be selected as grade appropriate. The children will also have the comfort and wisdom that comes from reading the Bible.

We appreciate the Gideons's generosity as they provide this most valuable asset for Bunia Children's Hope Center.

AIDS - Up Close

AIDS is a disease that has been in the news for years but had not grabbed our attention until we received this chilling e-mail from Bisoke. "One of our orphan girls named Anita Lofogo is sick. She has always suffered more than the other children at BCHC. Saturday, the nurse took her for testing of HIV/AIDS. The results were positive. On the following Monday, the nurse took her to another hospital for the same test. Again the results were positive and means that she has AIDS. Please keep praying for her and the family she stays with. Anita is 12 years old. She was in Standard III. Last year she was not able to finish the study with others. This year she is not able to go to school. We pray sometime in the middle of the year she will come back to school."

Christ Presbyterian Church (CPC) is sponsoring World AIDS Day 2006 and is featuring Dr. Art Ammann as a keynote speaker. Dr. Ammann is President of Global Strategies for HIV prevention and clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. Global Strategies is dedicated to HIV prevention and responding to the needs of HIV infected women and children.

A pediatric hospital is being established in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo which is about 350 miles south of Bunia. So there is hope for Anita to get the medicines and special foods she needs. CPC helped to celebrate its jubilee anniversary by building the Jubilee Center in Goma with the help of Heal Africa and contributions from the congregation.

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 us: (952) 826-6474 or email us: earscaife@aol.com or FHScaife@aol.com