



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 3

BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER

Fall 2007

SELF SUSTAINABILITY

The summer months have been busy and have led us to place emphasis on the strategy of developing BCHC as a self-sustainable organization. Early in the summer, we began to realize just how much food would be necessary to feed 245 children nutritional meals. Then we looked at how much money would be needed to buy the food at the market and recognized that another option was needed. Elsie and I remembered that during our visit we saw good land that would grow food, and we also saw intelligent, energetic people without jobs.

We did some "what if" thinking. How many banana plants would be needed to produce enough bananas to give each child a banana per day for a full year? How many chickens would be needed to provide every child three eggs per week and for a chicken meal once per week? How much space should be devoted to growing vegetables?

After building some models we found that 1000 banana plants can be planted on one hectare of land (100 meters by 100 meters) (2.47 acres) to provide a harvest large enough to achieve the objective of a banana a day for each child.

Next we realized that labor would be needed and cash would be scarce. This led to the idea of raising another hector of bananas to provide for the labor and other expenses of operating a "farm". Then we also thought about providing something for the staff and host families, so we added another hector of bananas. Now after those thoughts, we felt it wasn't that much more effort to put in another two hectors of bananas for selling the harvest in the Bunia market for cash to help pay the costs of BCHC as it cares for the orphans.

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SUMMER BREAK

Summer Break is an anomaly at BCHC for Bisoke and Furaha and Fred and Elsie. Taking a break usually implies a time of rest and relaxation and a let up in work. But for the four of us the school break was just the start of a frenzy of activity, a time of plan and catch up, plan and catch up, e-mails flying back and forth, back and forth.

Planning has included gathering and assimilating information on the needs of the children for nutritious foods that are commonly grown in the Ituri Province of the DRC. Determining the nutritional value of the foods needed in the diets of the children (while keeping in mind the preparation and time needed to prepare and serve) and the costs have been time consuming.

The issue of determining the amount of each food that would need to be grown and the amount of space needed to grow them had to be reckoned. The location of gardens to grow the food was considered and the availability and cost of land has been included in the process. This has been a major effort on the part of each of the four of us.

Planning the new and better kitchen is not complete yet, but many issues are being resolved. Planning could not have been done without the help of doctors, nurses, nutritionists, and several missionaries in the field and other people who have taken on researching solutions to BCHC problems. We thank all of you who have contributed to this effort. Although not all plans have been finalized, we see the possibility of a better life for the BCHC orphans.

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

SELF SUSTAINABILITY cont'd

So the plan became one of operating 5 hectares of bananas, 5000 plants, and then we took another step in the thinking. We need to have a continuous harvest of bananas throughout the year. So we arrived at the schedule of planting one hectare of bananas in each of the months Sept., Nov., Jan., Mar., and June.

We studied the dietary needs and this led us to conclude that BCHC needed a flock of 250 hens. This will produce enough eggs so that each child can eat 3 per week, and the 20 chickens necessary for the chicken meal each week. We also included some chickens to sell to cover the costs of the chicken "ranch".

The planning for the vegetables followed a similar line of thought. It really helps when four plantings of beans and three plantings of sweet potatoes can be harvested in the same year.

As the end of summer approaches we have realized that setting an objective to use a farm to achieve self-sustainability for BCHC was possible. So, some contributions will be directed to the costs necessary to get the farm operational. This means buying land and equipment and covering the labor costs until the first harvests start picking up the costs.

Summer Break cont'd

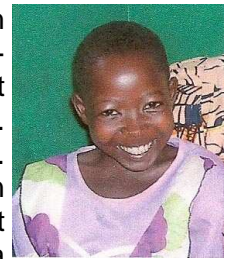
At the same time during this "Summer Break", catch-up has included dental check-ups and having the dentist complete the necessary procedures. AIDS testing for all of the children has been done. Praise God! So few children have been determined



Nice Clean Smiles

to have that insidious virus. Anita and Mbavazi are the only ones who have tested positive to date.

Catching up on the needs of BCHC has included building the new sixth grade classroom and second nursery to accommodate half of last year's enrollment of sixty children. The library is nearing completion. Age-appropriate Bibles have been obtained and are ready for the start of school. What a happy ending to a Summer Break! Mbavazi's smile shows how happy the children were at the close of school for the summer.



Mbavazi

BCHC COMMUNITY IMPACT

In March, Elsie took the picture below - a group of homes out in the bush. April - reviewing the pictures - land that grows good grass can grow gardens. Furaha says the families need hoes and seeds. June - \$100 was sent and an agronomist planted a seed bed on the compound. Sept. 15 - host families get the seedlings. See the distribution in the right-hand picture. Sept. 19 - the agronomist plants seeds again. 40 host families now have gardens. It is amazing to see how small efforts in the right places can lead to results multiplied many times over.



MICRO-BUSINESS REPORT

The micro-business project continues to be quite successful. To date, 31 families have been helped and all are repaying the loans on time. These host families and orphans are happy and eating evening meals now. Our objective is to help 60 more families over the next 6 months. Here are some pictures that show some of the businesses.



*Magani Desange
sells red oils*

Eliza sells soda



*Ri Akiki sells
beans*

*Sezikana
Lamise
sells
maize
flour*



HELP - BUS NEEDED

While we were in Bunia last March, I spent Sunday afternoon going out into the bush to visit some of the small communities. The drive was eye opening for me to say the least.

In Bunia Town the red clay appearing roads are uneven and unpaved. There are no sidewalks. Pedestrians, animals, and vehicles share the same rough space. Even the cars weave from side to side as the drivers try to pick the smoothest routes.

That Sunday afternoon Bisoke, Furaha, and I (Elsie) left the streets of Bunia and proceeded out into the bush. Some of the host families live in the poorest circumstances. We drove a great distance but it was such a rough, slow drive that it seemed interminable. We left what had seemed like a rough impassable road and started driving down a very narrow lane. The car would have the right away over a bicycle or pedestrian, so they would step aside as best they could.

Then we left the single "lane", car-wide path, and turned onto a walking path. After a short distance, Furaha and Bisoke decided that it was not a good idea to take the van down this walking path even though they wanted to accommodate me, their guest. So we stopped, got out of the van and started walking in file down the path to the village we could see in the distance. There we visited two of the host families. Then we walked to another cluster of huts where we visited another host family.

The BCHC children live scattered among huts in various villages. By the time we had walked from one group of huts to the next and stopped to talk, it was late. So we retraced our steps back to the van. Bisoke then backed the van to a spot where he could turn, and we made our way back to Bunia.

It was obvious that a bus could have a route whereby the children could gather at pick-up points that the bus could reach and that children from several of the villages could walk out to the pick-up points. The bus could then take them to the BCHC school for the day and then deliver them back to the pick-up point in the afternoon for the remaining walk home.



BCHC Van

HELP - BUS NEEDED cont'd

It is obvious that some transportation needs to be provided to get these children to the BCHC school. 60 of the children are living too far away but do spend the time and effort to walk to and from school every day. Some are walking as much as 15 kilometers (9.4 miles) one-way to get to school.

Fred and I want to raise the money to get a bus suited for the terrain and passage-ways of the countryside. This would be a smaller vehicle than what we think of as a school bus. It would cost \$10,000. It would probably need to make two trips every morning and afternoon to accommodate the transportation needs of the children.

ELSIE'S CORNER

Back in the 'old days' of BCHC, two years ago, Furaha told me that one of their greatest needs was books for the children. Textbooks had to be purchased from the DRC Department of Education. Children's storybooks and young age-appropriate histories, biographies, science books on weather, animals, and other topics were not available. When people became aware of this problem, the response was tremendous. The problem became "How do we get books to Bunia?"

At first we tried getting people who were going anywhere in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, DRC) to take packages of books as extra weight luggage, however most people going to Africa are already overloaded with baggage.

Next we tried sending books through the US Post Office M-Bag system whereby a 3 ft. x 3 ft. canvas bag may be filled with saran-covered boxes of only books. The bags are trucked to a port where they wait to be loaded into a container bound for a port in Africa. There the containers wait for a truck headed to Kampala. At this point, the destination for our books is Mission Aviation Fellowship in Kampala, Uganda. From there the boxes of books are flown to their final destination in Bunia, DRC.

In the month of September 2006, we sent three mail bags marked A, B, and C. Then on Oct. 25, boxes D, E, F, and G were shipped. Boxes D, E, F, and G arrived on Feb. 14 & 15, 2007. After six months we decided the A, B, & C bags were lost forever. Then on May 31, 2007 we got word that bag A had arrived. Last week (eleven months after sending Bags B & C), they arrived in Bunia. I wish mail bags could tell their story. I'm sure it would be a whopper.

ELSIE'S CORNER con't.

So our search for getting books to Bunia still continues. The US Postal Service mail bags work but the schedule is not predictable and can be dreadfully slow. So, if you are headed for East Africa and could take some books, please let us know.

FRED'S CORNER

What a thrill to find yourself part of a great project! The BCHC is surpassing everyone's expectations. The latest thinking about focusing on building a self-sustaining organization is awesome. I find it hard to believe that two people graduated from Daystar in June of 2004 and with nothing but their personal devotion to Jesus Christ and their reliance on God, will reach the point 6 years later where they will have a self-sustained organization that cares for more than 250 orphans.

Of course, as Bisoke and Furaha praise God, they give the credit to you who have helped. They really feel that, without you coming alongside, none of the achievements would have been possible. I have learned so much from their deep faith that God will provide. What I have learned translates to greater peace and fulfillment in my personal life.



Some of BCHC

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