



YOU CAN CHANGE A LIFE!

*Jeanne lived a normal life, not so unlike the lives we all live. Yes, because she lived in The Congo, her culture and other things were different than the ones we have grown accustomed to, but her everyday life in her family was somewhat like ours. Yes, like ours until the one day that Jeanne will never forget. This was the day that would take away everything that she cherished the most.

Jeanne's whole world was yanked away from her due to her father's second wife, Jeanne's stepmother. Even though Jeanne's parents were divorced and her father had re-married, both of her parents still had a connection to each other. That connection was Jeanne. Her stepmother was jealous and decided to come up with a plan to get rid of both of Jeanne's parents, and then little Jeanne as well. She decided to poison the food that Jeanne's mom and dad ate.

One day, she found the opportunity to carry out her plan, so she acted on it immediately. Within days, Jeanne's mom and dad were gone. The stepmother was thrilled, and now she decided to get rid of Jeanne. Instead of poisoning her, the stepmother decided to abandon Jeanne, leaving her to suffer and perish on her own.

The story I am telling you of Jeanne is not much different than many of our children in the children's villages. Sure, the circumstances may change, but the horror and traumatic events are similar in their devastation to the children's lives.

Sometimes it is overwhelming to think of the stories that have taken place in the



Jeanne's* stepmother, consumed with jealousy, used poison to murder Jeanne's father and mother. She then abandoned Jeanne, leaving her to die.

lives of these kids. It can easily destroy the best of days for me if I just leave the story where it started. Instead, I rejoice in the fact that your support has helped to make it possible for these children to have a reason to live. No matter the reason or event that caused them to become an orphan, they now have love and hope in their lives because of individuals like you who care enough to continue to support them in tremendous ways. This is a continued story in which you play the main part as a sponsor or donor. Thank you for what you do to change the lives of these kids by helping to provide what is needed so they can have a happy continued story!

Someone from the local area found little Jeanne, and they had heard about the ICC Children's Village on the island of Idjwi. They heard that this was a wonderful place for orphaned or abandoned children to receive love and hope for their futures. It was a place where these children that came from horrific situations could find a refuge from the storms of their young lives.

This kind person brought Jeanne to the children's village on Idjwi and told the terrible events that had brought her to this place and time.

We don't know what happened to Jeanne's step mother, but we do know what has happened to Jeanne. She was welcomed into the Patmos Island children's village and became part of a loving family.



Today at age 19, Jeanne is living in the DR Congo at the Patmos Children's Village on the island of Idjwi. There is one big thing that Jeanne needs right now — someone to sponsor her.

Today, Jeanne is 19 years old, and she is going to school. She is a little behind other children her age due to those tragic events that took place early in her life.

I just read a report about Jeanne that says she "is a brave, hardworking and a polite young lady. She helps her house mother by carrying in the water, cooking and searching for firewood for her family's needs. Jeanne wants to become a teacher when she graduates from her studies in order to make a difference in the lives of other children."

Jeanne's is a story that is very much like many other children in our ICC villages. She is turning the blessing she is receiving into a blessing for others by her helpfulness. Jeanne desires to help other children as she has been helped.

But there is one big thing that Jeanne needs right now — someone to sponsor her.

Many individuals prefer to sponsor younger children. But as a child grows older,

sometimes the lives of sponsors also change. They may not be able to continue the support they started.

As children pass through their teenage years, it's increasingly difficult to find someone to come along side of them and offer the special love and care that is unique to sponsors. Older children like Jeanne need sponsors that provide that unconditional example of love in their lives just like the younger children need it. They need caring people who will provide for their lives which have been torn apart in their past.



Shanta — India

Jeanne is entering the time at ICC that we call “The Harvest.” This is the time when the children graduate from school, graduate from their children’s village and become adults going out into the world to find employment and most importantly, share the love of Jesus with others.

These kids are the fruits of YOUR labor as sponsors and donors. These young adults that were devastated by the choices of others at some point in their lives, now have the chance to really make something of their lives, and they almost always choose to help “pay back” for what they have received by helping our small children as well as others. Thus, the term “The Harvest.”

Sadly, there are young people in our projects that have no sponsors at all due to their age.

That’s why I am writing to ask you today if you will be willing to make a difference for Jeanne and so many others just like her in the children’s villages. They need your prayers, your support and your love in their lives. You can make such a tremendous difference if you will just make the decision to be that rock of strength and support that these older kids need right now.

Please, pray about this decision to open your life to these



Gustav — Congo



Alonso — Guatemala

wonderful older kids who need you today. I know from my own experience just how much of a blessing I have received by sponsoring an older child, and I will be forever grateful for that opportunity.

Jesus tells us to “Love one another.” I cannot think of anything in this world that can have a greater impact of love than sponsoring one of these older kids and providing that hope that they cling to as they make their own choices for their futures.

What a wonderful blessing it is to be a part of what Jesus wants for His kids. Please join me today!

In grateful service for His kids,



Doug Congleton
Executive Director
ICC Americas



Rosalina — Dominican Republic

***P.S.* There are many older children just waiting to hear from you that you love and care for them. Please contact Alanna at our ICC office (800-422-7729) to find out more about a child who needs you right now! Thank you!**

**The child's name has been changed in order to protect her privacy.*



Adrien — Congo



Marienne — Congo



Jorge — El Salvador