

March Hands of Hope Newsletter – 2010

Patty and I are presently in Zimbabwe and Lord willing will return right before Easter. It is such a joy to minister with local Zimbabwe churches in **rescuing** children from the hand of the destroyer. Garikai Masuka, our HOH National Administrator took the picture of these two precious girls and provided a little background and update on their lives.

Rescued

The most **beautiful** sight as far as I am concerned is a heartfelt smile from a gape toothed kid. Today, (Feb. 17th, 2010) Patience and Ruth have made my day. Philadelphia 3 (a Hands of Hope home) has managed to put a flame of hope in Patience and Ruth. You can see this **happiness** in their eyes, easy smiles and their joyful giggles. When Patience (the younger and shorter girl) came to us in 2008, she was not able to speak either English or Shona (the only languages most people in Harare speak.) The official report says the girl was smuggled from Democratic of Congo in a container. She had cuts on both wrists. For reasons we can not understand, the woman who she stayed with is reported to have been in the habit of drawing blood from the girl. The lady is still in police custody. Patience was so fragile at first but I **praise** the Lord for restoring this girl's happiness. She has found a family, but what matters now is her future. This year Patience has enrolled at a nearby primary school doing grade one. She can now speak enough Shona to communicate with any Shona speaker.



Ruth, the taller girl is eight; she came to Philadelphia 3 in June 2009. Her Social Welfare file states that she **lost both** parents and was staying with abusive distant relatives. Traces of abuse on her body describe the abuse louder than the Social Welfare report. Ruth can not walk upright; part of her shoulder was burnt, affecting her right hand as well. Julie van Zervan, a Team missionary with medical background, said Ruth needs a special operation on the burnt parts of her body so that she can flex her limbs. She lost two years of schooling but thank God she is now in caring hands and is going to school, doing grade one.

Ruth does not trust people easily; it takes a lot of effort to get her smile. When I first saw her she refused to greet me. Thank God we are now best of friends. The sisterhood bond that the girls in Philadelphia 3 have is such a marvel. Pray for our beautiful little stars. **Thanks** for being part of our HOH team!

Because Jesus loves children,
Glen and Patty