

HEARTBEAT



A NEWSLETTER OF HEARTS OF THE FATHER OUTREACH



From the Founders

*"All that is gold does not glitter.
All those who wander are not lost."
— J.R.R. Tolkien*

I was recently honored to receive a Leadership Award for outstanding humanitarian service from Suffield Academy, the private school in Connecticut that I attended. It was a wonderful experience and it gave me the opportunity to share with the over four-hundred students, faculty and friends who had gathered for the event.

During my speech, I shared some of our experiences we have had with children over the years and as I talked about being on the streets of the cities of Kampala and Kitale, Ouagadougou and Kiev, I was abruptly halted by the memories of the young girls in Kiev. They were only ten to twelve years old, but were selling their bodies as prostitutes for food and shelter on the cold winter nights. I broke down in tears and I believe for a moment everyone there felt those girls' pain and realized the injustice that many children are innocently thrust into. I was able to recover my emotions, but now I certainly had their attention. I went on to make three important points I believe are worth repeating.



John Moritz, recipient of the 2008 Leadership Award at Suffield Academy.

First, you will be remembered in your life for your extraordinary deeds. Those deeds can either be noble and good or unjust and wrong, altruistic or evil, good or inhumane. Society remembers the Mother Therasas and the Adolph Hitlers, the Martin Luther Kings and the Idi Amins. Strive to do your best, be passionate and don't settle for mediocrity.

Second, do not ever be ashamed of your faith in God. Without God in my life and

our faith in Jesus Christ, I would not be here today and people like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln might never have made it into the history books.

Third, do not judge people who are different from you. We have social, economic, racial, educational and religious differences to name a few. None of these should cause us to separate or divide, for we are all human beings, worthy of respect and equal in value in the eyes of God. We are diminished as people when we allow prejudice and arrogance into our lives and judging leads people, governments and societies into all types of evil.

In closing, I used a caption from my year-book page. It is from J.R.R. Tolkien who was a Christian author. It goes like this; *"All that is gold does not glitter and all those who wander are not lost."* Don't chase money as a life goal. You might gain success but you won't find fulfillment. Rather ask God to lead you on an adventure. Go out into the world and serve others and your life will be rich.

The full text of this speech can be seen on line at our website... www.heartsofthefather.org.

A Year of New Beginnings and of Dreams Coming True

This past February, a U.S. team went to Ghana with a mission to bless our children and to do improvements on the JoshKrisDan Home. Excitement filled the air as this year was a *"year of new beginnings"* for Hearts of the Father Outreach. First, ACHO, the Association of Children's Homes and Orphanages, launched in December, had its

first national meeting in February. Also, this year, rather than distribute Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes, we decided to focus on our Home, the children, and the local Old Ningo area. Finally, in addition to a dental outreach, we organized a medical outreach where our children live.

The children were very excited when the

team arrived. They greeted team members with hugs and an outpouring of love. The group was quickly put into action. The ladies installed new wallpaper borders donated by Kente Home Décor (please check it out at their website: www.kente-homedecor.com) and did a thorough "spring

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...New Beginnings and Dreams... continued from page 1



Coach Jim, "coaching!!"

cleaning." John repaired ceramic tiles while Coach Jim Virgilio was on a mission to erect a basketball hoop and volleyball net. The children were also blessed when they received new mattresses, donated by

Coach Jim and his wife, Ann Marie. You should have seen their faces when they got home from school – smiles beyond! All of the projects were completed for our Saturday Open House and Coach Jim had the opportunity to teach and play volleyball and basketball with all the kids.

Little Belinda, one of our new children, was profiled in our last newsletter. She was hoping to get a sponsor. Her dream came true. She was thrilled to receive her first letter and pictures from the Boney Family. The four older children who we support in college and vocational education took time out from school to visit and thank us for making available such a remarkable opportunity.

John and Esther Gozo, our dedicated houseparents, shared, how at times they feel overwhelmed and get discouraged. However they have such love for the children, it carries them onward. They shared with us their hopes and dreams for the future. They were very blessed by the team. They gratefully watched team members remodel tables and clean the dusty window panes. They especially loved the new kitchen items. "A microwave, what's that?" "A blender?" That will turn a task like mashing onions from one hour to ten seconds.

As our trip came to an end, everyone beamed and cried as we held hands in prayer, thanking God for the special time we had at the Home. The houseparents and children blessed the sponsors and supporters. You all are a part of making their dreams come true.

Isn't it amazing what God can do in short term missions? This was my third trip to Ghana, West Africa. It was another opportunity to share His love. Again I came with a portable dental clinic and the blessing of donated supplies.

This year we set up in Prampram, a small coastal village next to Old Ningo (HFO's JoshKrisDan Home is in Old Ningo). The community was excited and many children were treated. A supply of assistants rose up from our team. A young woman named Gwen, a home-schooler finishing 12th grade, quickly picked up the routine and was a remarkable help. Her love shined through in all tasks she performed. Ann Marie served as the "clinic hygienist." Her skills as a teacher and her great compassion wonderfully blessed everyone.

Something different on this year's trip were a number of open air, evening meetings in the area organized by some Ghanaian churches. The meetings included showing the Jesus Film in the native language. Everyone from our team who wanted to, could participate. I got to visit families, with whose children I'd worked, and invite them

to the events. It was exciting to share with the families about God's great love. It's that love working in us that causes us to leave home to help others.

One of the best times for me personally was when I had the opportunity to reconnect with Grace. Grace is the oldest child in the JoshKrisDan Home. No longer a child, and now a nursing student, she is a great example of what love can do for these children. She was a youngster without a hope and a future. Now, years later, she is entering the arena of life fully equipped with His love. She has a plan and a path. She has a desire to serve and bless others. If only the many people who support and make the JoshKrisDan home possible, could see how the lives of the children are transformed, they too, would feel the joy and experience the difference they are making.

by Joann Shmulsky

Thank You to Berkshire Dental Community and Kiwanis of Sheffield

Kids Reaching Out to Kids

My name is Rebecca Fox, niece to John and Libby Moritz. I am a fourteen year old student. My friend Alexandria and I represent America in the People to People Student Ambassador Program. This program was founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower. We were assigned to choose a local project so we chose Hearts of the Father Outreach. We decided to collect backpacks for children in the HFO programs in Uganda. We collected 49 and delivered them to the HFO office in Sheffield. We feel that we really helped children in Africa and have been inspired to continue to help.



Rebecca (in yellow, 3rd from right) and Alexandra (2nd from right in front) with helpers and other program members. They leave for Europe in July for another phase of their program. John Moritz will deliver the backpacks to Uganda on his next trip there.





The Pearl of Africa

Before the time of Idi Amin, Uganda was referred to as the Pearl of Africa. It was a land that was fertile and productive, lush and beautiful, and the people prospered.

I recently returned from Uganda and witnessed a country on the path to recovery. It is one of the few African countries where the incidence of AIDs is on the decline. Yet there are presently about two million orphans in Uganda and that number could rise to as many as eight million. The rebel fighting in the North has decreased and the children that were born in refugee camps, some eighteen years ago, are readying to return to their villages. There is a sense of hopefulness, especially seen in the faces of the children who have been placed in new families in Kampala. I met them for the first time. We laughed, they sang, we ate a meal together, the white man, "wazunga" in Swahili,



and the black children eating matoki together. I am always the happiest when I am with the children that have been rescued. They are smiling and enjoying their childhood again.

We now have three programs in Uganda, with one-hundred and five children placed into families. We support another program, the Alpha Orphanage Project, which feeds and schools five-hundred more. I visited one of our Board Member's projects in Tororo, and she is helping four-hundred children. Go to her website at www.smileafricanministries.com

and maybe you will be moved to support her. I was.

There is much more to do to help Uganda recover and many more children who need loving families. Your support is helping rebuild a nation. The children in Uganda thank you and they are praying for you. Maybe one day you'll go and eat matoki with them, and smile.

"Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Matthew 14:45-46

"Like a merchant" we have discovered these children "pearls of great value" and "sold all we had and bought it." All of us – leaving our comfort zones and giving of our time and resources to rescue and help these precious ones. These are the true pearls of Africa.

Transformation



John Bosco Tusimme

14 years old

Kampala, Uganda

Sponsored by the Kinkade Family of Litchfield, Connecticut

What does an education mean to a young man in Africa? If you asked John Bosco Tusimme that question he would probably tell you "a privilege" and if you asked his "foster family," they would say "that John is leading in his class academically and that he shows great potential for leadership."

John comes from a family where both of his parents died of HIV/AIDS and his younger brother and he were left in the hands of their very poor grandfather. When he came to the program in Kampala, he was not attending school, but through the discipleship program he has been transformed spiritually, socially and academically.

Now all we can say is thank you for blessing this young man!

*Thank you
for giving me a hope
and a future.*

Smile African Ministries





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HFO's 2nd ANNUAL
 GOLF TOURNAMENT
 FOR THE ORPHANS

Because of You...

Highlights in Ghana – 2008

- Medical and Dental Clinics for two days in the village of Old Ningo;

Over a thousand children and adults were treated medically
 300 children treated by the portable dental clinic in a local school that the children from the JoshKrisDan Home attend.



- A pregnant woman who was suffering from septicemia (blood poisoning) and hours away from death received treatment and was rushed to the hospital; both baby and mother were saved.

- Four night outreach to the local people of Old Ningo in the villages near Prampram where hundreds received the hope and good news of Jesus.



New website is up and running; please visit us at
www.heartsofthefather.org.

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