



May 2004

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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CONGO STORIES

Two children, two stories, and two lives saved with the help of International Children's Care. A year ago, ICC was asked to rescue two hundred children in the Congo from starvation and, for some, certain death. ICC's staff prayed then entered a battle for the lives of these children with open arms and hearts. Here's a quick peek into the lives of Machozi Mbutso and Noella Lwanjikwa. Through these stories may you share a glimpse of their heartbreaks and triumphs.

An ache in the pit of the stomach is a reminder of the hunger inside. Hunger that is never satisfied causes the body to grow weak. The ache grows until the pain is as constant as breathing. Starvation. This is a daily reality to hundreds of children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Machozi, has felt the deep pangs of hunger. He lives in a country where civil war and racial cleansing devours the very resources that feed its people. That same war creates havoc, leaving nothing but the innocent in its wake. In war, children are the losers- some lose everything.

In 1998 as Machozi's father left the market of Kasindi he was caught in an ambush. The victim of being in the wrong place at the wrong time, Machozi's father and three other men from the village were burned alive by members of the National Resistance Army. War left Machozi's family struggling to exist. Then, tragedy struck again and his mother was killed under a falling tree. What was little Machozi to do? Survive.

Survival for Machozi meant two things: God and International Children's Care. He arrived at the receiving center naked and suffering from malnutrition. He was given loving care, which allowed Machozi to start putting the pieces of his life back

together. Still young, Machozi is beginning to dream again. He no longer suffers from hunger. He hopes for an education, and waits for the day when there is no war.

Much like baby Moses, a three-month-old Noella Lwanjikwa was drawn from the water into loving arms. Apparently, she and her mother were traveling back from the island where the family grew their crops, when her mother mysteriously drowned. Two Catholic nuns, seeing the tiny infant floating on the water, went to investigate. They soon realized the baby was still alive. God's loving hands had kept Noella afloat until help arrived. This was the first miracle in Noella's life.

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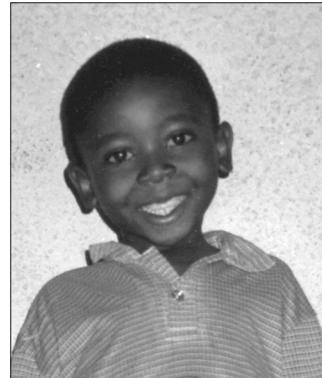
PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Grace

I need a sponsor. I am 8 years old and live in Cango. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. Thanks!

\$25 \$50 \$ _____

(800)422-7729
Sponsorship Department



Kiley's Friends



Mrs. Rich's 1st and 2nd grade class

Mrs. Rich's 1st and 2nd grade class from Meadow Glade SDA Elementary School, raised money to send to the children in Guatemala.

Kiley, who was adopted from Guatemala, is in Mrs. Rich's class. At Christmas time, she worked and saved up her money to send \$100 to help

the children at Los Pinos. When her classmates found out about it they wanted to help too. So Mrs. Rich put a money jar in the classroom and the money began to come in. The children swept floors, worked in the garden, vacuumed, cleaned, and anything else they could do to earn money. Their class raised \$100 from a book sale campaign.

The \$100 from the book sale will go for Hepatitis Vaccinations so the children won't get sick. They raised an additional \$100 for school supplies.

These children have really made a difference!

Four Hands for His Kids - Piano Concert

ICC and S.A.G.E. Oregon extend a BIG thank you to Miguel Sosa and Satoko Hojo! The piano duo performed two beautiful classical piano concerts on March 25 at the Sunnyside Adventist Church as an awareness raising event for ICC, as well as a gift to the community of donors and loyal supporters. The evening was truly successful as we were nearly filled to capacity. Pastor Fleck narrated the fun musical piece, "Carnival of the Animals," which brought lots of laughs. A highlight of the

evening concert was the presence of one of our ICC children, Ronnie. He and his twin brother's lives were saved 18 years ago when Mrs. Fleck gave permission to rent an airplane and get them to a hospital in Guatemala City after a premature birth. As a result from this event we've found new volunteers and sponsors, and renewed enthusiasm from loyal supporters who are making a difference in the lives of our children.

Hepatitis Update

A Special thank you for your quick response to our most urgent need in Guatemala, last month we asked you for donations to help cover the cost of hepatitis vaccinations for our children in Los Pinos. Our goal of 5,700.00 to inoculate for both hepatitis A and B has been reached! We can't thank our sponsors enough for their thoughtful giving.

Congo Stories Continued

After her mother's death Noella stayed with the two nuns who rescued her. Then, some time later, she was reunited with family members where she lived for several years. The family's way of life changed and Noella's health started to decline. Thus, the family took an ill Noella to the ICC receiving center in the city of Goma.

Under the loving care of ICC's Goma staff, Noella's health improves daily. Through God's tender care Noella received her second miracle, life within the ICC family. Again, like Baby Moses God has given Noella a new safehaven so he can shape her life for His good.

Machozi and Noella, both survivors. Both lives greatly enhanced through International Children's Care.

**Wills
TRUSTS**

A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future through planned giving

Contact Doug Congleton at ICC for more information on how you can become part of the "Legacy of Love"

(800) 422-7729
Doug@ForHisKids.org

A Personal Message

May 2004

Dear ICC Family,

Of all the countries in the world where children need help, the countries of Africa probably head the list. The stories and pictures in the news are mind-boggling. International Children's Care (ICC) exists to help homeless and abandoned children, but where and how could we start in an area of such overwhelming needs? Then a call came from a group working in Zambia. We responded by creating a program there, and we began to receive children. But the biggest challenge came when a medical group, called Prolasa, operated by trained African nurses, called us with an SOS we couldn't turn down. In their work with clinics in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, they had rescued over 100 children orphaned by the war. They weren't equipped to run an orphanage, and they found families to care for these children temporarily. But these Christian families, themselves devastated by the war, were struggling to feed their own children.

When Rick and Sharon went to the Congo, they met with Sharon's brother, Dr. Barry Wecker, who had been a missionary in that area. With his help they were able to launch our ICC program in the Congo. Instead of 100 children, there were 200 by then. The video of their trip is a real heart-rending picture of what these children have suffered, and how happy they are now to at last have a home, even a temporary one in crowded conditions. Many of them had health problems that needed to be addressed. None had any possessions or even clothing of their own, just the uniforms that some of the women had hastily put together. But, by the time Rick and Sharon got there, the money that our donors had provided, and which ICC sent on ahead, was already helping the children to start to have a better life.

Tiffany, our director of the Sponsorship Department, sent me copies of the introductory report of seven of these children. Each of them have experienced terrible tragedies. There is Anne Marie, 9, who lost her father when she was 4, when bandits came out of the forest, raiding the village and kidnapping and killing some of the villagers. Her father was among them. Three years later someone put poison in her family's food, killing them all but her. She happened to be away and didn't eat any of the food. One of the Prolasa workers found her and took care of her until our ICC Village was opened. At last she has a permanent home and all the food and care she needs.

Anne Niyitulinda is approximately 9. She, with her twin sister and another sister, were left homeless when their father died and then their mother died in childbirth. They stayed with some tribal members until all were killed but them. They went from door to door begging, and they slept wherever they could find shelter. Anne is still suffering the trauma of losing her parents, but is finding security now in a permanent home and loves to go to school.

Homes For The Homeless

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

Jean-Marie, 7, lost both parents by death. He struggled to stay alive, was malnourished and dressed in rags when he came to us. But medical treatment, nourishing food, love and security have changed his life. He is also thrilled to go to school.

When Esperance, 7, lost her mother during the war, her father remarried, and Esperance and all her siblings had to leave. They faced a hard life without food or shelter, until her brother brought her to the ICC Village.

Bitusi and his twin brother, Bineza, are ten years old. Their mother died during childbirth, and their father died of a heart attack. They were left alone and went from house to house begging food. They couldn't go to school anymore, because there was no one to pay the fees. Bitusi loves to play soccer and is happy to be back in school.

Biramuka is 12 years old. His father died after a long exhausting struggle with disease. With no income to care for her child, his mother married a Hutu from Rwanda. But that choice proved to be fatal. She was killed during the war between Rwanda and the Hutu militia. Biramuka went to live with his grandfather, but the old man had no support and lived in terrible poverty. Biramuka had to steal food for them to eat. When he came to our Village he was in very poor health, with extreme malnutrition and other diseases. His health challenges are now being cared for, and he no longer has to steal to eat.

Jean-Pierre Mapendano is 11. His father was killed at his job as a lumber Jack when the boy was just one year old. His mother was left alone to care for 7 children. Then one day they were attacked by refugees and she was killed. Jean-Pierre went to live with an uncle until the uncle was drowned. Fortunately, Prolasa found the boy and brought him to ICC. He is a bright boy, who loves school. It is wonderful for these children to at last have a home and security, and education is a special opportunity and a special joy for them.

Honnête is just a baby, about one year old. She was abandoned by an unwed mother, and, but for the one who found her and brought her to us, would have died. She was severely malnourished with edema and a severe cough. It has taken special medical care to pull her through. She still shows the symptoms of the trauma of her first months, but she is where little children like her receive the care and love that all of God's children deserve.

There are 213 children in our care in Congo. Situations like these create big problems with our budget here at the ICC office. Ever since we began ICC 26 years ago, we have been praying every month that our funds will stretch, that we can accept the children who come to us in such desperate needs. God has never failed us, even though we have grown from one house and one child to around 1,400 children in 17 countries. People like you who have a heart for children make this possible. We will continue to grow and to bring in the homeless and abandoned children because this is a program of faith. God knows where to find the people He can trust to care and provide for His children.

With our love and prayers.

Alyson and Jen