



Beacon of Hope for Widows Vulnerable Women and Children (BHWVC)

Lueur d'Espoir pour les Veuves, les Femmes Vulnérables et les Enfants (ASBL)

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Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord

Warm greetings from me, the orphans and widows you serve. It is such a joy to report back to you on how you are serving the Lord in Eastern Congo through Beacon of Hope. I am always humbled by your generosity, knowing that most of you have other income than your pension. However, we do know that your sacrifice is not in vain in the Lord.

This time I will start with a success story! Do you remember Etienne (Photo on left)? I first mentioned him two years ago when I asked you to support him prayers as he prepared to sit for the end of



secondary education exams. In the DRC children from upcountry areas never know whether they will ever succeed in this exam. Due to lack of infrastructure and dysfunctional educational system; sometimes children rural areas study curricula that are long forgotten about in Kinshasa. When Etienne failed, he and his mother thought that we were unhappy with him and that Beacon of Hope would drop him off. Two months after a new school year had begun, I realised that Etienne had not come to ask for fees. I found him helping a mason hoping to collect enough money to pay for school fees for the following year. He was so grateful that we were willing to help him try again. This year the Lord showed him favour and he was successful. Etienne and his mother Françoise are so grateful to the Lord and to you for your supports.



This year again the Lord allowed us to provide education opportunities to 104 orphans. The second photo shows children, parents and caregivers in a ruined church building listening to teachers read their exam results. In spite of the presence of a militia group that threatened their villages all year around, teachers and children successfully finished the school year. Most of orphans we serve did very well.



We were deeply moved to see that 3 orphans we support came first of their classes. (The three orphans are the one standing on the front line of the photo on left). All three of them live with their elderly grandmothers therefore live in terrible poverty. The congregation clapped for them and thanked all who support Beacon of Hope to enable orphans to attend school. On the behalf of fellow clansmen, the local chief asked Beacon of Hope to pass on his gratitude to everyone who supports Beacon of Hope to help orphans attend school.

The widow in red blouse is Kachweka (photo on right). She is too embarrassed to look at the camera first because she is unable to send her children to school, secondly, for she dropped her daughter off her back when militiamen pursued her 14 years ago. Thanks to trauma counseling ministry of Beacon of Hope, the relationship between her and her daughter has considerably improved. Neema (her daughter) just finished primary education this year.



Neema's mother is worried that if Beacon of Hope dropped her off the list, she may slip back to trauma. We have promised Neema and her mother that we will do whatever we can to help her attend secondary education. A number of other widows have come to request the same favour. They are all worried about what may happen to teenage girls if we stopped helping them to attend school. We do hope that the Lord will provide for these teenage girls by his grace. They are scheduled to back to school on September 8th.

Our family is doing well by God's grace. Banage is busy preparing the children for school. Amooti is a bit apprehensive for this year he is going to the secondary education. Akiiki still likes the idea of medical studies but does not enjoy maths very much. Banage has just reported to Akiiki the cost of medical studies so she is rethinking her choices. However, for the time being she has decided to continue with biochemistry. We will write family news with details after children go back to school.

Amooti spent a good part of his holidays taking discipleship classes. He enjoys very much the idea of spreading the Gospel among boys of his age. As I write this message he has gone to a small church with a team from Sunday school. Please pray that he may accomplish his training before the school begins. We are planning for a spiritual activity with orphans right at the beginning of the school year. We will be grateful for your support in prayers. Thank you so much your love and commitment to serve with us. May the Lord bless you all.

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Serving together,
Bagamba B. Araali