



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 2007

As the end of 2007 approaches, we are very appreciative of all that the BCHC Community has achieved. So we are dedicating this issue to celebrating achievements of the year.

We are thankful for the support that has allowed BCHC to help foster families through micro-business loans and gardens, complete another year of proper education for the children, add another nursery class and a sixth grade, provide good dental care, test all children for HIV/AIDS, construct a library building, construct another classroom building, begin a good program of nutrition, collect and send books, and get age-appropriate Bibles for each student.



My host family has a garden!

Especially noteworthy is the creation of a strategy to become self-sufficient during 2010. The proper nutrition program requires that BCHC operates a farm to supply food for the children. By growing a surplus, which is sold in the main market of Bunia, BCHC can generate money that can be used to pay most of its expenses.

Several of our community of supporters have contributed the initial money to begin the BCHC movement toward self-sustainability. BCHC purchased 6 hectares of land for growing bananas, pineapples, paw paws and cassava. A lot was purchased, a security fence installed, and a chicken coop built for 250 hens. The first 130 hens have been purchased and delivered. Another lot near the river was purchased to grow a variety of vegetables. All of this activity means that the movement toward self-sustainability is well launched.

When we look back at the year, Elsie and I are truly amazed at how much has been accomplished. God is certainly at work in this mission initiative to care for the 246 orphans. All glory belongs to Him as He continues to use the BCHC Community.

We hope you enjoy looking back over the year. And we wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

UPDATE ON MATCHING FUNDS CAMPAIGN

Campaign was launched on Nov. 1—every dollar contributed from Nov. 1, 2007 until Jan. 31, 2008 will be matched. Happy to report a steady flow of contributions/pledges. The objective has not been reached yet but progress is good — so please help!! Objective is to raise \$65,000 to drill a well & install water purification to reduce typhoid, to buy a pick-up truck for transporting farm produce as part of self-sufficiency, to buy a school bus to transport the children who live far from school, to complete the building of the kitchen/dining facility for improved sanitation and organization of the meals, to expand the compound to provide land for playgrounds and an improved clinic and to build a new clinic and residence for children in transition for a host family.

If you have contributed, BCHC says “Merci beaucoup”. If you have not, there is still time to have your contribution matched.

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

Compound Improvements and Achievements



Treated mosquito nets to help prevent malaria, one of BCHC's most prevalent diseases.



Bibles that we can read! Everyone has an age-appropriate Bible. Bible is taught three times a week in the classrooms.



Everyone got their dental exam and each child was tested for HIV/AIDS.



Kaenyi is the new Kindergarten teacher.



Ngamadhile is the new Grade 6 teacher.



Everyone got a pair of shoes and two pairs of socks.



Enjoying the new library and access to all the books.



New Kindergarten teacher with 10 of 21 children.



Organizing the new library.

Headed to Self-sustainability



The agronomist Jean Pierre is in the River Garden that will be used for a very large source of vegetables.



14.4 acres at Diango for the bananas, pineapples, paw paws and cassava are currently being cultivated.



Host family gardens did not exist in March, 2007. Now 40 families have gardens to help feed their families.



Helping is fun! Farming, a life-skill, is being taught to all children when they are old enough.



Carrying eggs is a serious job.



Jean Pierre planted and nurtured a large bed of seedlings. At the right time, the seedlings were distributed to 40 families who started their own gardens!



First eggs at BCHC. Note the different colors from the range feeding.



Chickens have arrived and are at work. Aboki, wife of the BCHC Secretary, and Bahemuka, one of the older orphans, take care of the flock. Bahemuka is learning another life-skill.



Recently built chicken coop.



Micro Business Persons (many are widows)

ELSIE'S CORNER

Celebrations are BIG at BCHC! Chapel is always a celebration of God's goodness to His children. Singing and dancing are a part of every event and everyone dresses in their very best clothes.

End of semester celebrations occur three times per year – early December, April and July. At those times, certificates are awarded to each child who has passed the national tests. Students who have made the highest mark in each grade level are given a gift and special certificate. A meal is served and each child gets a hard candy special treat. A year of school is an extraordinary accomplishment for any African child and even more so for the orphans.

Christmas is by far the biggest, most elaborate celebration of the year. First the Christmas story of Jesus' birth is read and played out. Much preparation for this is done in advance. Singing and dancing help the children show their joy and release pent up energy. Then a delicious meal is served that includes meat, pop and cake as well as other African foods. And last but not least, each child receives an age-appropriate toy and sweets. What a celebration!

Every time these children who have had so little receive a gift like the Bibles, shoes, socks, mosquito nets, or a peanut grinder there is much laughter and chatter. Can you imagine the songs and smiles that seeing their school bus will bring?

Life at BCHC is filled with very special moments generated by the children! The staff and children wish everyone a "Joyeux Noel! Bonne Annee!"

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

FRED'S CORNER

Not long ago, I woke up in the middle of the night in somewhat of a shocked state. I had just realized - after escaping from the farm and all its work when I was 16 to work in a nearby amusement park and successfully avoiding anything to do with farming for all these years, I have been led directly into a farming operation again during my retirement years. Of course, our kids feel that I am just setting them up for another retirement party. I get the feeling they are quite tired of having retirement parties for me.

But I have found it fun to be planning how many banana trees we can plant in a hector of land or how many hens we need for a major production of eggs and chickens. The future will bring planning for a herd of goats and, maybe, some cows. It has been fascinating to learn how to farm at the equator. It is interesting that four crops of beans can be grown on the same land in one year. Sweet potatoes can be grown three times a year.

We know that the success of farming is the path for BCHC to begin to sustain itself. Bisoke, Furaha and the staff are highly motivated to have a successful farm. And of course the host families provide a source of very good labor for the farm. The result is that the farm not only provides food for the orphans but also produces food that can be sold and is becoming a major factor in developing the BCHC Community.

I can hardly wait to visit BCHC again and walk the fields as I did when I grew up on a farm. God continues to provide me with many blessings. It has been a wonderful, exhilarating year at BCHC. Elsie and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.