

Hands of Hope Newsletter - September 2011

Visa Munenge

Recently our son, Glen returned from 2 months in Zimbabwe. He and our nephew, Clay had the privilege of visiting some feeding projects in a dry, remote, rural area near Victoria Falls, where HOH helps feed **350** orphans through 7 local churches. One little 4 year old boy ran away from Glen as he had never seen a white person.

In one of the villages they met an 11 year old girl named Visa Munenge. She lost both of her parents and was taken in by her grandmother, who then also passed away. Although Visa is currently in grade 5, she is unable to attend school because none of her relatives are able to afford school fees. Being an orphan, she receives one **daily meal** at the feeding program at Pastor John's church in Manjolo, a rural village that is located approximately 70 miles from a major city.



When she comes to the feeding point, Visa is reminded of her mother who is no longer alive, and she recognizes that in some way the church has become a mother and father to her. When she thinks of this, she says that tears run on her cheek. Visa is also saddened when she comes because she is reminded of the children who tease her. They tease her in part because of the fact that she is an orphan, but they also state that they wish that their own parents were dead so that they could come and receive food. Visa feels both embarrassed and angry at them. Often, instead of getting excited about the food, which is probably her only substantial meal for the day, she remembers those who tease her. The local pastor is there to encourage Visa to be able to rejoice in the food that God has provided, but this is still difficult for her. In many ways, we can appreciate the sadness of this situation, and the tension in this little girl who faces both the stigma of being an orphan and the advantage of having daily food when so many in the local community are without. As Hands of Hope responds to the needs of children, we are also thankful for partners, such as Pastor John, who is there to provide spiritual and emotional support that reaches beyond the immediate physical needs of the children. And we are reminded and anticipate God's kingdom, when all disparities and sadness shall be ushered away.

The Westgate Church Team recently recorded the Westgate Haven girls singing "Chimwango" which means, "An agreement one makes with God to always serve Him." Below is a link that will allow you to listen to them for yourselves. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i5flshXjORc&feature=related>

Thanks for your continued faithful support in loving children like Visa in a rural area and the Westgate girls in Harare.

For Him and for the children,
Glen and Patty

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