

Outstretched Arms

DECEMBER 2006

"BECAUSE EVERY CHILD SHOULD HAVE A HOME"



The purpose of Chosen Children International is to provide for the spiritual, physical, and educational needs of homeless street children and orphans. We carry out our mission by extending the nurturing and love of family to these children, knowing we are God's eyes, outstretched arms, and heart to those who need Him most. 150 million children are rejected, orphaned, or abandoned due to famine, poverty, and disease. HIV/AIDS has orphaned at least 13 million in Africa and 1 million in Kenya alone.

Dear Friends,

Wow, 2006 is almost over and what an incredible year this has been for our ministry. Much has happened since you last heard from us and this newsletter will tell you some of the highlights of the past year.

First let me wish you a very **Merry Christmas** and a **wonderful New Year!** As I think of Christmas, I can't help but think of the Christmas last year which I spent in Kenya. Last year for Christmas, CCI held a wonderful Christmas party for about 120 children. The children put on a magnificent puppet show which they directed themselves. Some of the children recited poems that they had written. They also put on a short play about the birth of Jesus. We then provided the children with a special meal of chicken, rice, vegetables and desert. We gave the children gifts of clothes and toys. The children from our Gospel choir, The Watoto Voice of Kenya, sang and danced for us. It was such a wonderful party and the children were very appreciative of the meal and the gifts. ~



Some of the children at the party

The Orphans of Bosnia

In January, CCI found a community of orphans living in an area of Transnoia county (the county Kitale is in) known as Bosnia. The people there named their area Bosnia because of the similarities between the tribal clashes in the country of Bosnia and the tribal clashes they have had.

Bosnia is one of the poorest neighborhoods I have seen in Kenya, and trust me I have seen many. There are a large number of children in this area who have been orphaned due to the fact that their parents were killed during tribal clashes. If you come from a rich country such as the United States it is hard to

fathom the conditions the people in Bosnia, Kenya are living in. I visited hut after hut where there was no food to be found, no cooking utensils, hardly any beddings or clothes of any kind. When we interviewed the children we found that many of

them had not eaten in 3 days. I decided that we had to intervene in the lives of these orphans. So we have taken 30 of them under our care. We have provided school uniforms for each school aged child, a book bag to carry their books back and forth from school, new clothes, blankets, medical treatment, books, school



Handing out food and supplies

-continued on pg. 2

A Miraculous Healing

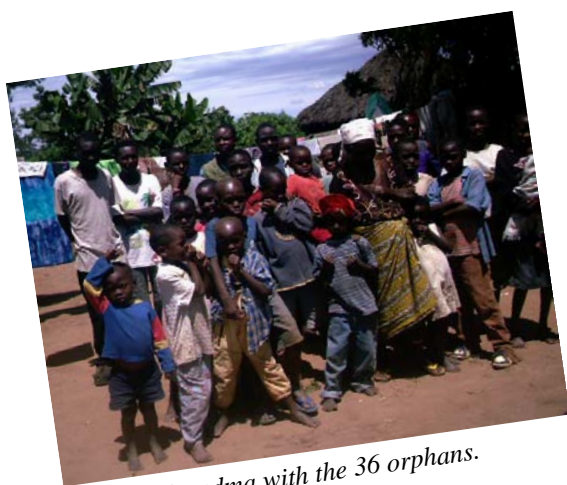
While I was visiting some of our orphans this past year I came across a lady named Irene who could not walk. When I asked her what had caused her to become lame Irene told us the sad story of how her husband had severely beaten her so that both of her legs had been broken. In a place where there are no doctors, broken legs do not get treated. The compassion of the Lord for this lady came upon me and I prayed for the Lord to touch and heal her legs. Just like in the Bible where Jesus told a man who was lame, “get up and walk,” He did it again. I told this lady to get up, and right before my eyes she started walking for the first time in six months. We were all overjoyed, but none as much as Irene. Irene is separated from her husband and lives with her mother who takes care of many orphans. Now that Irene is walking again she is able to help her mother do many of the chores she could not do before. ~



Irene after she was healed

Widow with 36 Orphans

Imagine...what you would do if you were a mother of 7 children who all died ahead of you and left you behind with 36 grandchildren to feed and support? I imagine you would be grieving for your children, but there would be little time to grieve, since the lives of all of your precious grandchildren would depend on you being strong. Now imagine you have all of these children to feed and clothe but you are a widow with no social security and no income of any kind. What would you do? This is the situation we found one brave lady in Kenya dealing with. Her 7 children all died of AIDS. She now lives with her 36 grandchildren and the only means she has had to take care of them with is to hire out herself and her children to local farmers who usually give her food in return for weeding and other small farming jobs. All of the children sleep on the dusty floor with nothing but old corn sacs to sleep on. They walk 5 kilometers a day in order to obtain water from a well. Most of these 36 children have a relationship with Jesus and attend a local church. ~



Grandma with the 36 orphans.

The Orphans of Bosnia, continued from pg. 1

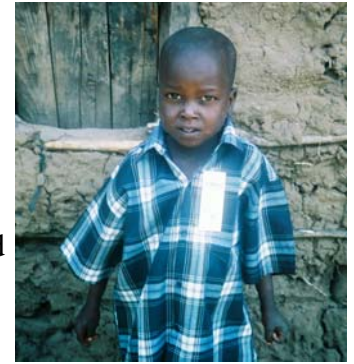
supplies, and nutritious food. It is so wonderful to see the health of these children improving now that they are eating regularly. We have also seen their marks in school improve due to the books we have given them. Because of these additional children, CCI needed to add more staff this year as well. We now have 2 social workers who regularly visit all of our children. Because of CCI's involvement in Bosnia, we have also seen the local government pitch in to help. They recently built a well on our behalf for the people of Bosnia. This has been a huge blessing to the community. We are also seeing the local Kenyan business community starting to donate many gifts to us of clothing and food for the children. This is very encouraging to all of us. ~

Sponsors Needed!



Will you sponsor this girl?

CCI has begun to help the lady taking care of the 36 children. However in order to really support these children we need sponsors who are willing to “adopt” each of the children. We also need sponsors to adopt the children from Bosnia. It costs only \$35 a month to sponsor a child. This is so little compared to the benefits that the child receives. The child you sponsor will be provided nutritious food, warm clothing, school supplies, blankets, medical attention and other things that they could not possibly be able to have without your help. Please



Will you sponsor this boy?

consider sponsoring one of our children and tell your friends, co-workers, and relatives how they can also sponsor a child. **If you wish to sponsor a child you can do so by using the form on the next page or you can now sign up to sponsor a child by going to our website at www.ccikids.org.** Please indicate whether you want to sponsor a girl or a boy. Your child’s picture will be mailed to you along with his or her history. ~

Our Land

Many of you are probably wondering what is happening with the 20 acres of land the Kenyan government gave to us. On my last trip to Kenya, I personally went with the surveyor to put up the posts that make up the boundaries for our land. In the picture that follows, I am painting the posts white to make them easily visible from the road. I am happy to report that this past year our Board Members in Kenya planted corn (maize) on all of our land. Unfortunately, there is a lot of bureaucracy in Kenya and the government officials have been dragging their feet on giving us the legal documents we need in order to start building our Children’s Village. We have made progress though and with your prayers we believe we will get the go ahead very soon. ~



CCI Director Marilyn Cohn painting the boundary posts.

Colorado

In August, the Lord began to speak to my heart about moving to Colorado Springs, Colorado. So, after much praying about the matter, I moved to Colorado Springs on September 22, 2006. I love it here and I feel very blessed to be living in such a beautiful place. I can see the mountains from my apartment and I have been hiking in them every weekend. Although I am living in Colorado, we are keeping our headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina until further notice. If you would like to write to me, Marilyn, personally please write to the address below. Send all checks and financial support to our address in Charlotte. Please use the form on the other side. God bless you and thanks so much for helping us to support these precious children. Without your partnership we can do nothing.

Send personal mail to:

Marilyn Cohn
1584 Gatehouse Circle N, Apt. 204
Colorado Springs, CO 80904
1-719-634-KIDS
marilyn@ccikids.org

Send donations to:

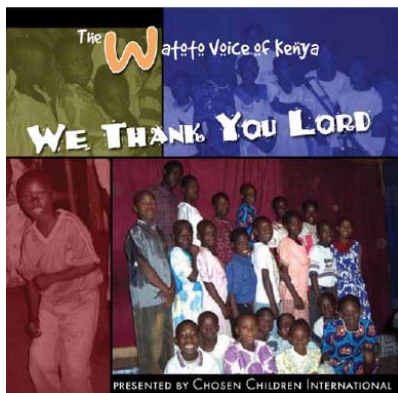
Chosen Children International
PO Box 38714
Charlotte, NC 28278
1-866-599-KIDS

In His loving arms,

Marilyn Cohn
President of CCI

Our needs and prayer requests:

1. We need **\$25,000 dollars by the end of December** in order to meet our operational budget. Since we have increased our staff and the amount of children we are taking care of we need your support more than ever. **Won't you please consider giving us your most generous end of the year donation so we can continue to meet our goals and expand this ministry?** We also would like to send something extra for the children for Christmas.
2. We need a good **used vehicle** to use for transportation in Kenya. Currently the ministry owns no vehicle and having a vehicle would enable us to reach our children easier and also to respond to emergencies such as when one of them needs medical attention.
3. We need many **more sponsors** to adopt each of our children.
4. Please pray seriously that the District Development Committee (DDC) gives us the **legal documents for our land so we can begin to build on it.**
5. We need **more prayer warriors** to back us up in prayer!
6. Please pray for **more volunteers and board members** both in Kenya and in the US to help us spread this work.
7. Pray for **our board in Kenya** as they are leading the work there, and **pray for the board here in America including myself** that we would have wisdom and grace for this ministry.
8. Pray **for our children** to remain healthy and to do well in their studies.
9. We need to find a **new office in Kenya** by the end of the year due to our expansion.



Listen to Our Orphans Sing!

Now you can bring a little of Kenya home with you when you purchase one of our CD's of our orphans singing. This is a beautifully recorded CD by our Gospel Choir the Watoto Voice of Kenya. The title of the album is "We Thank You Lord" and it contains inspirational songs in both English and their native language. **Cost of this CD is only \$15 plus \$2 for shipping.** Proceeds from this sale go directly to Chosen Children International to help the kids in Kenya. Makes a great Christmas or Kwanza gift!

You can also sign up to sponsor a child or make a donation on our website at www.ccikids.org

Yes, Marilyn, I want to make a difference! I would like to...

Financial Help

- Sponsor a [] a girl [] a boy (\$35/month)
- Sponsor a [] a girl [] a boy to attend high school (\$50/month)
- Sponsor a family taking care of orphans (\$100/month)
- Pledge \$25.00 a month to be used where most needed.
- Pledge \$_____ a month
- Give a one time donation of \$_____
- Order the *We Thank You Lord* CD (\$17)

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help with newsletter mailings
- Help maintain the website (www.ccikids.org)
- Become a board member
- Take a vision trip to Kenya.

Prayer

- I will pray and intercede for this ministry regularly

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
E-mail _____
Phone # _____

Please cut, place in envelope, and mail to:

Chosen Children International
P.O. Box 38714
Charlotte, NC 28278

