

HOPE CENTERS

for Children of Africa

October 2012



Working on the farm



Orphans/students arriving for maize harvesting.



Harvesting of maize is accomplished by many. Farm chores for orphans becomes a way of life at BCHC. The orphans are required to put in 4 hours/week at the farm to assist with various chores such as picking, husking and shelling maize.



If they want extra spending money, they can volunteer up to 2 times each week. Furaha will not allow them to work beyond 3 days, telling them they need to study

and rest for other chores at home.



Some orphans come in the morning to pick the maize and others come in the afternoon to husk and dry the maize. Husking is done at the farmyard where Jean-Pierre lives.



After removing the husk, maize is placed on drying racks. Tarps protect the maize during the rainfall. When properly dried, they use a maize sheller to remove the kernel. It is faster than shelling by hand and much easier on the fingers. The sheller, about 100 years old, is in good working order. It came from a farm in Minnesota and is of great value to the staff of BCHC!

After many trips to BCHC, this is my first trip during a portion of the harvest season. It was good to see so many helping hands but it also showed the need for

improvement in efficiency. As the farm utilizes more acreage for larger yields, the need for efficient farming practices becomes more evident.

Studies on agriculture in third world countries, bring to the surface the realities and difficulties we face. No matter the season, no matter the yield, approximately 40% of the crop is lost during harvest and storage. Inefficient harvesting leaves too much of the seed in the field. Improper storage allows insects and mold to destroy seed and decrease the profit margin. If the statistics hold true for BCHC and I believe it does, it tells us that we have enough land and we are producing enough crops to succeed in reaching our goal of self-sustainability through farming if we continue to tweak the operation and improve where needed.

As a board, we struggle with just how much western influence we want to introduce. We stand on the philosophy of “teaching a man to fish” rather than giving him a fish to eat.

Therefore, after much discussion, we are exploring the best options to assist BCHC with maize harvesting.

We are concentrating on maize because this crop must be rotated with soya, the edible bean and peanuts. Soya, the edible bean and peanut are all legume plants. They replenish the soil with nitrogen. Maize needs the nitrogen to grow and fill out the ears so it depletes the soil of nitrogen. The other three crops put it back in. Each growing season Jean-Pierre and Mokili rotate the land to plant maize where soya, the edible bean and peanut were planted the previous season. With that in mind, they plant as much maize as soya, edible bean and peanut combined.

If we improve on the efficiency of the maize crop from planting to harvesting to storage, we stand a much greater chance of succeeding in self-sustainability.

Options to consider include purchasing two trailers to be used with an old-fashioned, yet dependable and efficient corn picker. The items would be reconditioned here and shipped in a container to BCHC. If that option is selected, we can place other needed items in the container.



A second option will be to purchase a new corn picker from Uganda or Kenya.



As an update on the Matching Funds Campaign from 1 year ago, you supplied BCHC with a newer, larger school bus. It was purchased and put into service before Christmas 2011. On page 1 you will notice the bus is being utilized to bring the youth to and from the field when assisting with harvest. Your contributions to last years Matching Funds Campaign are being utilized in many different ways on a daily basis. Thank you!

Baraka Academy continues to do well. On average, 90.2 percent of all students pass the government tests and move to the next level. The high school children do not succeed as well as the elementary students, however, their overall achievements are commendable.



After a good day at school, the children are ready to return to the widows who care for them.

Women In Development

Jeanne, (on the left) and Furaha



Jeanne reports that all is going very well! Since the widows agreed to be placed in groups of

5-6, no-one has failed in their business. She is very happy with the success of the program.

The Clinic

After review of the expenses and income of the clinic, Furaha, Bisoke and the Clinic Administrator decided to hire a doctor half-time. The doctor on staff will be able to perform standard surgeries at the clinic once a room is remodeled to serve as an operating/x-ray/ultra-sound room. More on the development of the clinic will come in the next newsletter.

Administration

Furaha and Bisoke continue to grow the ministry at BCHC. They recently received a grant that will give them 12 dairy cows and one bull. This project will provide much needed milk for the children. Furaha applied for an additional grant. The application was submitted before the October 1 deadline. If she receives that grant, an organization from the UK will supply them with a greenhouse operation. The greenhouse will use hydroponics and fertilizers to bring seeds to seedling in one week. New and better quality seeds will be introduced to BCHC.

It is exciting to see the ministry grow, yet we are concerned for Furaha. She is extremely busy now and as the size of this ministry grows, so does the need for assistance in the management of BCHC. The Board is seeking to hire a person to live in Bunia full-time as the **Director of Operations/Africa**. The goal of this position is to mentor Furaha and to assist her in raising up other leaders within the organization.

We hope to assist Furaha in finishing her day before 10 p.m. on most days!



Matching Funds Campaign

The Matching Funds Campaign is now under way. As you have read, your previous contributions have developed BCHC to the level of success it is today. We now have 700 orphans under the care of BCHC. They are doing well in the schools you built. They receive good health care at the clinic you provided!

Chaplain Emanuel, Bisoke and Furaha continue to present the Word of our Lord in ways that bring the Bible to life that wins orphan lives for an eternity.

Meet Asimwe Baguama (A-seem-way)



I was born in a village called Kunda. I am 26 years old. My mother gave birth to 5 boys and 4 girls, but one of our last born, a girl, passed away. Her name was Neema. I was born in the Hema tribe. My father was keeping cows. In total we had 200 cows. We were in a rich family. In 1997 my father died. He was suffering with asthma. That was the beginning of our suffering.

Then the war started in Ituri District, the rebels came in the village where we were staying and took all the cows which my father left. We lost everything, our house was burned down. Many people were killed in that village. We were dispersing our families. Each person took his own direction and we found after two weeks, all of us were in the refugee camp in Bunia. We were very happy to find we were all alive. We praised the Lord a lot for caring for us during the war situation in Kunda. Then when peace started coming in Bunia everybody took their own destination. My mother went back to Kunda, and my brothers and sisters went to their homes in different places.

I did not accept to go back to Kunda and I decided to stay in Bunia. I wanted to attend school. Then I met Chaplain Emanuel and he introduced me to the members of BCHC and they started to pay the school fees for me. BCHC has paid for my study for 5 years and now I finished my high school education. Now I am working at Baraka Academy as a teacher of standard two. I have 55 pupils in my class. I am very happy to teach at Baraka Academy because I am teaching my brothers and sisters who are orphans. In September when I started working at Baraka Academy I went back to Kunda and brought my mother with me. Now I am caring for my mother because she very old.

Thanks, Asimwe Baguama

Thank you for your participation in this ministry.

If you desire to contribute to this year's Matching Funds Campaign, you can designate your donation to any of the areas listed below:

- **General Fund**, monthly and special expenses as they occur
- **Farm management**, providing efficient harvest techniques
- **Director of Operations/Africa**, mentoring Furaha, Bisoke and others
- **Baraka Academy**, assist in providing the funding needed to properly pay the salaries of the teachers
- **College Scholarships**, many of the children are at or approaching graduation from high school. **\$500/year** will afford one student the opportunity to attend a local college

Hope Centers for Children of Africa is a 501c3 organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



How to Help

Please continue to pray for the orphans, the widows, and the staff of BCHC. Please pray for HCCA as we strive to know the heart of Christ and follow in His footsteps. Your prayers are so vital to this ministry. If you desire to contribute financially, please make checks payable to Hope Centers for Children of Africa, (HCCA) and mail to HCCA, 500 Rudy Lane, Buffalo, MN 55313 or use Paypal if you desire to contribute through that format. Please visit our website at www.africanhopecenters.org. Any questions or comments, call Glenn Mork at 612-310-2395 or email at HopeCenters4orphans@gmail.com.

Thank you.



What Captivates You?

For me it is the eyes of the orphan. The children of BCHC, without knowing it, capture my heart with their eyes. In their lives I see the realities of life: Pain, despair and uncertainty, yet deep within their eyes, I see happiness and hope. They have hope because the Lord has a special place in His heart for them. They come to know a Father that will never leave them nor forsake them. Our Lord instills His heart, His special love in people to carry out His work in places like Bunia. If you desire to know more about the Heart of Christ, the calling He placed on the Founding Directors of BCHC, the beginning steps of this ministry, and so much more, we have a book for you! **“Eyes of Hope” Caring for Orphans and Widows in Africa** is a book written by our Founding Director, Fred H. Scaife and Connie Lounsbury.



“Eyes of Hope” is a marvelous story of compassion, commitment, love, and hope.”


- Thomas Englund,
President, Christian College Consortium
(retired)

“This compelling story is a living example of how mustard seed ideas can develop into life-changing experiences through people who are willing to be used by God to meet the complex needs of Africa.”

- Dr. Kathleen Johnson,
Executive Director, Daystar U.S.

For information about this book, contact Glenn Mork at HopeCenters4orphans@gmail.com or call 612-310-2395

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