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NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year! Children's Journey had a big 2013 and we have you to thank for it. Here is a recap of our accomplishments and events.

Pastor Ben made his second trip to the U.S. in April, after an invitation was extended to attend the Association of Related Churches (ARC) Conference in Florida. While in the States, he also got to visit local churches in Baton Rouge and Lafayette. Perhaps more importantly, Pastor Ben was able to visit with folks that taught him about raising rabbits and vegetable farming, and we learned that Baton Rouge is home to a particular species of malaria curing plants. As you may know, malaria and hunger are two plights that many Africans face and both are very dangerous and expensive to fight. This little bit of knowledge, which may seem trivial to many of us, is potentially revolutionary for Pastor Ben, his family, and his community. Pastor Ben returned home with donations of teaching materials, a new suit and shoes, 50 hand-sewn dresses, sewing and cake decorating supplies, and a good story of how he caught his very first fish!

We are excited to report not only does Africa Revival Ministries (ARM) own a permanent sanctuary, Pastors Ben and Grace have built and moved into their own home, with running water and electricity. However, more items are needed to complete this project (see 2014 goals below). These 2 structures are truly dreams come true! Both the sanctuary and their home will be used to provide safe shelter to those in need and the opportunity to receive a meal. Volunteers also began making bricks so that a caretaker's house could be constructed on the orphanage property.

While ARM is the official organization, every church that Pastor Ben plants is named Jesus Christian Center. Through the church planting process, Pastor Ben also serves as a mentor to the pastors. For 2012-2013, a loving couple in the U.S. supported the planting of 2 permanent churches, one for Pastor Asaph in Rutoma Village and one for Pastor Enock in Bulopa Village while also supporting the start-up of 1 temporary church for Pastor Betty in Mpigi Village. Along with his Crusade Team, Pastor Ben held 9 crusades throughout 2013 in neighboring territories and was able to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of many that would otherwise be forgotten. Follow-up from the crusades have revealed that more than 90% of the people began attending church regularly and 50% became directly involved in ministry.

Here is a quick list of all of the successes and big purchases you were a part of in 2013:

- 7 successful garage sales that raised \$8660
- Fencing the orphanage property
- Planting of vegetable seeds and coffee plants, and the purchase of 3 goats
- Construction supplies for Pastors Ben and Grace's house
- 2013 trip to the U.S.
- Equipping the ladies of ARM to visit sister churches teaching the other ladies how to decorate cakes and crochet goods for resale

Following on the successes of 2013, we are setting big goals for 2014! Many of our goals will enable ARM to reach further into the community and help address the physical and spiritual needs of the sick, hungry, and neglected. We are believing for the following:

- \$6,500 to purchase the land in Mpigi so that the temporary church can become a permanent Jesus Christian Center
- Funds for 2 water wells to be drilled on the orphanage property, so crops can thrive and people can have clean water.
- Trip to Uganda to help Pastor Ben begin construction of the caretaker's house and are praying for volunteers and willing donors to help cover the cost of supplies and travel.
- Needs for completion of Pastor Ben's house totaling \$6,600:
 - \$600 – Refrigerator
 - \$560 – Stove
 - \$179 – 3 Mattresses
 - \$300 – 3 Bed Frames & Headboards
 - \$180 – Bathroom Door
 - \$150 – Paint & Supplies
 - \$239 – 2 Bathroom Water Heaters
 - \$1500 – Closets
 - \$700 - Dining Room Furniture
 - \$500 – Living Room Furniture
 - \$1500 – Plastering of Brick Privacy Wall
 - \$50 – 2 Attic Doors
 - \$150 – 5 Plumbing Manhole Covers

We are setting the bar high and trusting God for big things in Uganda!!

Please let us know how you would like to help! And, as always, thank you for your prayers, your hours of volunteer work, and your financial support of Children's Journey!

For the children,

Glenda Firor



Pastor Ben & Grace's Church



The Tabingwa Family



House Under Construction