



HE KNOCKS

FRED & ELSIE SCAIFE NEWSLETTER

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



Vol 4 Issue 1

BUNIA CHILDREN'S HOPE CENTER

Spring 2008

The last line of the old Lutheran hymn *Children of the Heavenly Father* begins with the words, "Though He giveth and He taketh, ne'er our Father doth forsaketh." It was abundantly clear after my first trip to northeastern Congo that our Lord has not forsaken the orphans of Bunia.

I did, however, find this part of the world a disturbing place. The poverty, the daily struggle with AIDS, malaria and malnutrition; the lingering effects of war, the lack of an effective government and, of course, the plight of the orphans grieved my heart throughout my few days in the area.

But the Lord has not forsaken. We could tell by the people we met. Bisoke and Furhaha, founders of the Bunia Children's Hope Center, met us at the small, local airfield, welcomed us profusely, and shared with us their commitment to the children of Bunia and the joy they have found in serving Jesus Christ in this difficult field. At the school we encountered the same thing. The teachers, the staff, and the children themselves were all facing the harsh conditions of their daily existence with caring hearts for one another, convinced of the closeness and love of Christ, grateful for all that the school was providing and hopeful for the days ahead. It was truly a humbling expression of faith and love. Certainly, if asked, even in the midst of poverty and suffering, I am convinced that every child and every teacher would assert, "The Lord has not forsaken!"

And then there is the land. As one who has farmed in south-eastern Minnesota for 20 years, the farmland around Bunia made a big impression on me. The roads get a little ugly at points, but the land is beautiful. The people, as a result of war and the upheaval of their society, are poor, but the land is rich. To this rich and beautiful land God has brought together a unique combination of gifts from the caring Christians of the U.S. that will bless the children of Bunia with the great gift of nutrition. A tractor, a truck, the resources to purchase needed land and seed - all these things are working together for the gift of nutrition. To this unique mix of blessings God has added knowledge and wisdom through the work of Jean Pierre, the farm manager, who brings to the land not only 20 years experience as a farmer, but a gentle heart of faith. As I looked across the plots of bananas, beans, pineapples, potatoes and cassava, and as I heard the plans for the coming seasons, it was quite evident that "the Lord has not forsaken."



Jim and the micro-business women

One other special blessing stood out for me: the chicken. We saw the first 100 hens purchased with donations from the U.S. The goal is to grow the flock to 1000 hens. This would ensure each orphan at least one egg per day. Consider the nutritional value of one egg per day for children who presently receive little more than a cup of porridge. Truly, it would be a great blessing. Along with this there are plans to establish swine and goat herds that would bring meat to the children's diet.

Through the loving work of the Bunia Children's Hope Center, the Lord has certainly not forsaken the orphans of Bunia. But there is one sobering statistic: Bisoke estimates there are still 250 orphans who have not been reached and are roaming the back alleys and the village roads of the Bunia area. They eat scraps and sleep where they can. Could the blessing of the Bunia Children's Hope Center, the richness of the land and the caring hearts of Christians in the U.S. make a difference in their lives?

Rev. James Scaife (son of Fred & Elsie Scaife)

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

THE LORD IS PROVIDING and CHILDREN ARE THRIVING

Many of you know that Elsie suddenly passed away on Dec. 2, 2007. It is so meaningful to continue implementing Elsie's vision for BCHC now that it has become a living legacy and continues to develop in ways that would please her.

I have just returned from a visit to Bunia and am happy to report that much progress has been made during 2007. An evaluation by the Ministry of Education inspectors shows that the school continues to do a very good job of educating the orphans. The inspectors were very happy with the library that has been completed recently. However, more publications and equipment need to be added to the library.

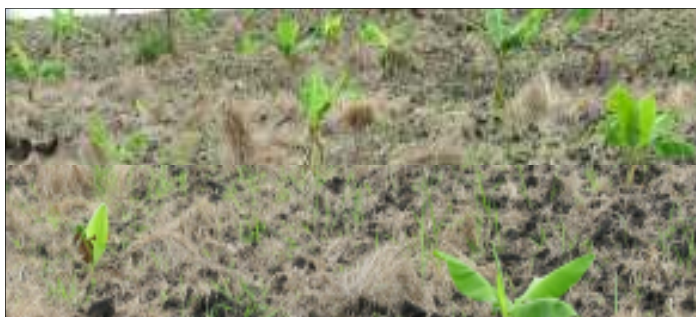


Jim tapping cornerstone into position

Many new buildings have been built on the compound in addition to the library, including two new classrooms, a dining hall, and a kitchen. The building program will continue throughout 2008 with a new clinic/residence and a chapel being built. The Board of the BCHC voted to name the new Chapel "Mama Elsie's Chapel." Our son, Rev. James Scaife, was invited to lay the cornerstone and did so during the trip.

The farm is very impressive. The chicken project is excellent. The facilities will easily support a flock of 1,000 chickens. We had an objective of three eggs per week per child that we have changed to an egg per day for each child. Furthermore, any surplus egg production can be sold in the market. Currently, eggs sold in the market are being imported from Uganda because there is no organized egg production in Bunia.

One of the main farm areas is called the Diango farm. One hectare of banana plants has already been planted and the plants look very good at this stage of their development. A hectare of pineapples also looks very good. Then there are cassava plants, beans and sweet potatoes also growing on the Diango farm. Another part of the farm is called River Garden and it has several types of vegetables growing.



2.4 acres of bananas looking very good



2.4 acres of pineapples

We met with several widows who have started small businesses. They asked that we tell the supporters in the U.S. how much they appreciated what has been done for them. Now there are evening meals for their families. At this time 80 of the 100 families that needed help have been helped with business loans and many now have their own gardens.

A new school bus is a big hit with both students and teachers. Two adjacent properties have been purchased and added to the compound to provide more play ground for the children. A pickup has been purchased for the farm. A search is underway to find a small tractor. Later in the year a well will be drilled and a water tank installed on the compound.

Much has happened and continues to happen at BCHC, thanks to your support. It is very clear and mentioned often by Bisoke and Furaha that the existence of BCHC is directly dependent on the support received from the U.S.

Fred Scaife



Boys in the new school bus

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Many groups and individuals have been inquiring about outreach opportunities for the BCHC. Several groups have already completed projects. Last year one church school raised money that was sent to BCHC who in turn bought a pair of shoes and two pairs of socks for each of the orphans. As the orphans grow, guess what! It is time for another shoes and socks project. Another small church Sunday School bought slippers for each orphan, and, you guessed it, it is time for another slipper project. A local private school raised money from a bake sale and bought recorders and practice drums for the children. The instruments have been a big hit with the children. Opportunities are available for groups or individuals to conduct activities that would best fit their objectives and resources.

The children need 150 liters of milk per day. The plan is to start a herd of 26 cows that would provide the milk and also be used periodically for a meat meal. A herd of 50 goats is also planned to provide meat. BCHC will be able to provide the orphans with chicken, goat or beef meals. Contributions toward these herds are most welcome.



Cows grazing in the bush

BCHC wants to start a carpentry program to teach some of the older children such skills. Collecting money to buy tools necessary for the program can be an excellent outreach project. A saw/planer would be of particular value because wood is sold in a rough state and needs to be planed before it is used.

The library needs computers, maps, reference materials and educational toys along with a copy machine. Biographies of famous people, particularly Africans, need to be added. The teachers also would like more objects of different shapes in the classroom, e.g. spheres, cubes, balls, etc.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS INCLUDE:

- School bags
- Shoes & socks
- Slippers
- French language educational DVDs
- TVs for showing DVDs in the classroom and library
- Personal hygiene kits
- Sports equipment
- Playground equipment
- Toys for the preschoolers



Eating hard boiled eggs



Porridge is good (and makes someone sleepy)

ELSIE'S CORNER



ELSIE RAMSDELL SCAIFE
March 5, 1927 - December 2, 2007

How can one summarize a person's life for a memorial, especially Elsie Scaife's!

Elsie was an only child and when she married Fred, my brother, she was thrust into a very large farm family of ten in northwest Ohio. She brought charm, love and a flowing Texan drawl that none of us will ever forget. We loved her from the first day we met. We were a family who did not hug or show any kind of affection. We all shuddered when upon meeting our father, she promptly ran over and gave him a big hug. That started a new era of hugging in our family. Thank you, Elsie.

We watched as her family grew, her loving care of their three children and Fred. She was a very caring person, so gentle, soft spoken, and charming.

In later life, we saw a longing in her heart come to fruition. She longed to be a missionary to the children of Africa. The Lord allowed her to experience this in a great way. Her trip to Bunia Children's Hope Center was her delight and she loved every minute of it. She fervently went about the work of seeking out nutritional, health, educational information, and anything else to help the children at Bunia.

Suddenly, December 2, 2007, the Lord decided her work here was finished and he took her to be with Him. But that was not the end! With her graduation to heaven came the salvation of many souls and others rededicating their lives to Christ. We are in the process of watching the building of Mama Elsie's Chapel at BCHC. What a legacy!

Yes, we miss Elsie. Can you imagine her rejoicing with the Lord in heaven!!

Joyce Scaife Urban

FRED'S CORNER



Fred with teachers in the Library

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

What an experience!! The thrill of being with the children in The Bunia Children's Hope Center is large and lasts a long time. Smiling faces, hands reaching out to be touched, healthy looking children – oh, what have I done to deserve such a reward! I wish all of you could experience it. By your support, you certainly deserve such a **thrill**.

When Elsie visited the children in March 2007, she handed each one a card that said, "Jesus loves me." I felt the need for closure with each of the children, so a bookmark was constructed that has Elsie's picture on one side and her morning prayer for children on the other side. During the February 2008 visit, I gave each orphan a bookmark and touched his/her shoulder. They remembered Elsie and were so happy to have her picture.

The Board of BCHC formally named the new chapel under construction "Mama Elsie's Chapel." It is a legacy for a person with a big heart filled with non-judgmental love, a person who possessed a tremendous passion for the orphans.

She would have been very pleased with the progress that has been made this past year. The micro-businesses and the farm are excellent stories of empowering people and helping them help themselves. To see the effect of micro-businesses and gardens on the host families is truly awesome. To hear the stories makes me weak inside and so very thankful.

My motivation has grown through these recent events; to work harder, to work smarter, to pray more, to praise God more...and to bless our supporters...a whole lot more!