

Liberia: Orphanage Renovation Rescue!

April 2008

Dear friend,

Several months ago we received a poignant email from a Californian Pastor:

*"Our church is doing missions work in Liberia, Africa, and currently we send monthly support to six orphanages. All our money buys is half a cup of rice per day per child and some oil for cooking. The meal is supplemented with roots and fruits when available. **This provision is nutritionally bankrupt and we need to find a solution!**"*

We immediately dispatched one of our shipping containers to help with the nutrition problem. Thanks to FMSC we regularly receive containers of special rice packs – especially designed to strengthen young bodies with minerals, vitamins, and dehydrated vegetables in every meal.

Bob Boucek, our head of logistics, was then sent ahead to assess the long-term situation. He found a nation valiantly trying to recover from 14 years of a brutal civil war that left most of the country without electricity, running water, basic sanitation, and health care.

Meeting with local pastor Allan Klayee of Liberty Christian Outreach, Bob was introduced to the dedicated staff members who care for the children to the best of their ability. Like all Liberians, they are determined to return their country to peace and stability, but are working with precious little.

The orphanages themselves are in a terrible state of disrepair. Some staff are forced to walk kilometres to obtain clean water. And the children, some terribly thin, are suffering many ailments that could be so easily prevented.

Many suffer from worms, for the lack of adequate health care. Others battle fevers from malaria, for the lack of a few simple mosquito nets. With meagre supplies the children have few possessions, not even a single toy for the children to call their own.

Bob returned with a list of repairs and improvements to the orphanages: a solid roof over their heads; stable walls to protect them; clean water to drink; hygienic latrines; and a place to sleep in safety. This is a list of *critical* components to improve their living conditions - yet the same sort of things that we generally take for granted.

We are asking our partners and friends to help us renovate these 6 centres: to repair walls and foundations, to dig four new wells and restore others, to purchase mosquito nets, beds and linen, and to install latrines for proper sanitation and other general maintenance. Pastor Allan will then be able to purchase garden tools and seeds for their own gardens to acquire other resources for their health, education and spiritual development.

We're glad to report our emergency container of food has already arrived and will sustain the children for the next five months. But we need to do so much more than *just* feed these children. They desperately need to see God's love in action.

Pastor Allan says, "The trauma of war is still in their minds and in their hearts [when the children come to us]. **They'll need safety, love, and plenty of nurturing to overcome what they've suffered already in their young lives.**"

The children of Liberia are the future. How these children are raised today will help determine whether Liberia can look to the future with hope or fear.

Please prayerfully consider giving to restore these orphanages and secure a bright future for these Liberian children.

Once we have restored these orphanages to a basic level of operation, and if support permits, our next step is to include these orphanages to our *EveryChild EveryDay* initiative. Your support will help protect and nourish these children well past the five months provided by the first food shipment.

Serving the hungry,

Peter Sumrall
President

P.S. Did you know that your donation can be put to use even faster, when you give online at www.feedthehungryaustralia.org?

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Yes, I want to help! Please accept my donation of: \$30 \$50 \$100 Other\$ _____

For: Liberian Orphanage Renovation Rescue
 EveryChild EveryDay (Orphanage Support)

General (Used where it's needed most)
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Please send me information about debiting my bank account or credit card automatically each month.

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Deposits can be made directly into our Westpac Banking accounts through your local branch or through internet banking. We request that you use your contact name and project name as a reference with all direct deposits.

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BSB: 032-000

A/C: 36-1670

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Thankyou for your support. Gifts received above a specified need, will be used for other Feed The Hungry programs where the need is greatest. Please note that donations to Feed The Hungry are not tax deductible and that receipts are issued for all donations unless otherwise requested.