



HE KNOCKS

FRED & ELSIE SCAIFE NEWSLETTER

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



Vol 3 Issue 2

BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER

Summer 2007

THE BCHC TEAM

Everyone should feel that they are part of the team. Each has a role to play. Successful care of the orphans comes from each person in the team doing their job. Bisoke said, "We just couldn't do this work if it were not for the help of our American friends."

We want to show many of the things that you have helped BCHC to achieve. We also want to give you a status report of the work in progress. When you see Elsie or Fred surrounded by happy children, it could just as easily be you. The thrill of being with the children was tremendous. Chills suddenly happened. Hair stood up on the back of Fred's neck. Elsie could not stop smiling. We were awed by the experience of being where God is clearly at work.



Bon jour! Comment ca va?

NUTRITION AT BCHC

Bisoke and Furaha are always busy with the many aspects of caring for 246 children. Hunger has from the beginning of BCHC been a primary concern. In the formative days of BCHC a meal on Sunday was the extent of food provision. At that time the children would gather at church to hear the Bible stories, sing songs, dance, play games and eat a bowl of porridge.

As the orphan children were brought into Bunia, Bisoke would find local residents to take the children into their homes. It was agreed that the host family would feed the children at night, but the people are so poor that they do not always have food. Questions about nutrition were not considered because the children were having one "nutritious meal of porridge each day." They seemed to be doing well because their bellies were not swollen and they did not have a gaunt look.



YUM, YUM - I love peanut butter!

When Fred and I were at BCHC in March one extremely small child was pointed out to us. We were told that his small size was due to lack of food before coming to BCHC. I thought that it was sad. However, I did not realize the full effect of such a deficiency. I did not realize the

Cont'd on next page

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

Proverbs 22:6

NUTRITION AT BCHC cont'd

extreme poverty of the families who are caring for the children at night until Bisoke and Furaha took me way out into the countryside where we drove a long way to visit some of the families. The paths out to the homes were barely passable for our van. Finally Bisoke had to stop the vehicle, and we walked the rest of the way to the small grass huts where we met the family who did show the effects of meager food. It was evident to me that the children were just surviving. There seemed to be space enough for a small garden around the huts.



Nurse Banura dispensing vitamins

In 2005 Furaha had contacted a local farmers' association that had donated maize, soy, and sugar for the daily porridge at the BCHC compound. This had continued for several months until the management of the association changed and decided that they could not continue this program. In the meantime BCHC had acquired a second piece of land where a plot of beans had been planted, but a sudden hot dry spell destroyed the crop. We did not realize the severity of the situation, but were able through our donors to keep providing one meal a day.

By this time the school had been in operation at BCHC about a year. Experienced qualified teachers were teaching the children. The children who were still in the weekend program were begging to be taken into BCHC and allowed to go to school. Bisoke and Furaha consulted the board and they permitted the children to attend school. Realizing that BCHC did not have enough money to continue the feeding program, BCHC assumed the host families would cover the lack, but for many families this was not possible.

When Anita was diagnosed with AIDS and Bisoke and Furaha were told that in addition to the medications she must have certain nutritious food, Fred and I began to truly recognize the severity of the situation. At this point we bought a peanut grinder from Compatible Technology to take to Bunia to ease the burden of grinding the peanuts with a mortar and pestle or between rocks. The peanut grinder has become a great helper for the cooks.

At the suggestion of Compatible Technology, Dr. Stephanie Jilcott, a missionary nutritionist, contacted us to get information about our experiences with the peanut grinder at BCHC. She kindly forwarded to us the results of several studies on deficient nutrition in the world. Below is a startling fact I learned from Jilcott's and other recent studies and conversations with doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

Diets of infants and children in some developing countries are frequently deficient in iron, iodine, zinc, and fat.

Plans for improving the nutrition at BCHC include, but are not limited to:

- Training the staff to understand the importance of better nutrition for themselves and the children
- Continuing daily vitamins to supplement the meals
- Helping the host families get into a position to better care for the children by implementing "hoe and seed" and micro-business projects
- Feeding the children milk and fruit as they arrive at BCHC each day
- Serving a main meal at 1:00 each day. Produce from the gardens or food from the food growers association is the main source of food for these meals

VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILIES

One of the most impressive characteristics of the African cultures we have experienced is the care afforded to children. At Daystar, Fred would occasionally need to catch an early morning bus to Nairobi. The bus carried workers going to their jobs and children going to school. It was a small bus and the children would sit on the adults' laps. It didn't matter whose child sat on your lap. It appeared that every adult on the bus was a loving parent to every child. And when a child needed discipline, any adult would admonish. This is the African way.



African Homes in the bush

At BCHC we were able to meet many of the host families. Again and again we saw the loving care and regard for children. Many of the orphans are in good loving situations. However, many of the families are very poor and do not possess much. There are 186 families caring for 246 orphans. One widow has taken in six children.



Some host families

Furaha estimates that 100 of the families need some form of empowerment to improve their lives. "Empowerment" means to provide a means for the family to help themselves, for example small loans. BCHC feels that if the families are helped then the orphans will also benefit.

A friend in Nairobi is part of an African charitable organization, SAIPEH (Support Activities in Poverty Eradication & Health), that provides cows, goats, and chickens to groups of families. BCHC is in the process of making arrangements for someone from SAIPEH to visit BCHC to work with the host families to get groups started and trained.

In the meantime, Elsie saw that many of the African huts had space around them that looked suitable for gardens. BCHC is lending host families money to buy seeds and hoes. We are training them to garden. Also some of the host families have ideas for small businesses. So, money has been provided for small loans



Nyakaisiki buying milk

(specifically for micro businesses) to some of the very needy families. The first seven selected families are headed by widows and have already been loaned money. All loans have repayment plans. An example of a business is that a widow will buy large containers of milk from a farmer, take it to the market and resell it. In the accompanying pictures, Nyakaisiki cares for two orphans and Evanisi cares for four.



Happy ladies carrying milk

It has been the overall experience of micro businesses that 98% of loans are repaid according to plan. We sent the first money in early May. Furaha sent the following report one month later:



Nyakaisiki selling milk

"Dear Fred, Today is June 8, all 7 widows made their first installment. We got back \$10 from the 3 widows who received \$50 and \$5 from those who received \$25. This gave us a total of \$50 that we loaned to another widow."

"Then the second \$250 that you have sent June 1 - \$15 was loaned to each of 3 widows for business projects and \$25 was loaned to each of four families for "hoes and seeds" garden projects. Thanks for money for the micro projects. Those ladies are very happy now." Furaha

ELSIE'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

God is at work in wonderful ways at BCHC in bringing together people to provide for some of the orphans' needs! Stephanie in Georgia contacted us by e-mail for information concerning the peanut grinder we took to BCHC in March. She works for World Harvest Mission in Uganda only 100 km from Bunia, DRC. It is a small world!

Stephanie identified herself as a missionary/nutritionist. This caught my attention because feeding 246 children nutritious food is a big concern for BCHC. So I asked Stephanie to send me any material she might have to help us improve our meals. I felt God had provided a resource.

As I looked at the list of people who had contributed to Stephanie's research, I noticed the name Masso – not a common name in Africa. Sure enough this person turned out to be the daughter-in-law of our friends at Daystar University near Nairobi, Kenya - again small world! This couple are Daystar friends of Bisoke and Furaha. Phyllis and I were colleagues in the development of a resource room for the Language and Literature Department. Jon and Phyllis operate a mission for the street children of Nairobi.

Not knowing the extent of work being done by World Harvest Mission, but seeing M.D.'s on their list of missionaries, I told Stephanie about the child who lost his hearing and ability to speak after having meningitis. Yes, there is a doctor at World Harvest Mission who works with deaf children.

God is at work for BCHC in wonderful ways in this small world. We are so much more comfortable that the nutrition needs of BCHC will be better understood and that the children will be even healthier.

In His service, Elsie



Can't hear or speak - Now I have hope!
Asimwe is being taught sign language.

FRED'S CORNER

I have a friend who is an excellent strategic thinker and I often seek his counsel on various matters. I did so again as micro business became the central theme to assist host families. If we could help the families, then we would also be helping the orphans. My friend gave me his thoughts and I proceeded to put together operational plans with Furaha.

About a week later, I got this e-mail from my friend: *"Fred, Just a quick note to follow up. It is interesting how God provides for us. On our flight home yesterday He put us next to a young lady coming to Minneapolis for a nonprofit convention. The organization she works for is involved in (among other things) micro lending in Africa!! She shared some websites on the subject that I will explore to see if we can get smarter."* Jim

Next I got some interesting web sites from my friend. I was quite surprised to find that www.kwft.org is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya about 4 blocks from Daystar University where I have been serving since 1999.

I sent the story of what we were trying to do at BCHC and the web sites to Lydia Kimani, the branch coordinator of the Nairobi Red Cross, and she sent the following message: *"Dear Fred, Thank you for the information regarding micro entrepreneurship. With the help of our Women in Development Officer, we are in the process of reviving the Women Development Department that has been quite dormant. Believe you me that this message came right in time and every bit of it including the websites, and your pilot program in Bunia will serve a great deal of support. It's been quite a challenge for me to choose what advise to give our WIDO, i.e, whether the women's group that we'll start with should engage in small business of greens or chicken. But greens and clothes are much closer to home because most women from our slums don't have access to a lot of space for chicken rearing."* Lydia

So what kind of conclusions do you draw from this scenario of activity? It is a small world! My friend Jim has made a very significant contribution because of his seat assignment on an airline flight. Networking is so very important. But my main conclusion is that major achievements are made because of teamwork and I feel so very humble when I think of all who are helping us. It is very humbling to realize how our Lord has put the right people in the right places at the right time. Thank-you team! Fred