



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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Update from Beacon of Hope

God's continued faithfulness

As I meditated about how to start this message, I felt Lamentations 3:22:23 ringing in my ears continuously. Indeed, the steadfast love of God never ceases, his mercy endures forever and He is always faithful to his the promises. For the fourth year Beacon of Hope is experiencing God's love and faithfulness through you. Every Beacon of hope experiences God's faithfulness. In spite of very bad financial situations, God is providing for the education of 97 orphans through you. You have remained faithful to his calling. He does not come to the world to act in person; He does it through human beings who are obedient to him. Thanks a lot for accepting to be God's hand for the children of Eastern Congo. May his holly name be glorified.

This time I will tell to you about four teenagers whose lives you are changing for the best. With your help, God is slowly soothing their suffering and bringng smiles on their faces.

Ngandru



Some of you may remember Ngandru, a young boy a church elder in Bogoro found feeding on garbage thrown by the UN troops. You may also remember that he was simply passing through the village; his aim was to go as far as possible from his village where he had nothing to live for. Three years ago I met him he agreed to stay temporarily in Bogoro, the time to grow just a little bit and get some healthcare before heading farther. Settling in Bogoro (at about 125 km from his home village) was not unacceptable; he had just seen too much suffering there. When he agreed to go to Sunday school (a year later), you may remember that a young girl from Brightlingsea emptied her savings so that we could provide Ngandru with decent cloths (photo in the middle). On 28th December Ngandru wrote me a letter asking for a pair of shoes to wear on his baptism day. On 30th December Ngandru boldly confessed his faith in Jesus-Christ in public, recited John 3:16 and got baptized alongside six others. Your financial support allowed Beacon of Hope to bring some stability the life of Ngandru. Three years support has brought him to know Jesus as his

saviour and Lord. Thanks to the Church of Bogoro, in spite of challenges and lack of common language did not give up upon Ngandru. When we met him three years ago Ngandru was not interested in talking to anybody, this time he does take time to talk me. The Lord is slowly bringing healing in his life. Please continue to pray that the Lord may strengthen his faith as he grows physically. We will soon be taking advice from Dr Tim (clinical psychologist) as to whether this is time to talk to Ngandru about looking for his surviving relatives.

Sarah



Sarah is 19; she has not been introduced to you yet. She was 8 when her village was attacked on 24th Feb 2003. Her entire extended family had gathered for the funeral of some relatives killed a month earlier. She was one of very few who survived the attack. Her parents and most siblings did not. Her mother was amongst the first to fall, the image of her father asking Sarah to run for her life has never left her mind. By his grace God strengthened her and she ran out of the shooting range of attackers. Though she had been looked well after by an uncle, there was very little in terms of psychological support. After some problems she left school and her uncle's home. After a year of counseling by Beacon of Hope, she got her life is back on track and went back to school in September 2012. She is in her last

year of secondary school and has to work hard to prepare for the National Test. Please do pray that God may grant her success. She is training to become a primary school teacher.

Kisembo



A year ago I said a few words about this teenager. Kisembo and his young sister are the only survivors of his family. God has given them an extraordinary courage for survival. When he was 13, his guardian asked him to stop going to school and look after cows. Kisembo refused to interrupt his studies and decided to face life all by himself. He moved to Bogoro and presented himself to the local chief. He had heard a family his father had had a good relationship with. Unfortunately, that family also was decimated by war. The chief gave Kisembo a little house in ruin; the chief did not believe he would make it. When I met him two years ago, he went to school about 4 days a week,

other two days he looked for food and money to pay his fees. You have been paying school fees for him for two years now and he is using his free time to build a mud house for himself and his young sister. Please pray that God will keep him healthy and safe. Also pray that he may manage his time wisely between school, choir activities and food seeking. More importantly, please pray that Kisembo and his sister may continue to feel the warmth of God's love and support.

Rali



This boy too lost his entire family in 2003 when Bogoro was attacked. He was the first boy to promise that he would let God punish those who killed his mother, he would not take revenge. This led the entire group of his friends to renounce revenge. He lives with his elder brother who is just two years older. He shares his time between school, choir activities and food seeking. With his friend Kisembo (above) they do a lot hunting as they cannot afford meat. Please pray for his brother who is still very angry at militiamen who killed their parents. Please pray that the Lord may give him peace and the

strength to forgive.

Challenges and opportunities



Teachers find education of orphans very challenging. They do not come regularly to school and they are seldom on time. A quick survey showed that most orphans are living with relatives who either have no idea of how schools function, or, are too busy fighting for life and children are required to participate.

We have decided to take the challenge of playing father and mother figures to children who are living within dysfunctional household. Our social assistant will check upon every orphan to see how regular they are at school.

In case of problem, we will collaborate with their guardians and teachers to sort out the problem. The boy in the photo above is called Nyamazabo (which means here another meat for them). After visiting his adoptive family for a couple of week-end, I discovered that his choir practice time was one of the reasons he came late to school. In addition, he was not encouraged to pay attention to time. Lately, the mother of the family has started to remind him of the time he needs to wash his feet and get ready. Simply checking on the boy brought a remarkable change. Nyamazabo does not look very healthy, please pray that his health may improve.

Prayer needs

Please pray for all who feel God's call to support our ministry to orphans. May the Lord bless them so that they can bless his little ones. Also pray that more people may catch the vision and join us. On 08th December 2012 the International Criminal Court pronounced "Not guilty" verdict in favour of the leader of the militia accused of the massacre of thousands of people. Please pray Beacon of Hope may efficiently help teenagers to understand the difference between God's justice and any human institution. Also pray for judges and the prosecutor at the International Criminal Court. May the Lord help them take their duties seriously.

Serving together

Bagamba B. Araali