

KENYA'S BATTLE FOR STREET CHILDREN

The number of street children has increased in Kenya.

Experts estimate that there are 250,000-300,000 children living and working on the streets, with more than 60,000 of them in Nairobi. Street children face endless cruelties. Their rights have been violated many times by the adults who were supposed to protect them. In many cases these children are subject to sexual exploitation in return for food or clothes. Often, police detain and beat them without reason. (IRIN)

Half of the total population is under 18 and the living conditions of street children is one of the greatest challenges facing the church and the government in Kenya.

"I lost my parents three years ago and since then I have been living in the streets without shelter or any assurance of having food every day. Nobody cares about me; whether I live or not. People don't want to look at me. I'm trash. I don't want to live in the streets, but I have nobody. My uncle beat me hard when I lived there, and so I ran. Living in the street is the only way to survive." Githira

International Needs Kenya is reaching out to children and youths at risk in strategic areas in Kenya. *"We want to see street children and youths set free from their drug addictions and embraced by families, the church and the community, going to school and living their lives with purpose and dignity, but it's a long road for many of them and they need our help."* Pastor Joshua Karani.

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With our partners we work to reach out to children and youth impacted by drug and substance abuse in Limuru and Lari, where over 1.6 million people live. The goal is to empower the local churches to be pro-active on issues of drug and substance abuse, by training pastors, youth and child workers to recognize those struggling with drug addiction. Strategies are implemented to rehabilitate and reintegrate the children and youth into families, schools, churches and communities.

The work in Nairobi involves street children in the Kibera and Kawangware slums. Rehabilitation is a process that takes time and dedication; it is not just a case of taking the child off the street, but also taking the street out of the child. Physical, mental and sexual abuse, HIV/

AIDS and discrimination leaves these children without hope. Restoring a child's dignity and recovering their childhood is key to enabling them to make choices that can transform their lives.

Children in rural areas, ranging from ages 5 to 18, are taught the word of God as well as life skills at Saturday Good News Clubs. They receive nutritious food which helps build strong, healthy bodies. Club leaders work closely with youths on adolescent issues and provide counselling and help children impacted by HIV/AIDS to receive medical assistance. Glowing reports from communities where our Good News Clubs are active indicate that the children's lives are being transformed, providing a strong witness for the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A PRIVILEGE AND A JOY



In June of 2014, Laurie Bent had the wonderful opportunity to go to Zambia and visit Zacts OVC Primary School, International Needs' school for orphans and vulnerable children. The people living in the area are poor farmers with large families, many of them supporting children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

The school opened its doors in January 2012 with 3 classrooms and 60 students in attendance. Today, the school has grown to 5 classrooms and has 250 students. More teachers have been hired and old buildings repurposed and renovated.

On June 19, 2014, Zacts OVC Primary School held a dedication service celebrating the completion of the new school blocks. *"The Maranatha Choir sang and reminded us all of God's faithfulness and love. We were entertained by the children who gave recitations and a drama in which they portrayed Jesus as the ultimate healer and not the local traditional spells and potions. The children also sang songs. It was a truly festive atmosphere. Some of the women in the crowd - teachers, friends, and parents - came forward and danced in celebration. Two adorable little children presented me, their Canadian visitor, with flowers! After a word from the representative of the Department of Education, the ribbon was ceremoniously cut and the new classrooms were declared open.*

This day of celebration was much deserved as a lot of hard work and prayer went into this project. However, there is still work to be done. It's been a real privilege for me to work with International Needs on behalf of the children at Zacts OVC Primary School. I am so grateful to have been able to be at their Dedication Service and to see the fruits of their labour. I am reminded yet again that with God, all things are possible." Laurie Bent

CHILD ADVOCATE ON CANADIAN TOUR



Jocelyn Muraya, Director of International Needs Kenya, will be in Canada visiting churches and small groups, sharing the needs of Kenya's street children and children living in the slums of Nairobi. Jocelyn's roots are in rural Africa, where she grew up in a Christian home. Her parents were posted to remote areas as church planters and she experienced firsthand life on the frontlines.

"Growing up I was actively involved in Christian ministry because of my parents. Even though we were not well off, my parents adopted a young girl and her brother from the slums where they were ministering, because the children's aunt couldn't afford to feed them. They immediately became a part of our family." Like her parents before her, Jocelyn has a heart for children and a deep love for the Lord. She has a Master's Degree in Social Work and is passionate about helping children in desperate need. *"It is amazing to witness lives transformed and to see children who have been given an opportunity, face the future with hope."* Jocelyn lives in Nairobi with her husband John and her son.

Jocelyn will be in Calgary from Sept 5-10, in Moncton NB, from Sept 11-17, and in Ontario from Sept 18-28. For more information on Jocelyn's Canadian tour or if you would like to have her speak at your church, small group or event, please contact our office at 1-888-702-9805.

Women Making a Difference



CANADIAN WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AROUND THE WORLD

It all began with an ordinary person with extraordinary love for people and a passion to see renewal, freedom and justice for families, especially women and children.

Nancy Hertel-Bolton, founder of WMAD - Women Making a Difference, began meeting regularly with other women in June 2003 with a desire to know God's calling on their lives and to pursue it with passion. The group became active in the community, meeting various needs and seeking social justice for women. As they shared more and more of their ideas, time and financial resources, their vision broadened to impact lives abroad, beyond borders and beyond themselves!

"In God's miraculous ways I learned of the work of International Needs and over time we developed a strong partnership. Through reading the story of the woman at the well in John 4, we decided to invest in water projects, one remote village at a time."

In January 2011, an excited WMAD team of seven, under the leadership of International Needs, headed out to Ghana to visit the work there. *"Seeing the work being faithfully carried out and the methods used to create sustainability with dignity left a deep impression on my heart and challenged me to do more."* Through their fundraising efforts, such as *Coins for Clean Water* and *Turn on the Taps*, WMAD has been raising money to provide clean water to remote villages. They are on their fifth water project and hope to return to Africa in February of 2015.

"Our plans for February 2015 are to return to Ghana under the leadership of International Needs and continue working with water projects. We will also visit the work of International Needs in Kenya and see how we can be of help there. Perhaps you are feeling a tug on your heart to join us on this Discovery Tour? If so, please call International Needs at 1-888-702-9805 for further information." Nancy

KEVIN GOES TO SCHOOL

Kevin is excited about going back to school. It's a privilege he had been denied for the past two years due to his family's inability to pay his school fees. The youngest of 5 children, Kevin grew up in a small wooden house with dirt floors in the village of Ngecha, north of Nairobi in Kenya. His mother, Gladys, grows vegetables on a small piece of land, but cannot sustain the family.

Kevin is seventeen but looks like a twelve year old boy due to a lack of nutrition during his formative years and poor living conditions.

Kevin completed primary school in 2011 and joined secondary school the following year but had to drop out because his family could not afford to pay the school fees. Bored and unhappy with his life, Kevin joined a group of boys in the village who were taking drugs and abusing other substances. His life began spiraling down because of his addictions.

It was at this time that Kevin, through his uncle, a Baptist Pastor, underwent counselling and therapy. On April 19th, 2014, Kevin committed his life to Christ and moved back home. He helped his mother by fetching water, doing the dishes and cooking meals, but in his heart Kevin longed to go back to school.

A group from Canada was visiting Kenya and met Kevin and his family. They visited his home and heard that he had recently become a

Christian. With shining eyes and a clear face Kevin shyly shared his hope of returning to school and getting a good job someday.

Jenna Murray was deeply touched by his story and decided that she would sponsor Kevin through International Needs. This way he could go back to school and help bring him one step closer to fulfilling his dreams. *"When I met Kevin, it was obvious that he had what it takes to achieve his dreams - he just needed a little help to get started. It's exciting to know that he is back at school, eating well, and that God is using him to show other children what is possible through hard work and faith in Christ. I am so honored to have met Kevin, and am excited to see what's in store for his future!"* With God's help and his new sponsor's support, Kevin has renewed hope that his future can be brighter and that he too is able to dream. There are many more children like Kevin who would love to be sponsored.





RIDE FOR REFUGE 2014

It's that time of year again when we hit the road for our family-friendly cycling fundraiser. Last year, many of you put your compassion into action and helped us raise close to \$12,000 for orphans in Zambia. **Thank you!**

Participants for this year's ride can register individually, join a team, or start their own. Typical routes are 10km, 25km or 50km. Join the fun and support vulnerable women in Nepal at the same time!

If you are not able to ride, perhaps you could help by sponsoring someone who is riding. To register or to learn more about a ride in your area, please visit www.rideforrefuge.org

When you register, be sure to make **International Needs Canada** your charity of choice. Funds raised for International Needs will go towards helping rural women in Nepal through International Needs' Lydia Vocational Training Centre.



Many rural women in Nepal live in extreme poverty, without any means of improving conditions for themselves and their families. More women are heading households and taking on the burden of sustaining the

rural economy. Women constitute more than 60 per cent of the agricultural labour force but have little access to land, production technology and training.

International Needs' Lydia Vocational Training Centre has ministered to thousands of women

over the years. The Centre teaches literacy, sewing, and other practical skills so that women can better provide for themselves and their families. Special classes are given on preventing domestic abuse, health care, how to improve sanitation in the home and providing nutritious food for their children.

"I feel so fortunate to be at Lydia. I've learned so much more than how to sew and this will help me for the rest of my life. My future looks a lot brighter." Sangita

COMING UP

UPCOMING 2014:

- October 4 • Ride for Refuge
 - November 6-17 • Medical Team • Zambia
 - November 22 • 40th Anniversary Celebration at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, ON
- For more information contact info@internationalneeds.ca

PRAYER CORNER

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

"We must begin to believe that God, in the mystery of prayer, has entrusted us with a force that can move the Heavenly world, and can bring its power down to earth." Andrew Murray

Please pray for Kenya's street children. Pray for our partners working with them in the slums of Nairobi. Pray that God will give them wisdom and guidance as they seek to bring the love of Christ and real solutions to Kenya's most vulnerable children.

ITEMS FOR PRAISE

"The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song". Psalm 28:7

Praise God for the Dedication Celebration at Zacts OVC Primary School in Zambia. The new school blocks are a great blessing and help accommodate the 250 students who now attend the school. Praise the Lord!