

Newsletter for Eagles Wings Children's Village, Uganda Tenth Anniversary Special Edition. August, 2014

Tenth Anniversary of EWCV:

The first NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) Certificate of EWCV was received July 27th, 2004. It is hard to believe how the Lord has blessed His project during these ten years. There have been many challenges with handling both staff and children during this time. We don't have all the answers, but we do have to rely on the Lord's wisdom and strength because of ourselves we can do nothing without Him. Isaiah 40:31 tells us "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Our vision for our children is that they will soar on wings like eagles when they leave us to enter the world. May they love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and mind and serve only Him. May they be doers of His word and help others like they have been helped. At this time, we can celebrate our ten years by giving all the glory to God for His goodness. We have seen His hand in so many different areas of this project. We are indeed very thankful to God.

An Ebenezer Story – Peter Bitotorwa's Story:

1Samuel 7:12 – "Thus far has the Lord helped us."

You might have read about Peter on Jaimee Schmidt's blog, but we are going to include a report on Peter's life in this newsletter. Peter has had his share of challenges in life since his youth. When Peter was very young his parents lost their two daughters of sickness. Then in July 2008 his father was murdered not far from home. The next month In August 2008 his brother, Joseph, who was ten years old at the time died suddenly of meningitis. In September 2008 Peter himself had developed a serious strain of arthritis called septic arthritis which moved about in his body and especially affected his feet.

We came to know Peter when he was unable to walk to school and had been dismissed from school along with his older sister because they didn't have the money for school fees. His mother was left with five children, no income, no money for school fees and no food to feed the children. This is when we at EWCV jumped in to assist the family when we learned of their plight.

Peter was taken to our personal doctor for diagnosis and treatment. He was given medicine to take for some time to treat the arthritis. We managed to get him reinstated at school by taking care of all the fees and requirements. He was also provided with shoes and socks and a school uniform so he could walk to school. His older sister had run away to Kampala and our Social Worker brought her back home. We provided training for her to become a seamstress and then gave her a job making uniforms for our school children. Peter's mother, Gaudencia, was also given a job at our school being the Head Cook for the children and staff. His other two sisters and younger brother have been allowed to attend our primary and secondary schools to continue their education under our sponsorship program.

When we first met Peter, we learned that he was a bright young student academically in Primary level. However, when he joined Senior Secondary levels, his behavior and attitude changed to becoming a very rebellious and difficult student. He was full of anger due to his lack of forgiveness for the things that had happened in his past. However, with close counseling by Uncle Paul and Uncle Allan, Peter began to mature into a fine young man, still at times struggling with the anger. As he proceeded into the senior years in High School, he was able to graduate among the top scorers in the school. His desire was to become a lawyer. He had been the president of the debating club at school and this perhaps helped to steer him to consider a career in Law.



The time of waiting for his final results for his high school exams was trying on the nerves for him and for all of us. However, we were elated with his results. Peter then decided to submit an application for entering the Faculty of Law at the Uganda Christian University in Mukono, north of Kampala. That whole process was once again stressful, especially waiting to find out if he was accepted. When he found out that he was accepted, then we needed to find out how we could possibly manage the fees. We praise God that Peter's sponsors have agreed to walk him through his university training just like they are doing with their own children. Indeed, those who wait upon the Lord will rise up and soar like eagles. Now Peter has such a hope in the future that he will someday be able to assist his own younger siblings and his mother. The Glory be to God.

Introducing our new Managing Director of EWCV, Jonathan Michalski:

Jonathan comes from Silver Bay, Minnesota, USA, with a Degree in Sports and Recreation Management and earned his way up the ladder to become a golf pro working in a pro shop in Minnesota before giving it all up to follow the Lord's lead to come to assist us at EWCV. We had been praying for someone to help share the responsibilities of this job. He has come to us fully committed to a long term volunteer position. He had visited with the Macris family for several months while we were in Canada and they gave us his top recommendations to join us when we returned to Uganda. Jonathan has truly lightened the load by shadowing me and learning everything possible about EWCV. He has also been committed each week to running Bible Studies as well as Youth Sunday School classes along with our Maintenance Officer, Paul Ssekenjako.



More interesting news is that Jonathan met a young lady, Alannah Graves, a short time back here in Masaka. She comes from Vancouver, B.C., in Canada and was volunteering at a Baby Home. After a short courtship, they decided to get married in his father's church in Minnesota on September 6th. He will leave Uganda August 30th, 2014, to return to USA and to prepare for his wedding. The following week his sister will be married. Then after a short honeymoon, Jonathan and Alannah will tour in Canada and USA as Ambassadors of Christ speaking in churches and small groups wherever invited to promote EWCV. They will return to Uganda after Christmas sometime. During their tour into Canada, they plan to meet with the Canadian Board of Directors of EWCV in Manitoba. They will also visit Vancouver, B.C. and Florida, good Lord willing.

Lifetime Friend of the Peckham Family and of EWCV, Lorna Best, has died.

We received an email this past Friday from Warren Best of B.C., Canada telling us that his mother, Lorna Best, of Victoria, B.C. had died at the age of 111 years at 3 am on August 1st, 2014. Lorna had been born in Gilbert Plains, Manitoba, on July 4th, 1903 and had lived in Gilbert Plains much of her life and after her husband, Gilbert Best, died. She later moved to Victoria, B.C. to be close to her siblings. Lorna and Gilbert had raised their son, Warren, along with daughter, Shirley Evans, in Gilbert Plains.

Each Christmas season we received a personal handwritten letter from Lorna with always the most beautiful handwriting along with her birthday pictures. Her granddaughter, Lorna, kept watch over her during the last few months since her stroke June 3rd, 2014. Lorna had the distinction of being the oldest living person from Manitoba until she died. We offer our condolences to all the family thanking them for the fine, loving care they showed Lorna these many years. Lorna was indeed the oldest donor we have had in EWCV. What a blessing.



Primary Seven Field Trip:

On Friday, July 25th, the Primary Seven class of students from Beth Pipe Primary School travelled to Kampala and Entebbe by coaster bus along with several supervisors. They had a wonderful trip enjoying such things as the large variety of animals at the zoo in Entebbe such as elephants, rhinos, hippos, giraffes and deer. They also got to see some airplanes on the runway at the airport from the observation gallery. This was a highlight for many of the children who had never seen an airplane before. The trip was made possible because of the love and generosity of six children ages five to nine years old from Canada who had the idea of having a fund raising

bake sale whereby they raised \$985 CDN. These six children are the cousins of Jaimee Schmidt from Brandon, MB. A big thank you to Jack, Colby, Carter, Emily, Aaron, and Mason from Lashburn, SK., Canada. Our students are busy writing personal letters to each of you. Also, we look forward to Jaimee's return to Uganda to EWCV in October 2014 and on the 5th October she will join runners in Kampala for the 10 km. run whereby she is committed to raising money for EWCV. This will be Jaimee's fourth trip to visit us at EWCV in Uganda and she is a member of the Canadian Board of EWCV as well as sponsoring several of our children each month. She has been an inspiration to many young and old. You might wish to read her blog on our website at www.eagleswingschildrensvillage.com Jaimee is also raising money for our much needed new pit latrine for the Primary School.

Scripture Union Visitors from USA

Recently, we were blessed with the visit of a team from USA who were with Scripture Union. Their team leader, Matt Hacksworth, organized the program along with EWCV staff and had a very productive and interesting day with the children of EWCV.



Farm Project

Over the past several months, we've been blessed with a wonderful growing season. God has provided abundant rain and our farm manager, Ivan, and his assistant, Ernest, have been diligent in their care of the crops. We have been able to supply tomatoes, green peppers, and eggplants from our gardens to our 3 families. This saves us money on our weekly grocery-shopping bill. Ivan is very dedicated and



has his own ideas for future projects to help us become as self-sustaining as we can. (We are well aware that it's The Lord who sustains and not us). That being said, we also believe the scripture that those unwilling to work should not eat (2 Thessalonians 3:10). We are considering poultry farming, fish farming, a piggery, and operating our own maize mill in the future as God leads and provides for. All of these projects come with challenges and opportunities, so we trust that as we lay our plans The Lord will direct our steps.

Last year two Manitoban farmers donated 20 acres of canola to EWCV as well as 10 acres of Wheat. This gift of money from the sale of the crops enabled us to construct another classroom for our High School for Senior Three with a Senior Four classroom remaining now to complete the "O" level block. What a blessing.

EWCV Christmas Program for 2014

Christmas is an exciting time at EWCV. For the past several years our children have been blessed with gift packages of food bags put together for each child. This was made possible by generous donations from our sponsors and donors.

This year we would love to make dressers for the children in the three EWCV families at our property to provide storage and personal space for each child. The dresser will have six lockable cabinets to be put in each hut in all three families. One dresser will cost \$250 USD. Twelve dressers are needed for all three families. This project of making dressers will cost a total of \$3,000 USD. Also, instead of food bags, all the children will be receiving a chicken to raise at home as a project for each home to be able to provide eggs for the children of the community. Each chicken costs \$3.65 USD and a total of 400 children will be receiving chickens to take home. The Christmas Chicken Project will cost \$1,462 USD.

The meals are always prepared for Christmas celebrations. The Christmas Party for the Community Children on 21st Dec. and the Parents/Guardians of EWCV on 28th Dec. when their children leave for a one month holiday with their guardians. The children will return to EWCV property before they start the new school year at the beginning of February, 2015.

We give thanks and Praise:

1) Good harvest of maize, 2) Assistance of Lydia Nabisubi at Love in Action with the bookkeeping for EWCV, 3) Generosity of Jaimee Schmidt's cousins for their fund raising for the Primary Seven Field Trip, 4) the 70,000 litre cistern at the property of EWCV now being full from abundant rains after having suddenly been emptied by a leak, 5) the recent Scripture Union camp program where the three families of 72 children from EWCV were able to attend due to the generosity of Sophia Syros – many students gave powerful testimonies of how God changed their lives during the camp, 6) the provision of tomatoes, green peppers, egg plants from our farm program to feed the three families and the abundant harvest of maize,

Please pray for: Illnesses of Terry in Winnipeg, Chloe in Gilbert Plains, Kitty in Vancouver, Donna P. in Winnipeg, Celesta in Steinbach, Martha in USA, Alan Went in England, Pat Bates in Winnipeg; wedding plans for Jonathan and Alannah for September 6th plus their travel plans to speak about EWCV.

Contact Information: Canadian Office: Eagles Wings Children's Village, #712-133 Niakwa Road, Winnipeg, MB., R2M 5J5 Canada; Phone Pat Bates: 204-254-5309 Email: pmbates@shaw.ca
For Child/Staff/General Information Contact: Francie Humby at 204-257-2483

Email: f_humby@hotmail.com

USA – Contact Real Partners Uganda, 523 Lafayette Blvd., Brigantine, N.J., 08203 USA.

Email: realpartnersuganda@gmail.com

UK – Contact "Love in Action" Email: alan@ugandamail.com

Europe – Hellenic Ministries, #12 Lydias Street, Athens, 11527 Greece

Email: marina_karavas@hotmail.com

If anyone has spare aeroplane miles not being used or needed, please email Bill Peckham for transfer into our aeroplane account.