

CREATING A FUTURE FOR ZAMBIA'S ORPHANS

In Zambia, over one million children have been orphaned by AIDS and struggle daily to survive. About eighty percent of Zambia's population earn less than one dollar a day. Families, communities, and schools are stretched in their efforts to care for children.

"My name is Sarah and I am an orphan living in Zambia. As an orphan, it has not been easy for me to stay alive to this day and to say what I am saying. I lost both my parents in a situation that is difficult to share. I was a child and had no power of my own to be able to decide what I should do with my life. After the death of my parents, my aunt decided to take me in and have me live with her family. For some months they kept me, but then they dumped me and left the area without me.

I am now in eighth grade and it has been years since I was abandoned by my aunt. There is no news of my aunt's whereabouts. I live with another family now. I live there because I need shelter. Many people in the community can see how I am treated by the family I live with - I am treated like an outsider. I am a house girl, a servant. If I don't work, I am not allowed to eat. I am a child and have no choice."

ZACTS OVC (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) Primary Christian School is situated north of Solwezi and is ministering to many children facing difficult circumstances. The people who live in the school's surrounding area are subsistence farmers with large families who have taken in orphans and care for them. Although deeply grateful for a school in their community, many families struggle to provide the school supplies their children need, for a successful classroom experience. Sponsorship is a real lifeline to many rural families and helps overstretched parents cope with the burden of having extra children to feed and send to school. For more information on child sponsorship and support for the Christian Primary School in Zambia and how you can help, please visit our website at www.internationalneeds.ca

CURVES RIVERVIEW HELPS WOMEN OF DR CONGO



Chris & Cheryl Tracey, owners of Curves in Riverview are hoping to help the women of DR Congo by raising funds to expand their clinic, *Le Centre Medical Papillon*. The Traceys visited the DR Congo in the spring of 2008 after fundraising for a year to help build a 30 bed maternity clinic. *Le Centre Medical Papillon* (Butterfly Clinic) held its grand opening on May 26th, 2010. The Mayor of Lubumbashi spoke with emotion of the gratitude of the Congolese people for their new women's medical clinic. *"My hope is that someday, we the people of Congo will be able to bless our Canadian friends in the same manner that they have blessed us."*

In Eastern Congo, the prevalence and intensity of rape and other sexual violence is described as the worst in the world. The country has been labeled as the worst place on earth to live if you are a woman.

Cheryl shares, *"Chris and I have been to the DR Congo and seen for ourselves the horrible conditions they live in, especially the women, and we've decided that there is still much more that we can do to help. The clinic is a maternity clinic that offers an important, life-saving service to the women of Lubumbashi. It is always full to overflowing, making an extension essential."*

To that end, Cheryl aims to lose 40 pounds in 40 weeks and raise \$40,000 to help fund the project. She is looking for other women to join her as well. Half the cost of each new monthly membership will go to the Congo fund. Existing members will also be able to get involved by donating according to the number of pounds they have lost. All the best in your endeavors Cheryl and keep us posted!



UGANDA EXPERIENCES

"Could you bring a team to Uganda and run a workshop on VBS training so that we'll be able to run our own Vacation Bible School?" This was an interesting request for Forestview Community Church in Grimsby, Ontario, since we had never hosted our own VBS. But God had been at work behind the scenes for decades preparing us for this time and a couple of us with past VBS experience volunteered to go to Uganda.

After three days of working with 48 Ugandan Christian schoolteachers and social workers, we created one of my favorite memories of the trip. During the closing prayer of dedication, all the workshop participants confidently held up their certificates and prayed that they would follow through with their commitment to host their own VBS in the near future. What a memorable

moment for all of us!

One of the questions I had before I left was, "Does sponsorship really make such a difference?" Before my time in Uganda I would not have said a wholehearted "Yes!" but now I do. After two weeks of driving through villages, visiting homes and schools, witnessing poverty, malnutrition and disease, and asking many questions, I came to the conclusion that **one of the most hopeful sights in Uganda is a child in a school uniform!**

For a relatively small amount of money by North American standards, sponsorship makes a *HUGE* difference in the life of a child and their entire family.

I came to discover that the beautiful people of Uganda are truly rich in life, faith, courage and humor! **Rose Tamming**



A HOME FOR IRENE

Irene is a parishioner at Buikwe Christian Centre, one of our partner churches in Uganda. Irene is HIV positive and lives with two of her four children near the town of Buikwe. A small team from Forestview Community Church visited International Needs Uganda and fellowshiped at Buikwe Christian Church. After the service they went with Pastor Herbert to visit several of his parishioners, including Irene. Irene's home was in dire need of repairs with the thatched roof leaking badly when it rained. Irene and her children would try to stay dry as best as they could.

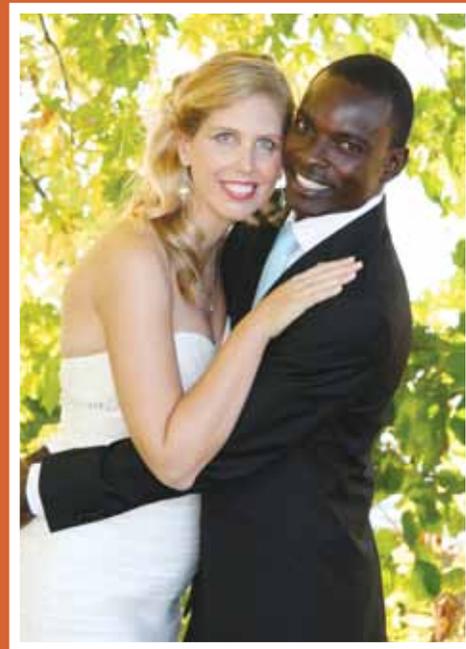
After this visit, and in consultation with Pastor Herbert, the team committed to do what they could to assist Irene with her house repairs. When the congregation at Forestview Community Church heard of the need, they immediately provided

enough funds for a metal roof for Irene. The money was sent through International Needs Canada and the work was carried out by members of the Buikwe Christian Centre. Irene received a new metal roof along with a new house, twice the size of the previous one! Her joy and gratitude knows no bounds!

Two churches, thousands of miles apart, were able to come together and bring help and encouragement to a small family in need. **Buikwe Christian Centre** and **Forestview Community Church** have built an on-going relationship based on mutual love, respect and trust.

May God continue to use them to bless others as they fulfill the words of Jesus in John 13:35, *"All men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE



Stephanie Webb of Hamilton, Ontario, and Festus Addei of Accra, Ghana, were married at the Methodist Church of Ghana, in Accra. The couple met while Stephanie was on a three month internship with International Needs Ghana, where Festus worked as a Child Sponsorship Coordinator.

Since coming to Canada in August of 2013, the happy couple re-celebrated their marriage with family and friends and have settled nicely into their new life together.

Festus volunteers some of his time at International Needs' head office in Burlington. Congratulations Stephanie and Festus! May God bless you both as you seek to serve Him together!

RIDE 4 REFUGE 2013

What a glorious day it was! The sun was shining and the fall colours were spectacular! Our team pulled up to the other riders and prepared for take off. So much excitement in the air! Little ones in their special seats, youth and adults of all ages waiting for the go ahead to start the ride. And then we were off! Thirty-seven riders across Canada went the distance for International Needs and

raised over \$12,000 for Zambia's orphans. Well done! Thank you so much for your contribution, whether you participated in the ride, volunteered, or donated, each one of equal importance. We hope to see you all again next year for the 2014 Ride for Refuge. Bring a few extra friends and introduce them to our brand of fun with a purpose. Personally, I don't remember the last time I had so much fun on my bike.





DOUBLE BLESSING

Tamara Alkema has always enjoyed working with children. Involved in the children's ministry at her church, she comes from a large, close-knit Dutch Canadian family and lives in Grimsby, Ontario. Tamara went to Uganda in September with Mark Corriveau and a couple of people from her church. They led a three-day workshop for teachers and child development officers, which focused on organizing and running a successful Vacation Bible School.

"Uganda was an awesome experience – the beautiful countryside and the warm, loving people and their joy in the Lord in spite of challenging circumstances. The highlight of my trip to Uganda with International Needs was definitely the experience of meeting my sponsored child Sarah and her mother, Gertrude."

I first met Sarah at her school as our team was handing out packages to a number of children sponsored by our church. Sarah is a beautiful girl of 13 with a sweet and gentle demeanor. Later on I had opportunity to meet her mother, Gertrude a kind and loving person. I expressed that being allowed to walk alongside of her and her family is such an honor for me and she kept repeating how grateful she was for my support. After visiting with them, she told us she had gifts for us – bananas, sugar

cane, a basket and mat.

The opportunity to sit with Sarah and talk was truly a gift from God! We chatted about how she was doing in school, she shared how difficult math is for her and she showed me a photo of her sister's baby. And most touching of all, she pulled out an envelope containing all the cards, letters and photos I had sent her over the past four years. How she treasured them, especially the photos of the children in my family.



I am grateful to God for arranging these meetings with Sarah and Gertrude so perfectly. I thought about what an awesome blessing sponsorship is, both for the giver and the receiver, a double blessing! Lives are shared, bonds of friendship, even kinship are formed, and we soon realize that we are all just part of one family – the family of God."

COMING UP

UPCOMING DISCOVERY TOURS:

- **January 2014** • Zambia
- **February 2014** • Bangladesh & Nepal
- **February 2014** • Dominican Republic Agricultural Team
- **March 2014** • Zambia & South Africa
- **April 2014** • DR Congo & Kenya
Moncton Wesleyan

For more information contact info@internationalneeds.ca

PRAYER CORNER

ITEMS FOR PRAYER

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Philipians:6-7

Please pray for the political situation in Bangladesh. Violent protests across the country have left more than 150 people dead. McDonald Adhikary, the Executive Director of International Needs in Bangladesh is very concerned and asked for prayer.

ITEMS FOR PRAISE

"Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious Name." 1 Chronicles 29:13

Praise God that the M23 rebels in the DR Congo have ended their insurgency. The group said it would adopt "purely political means" to achieve their goals and urged their fighters to disarm and demobilize. Let's keep praying that all rebel groups in the DR Congo will put down their arms and the Congolese people will be able to live in peace.