



## Being Faithful in Challenging Times

Every Child Ministries Annual Report 2010



## Every Child Ministries ANNUAL REPORT 2010

### Executive Summary

In the year 2010 Every Child Ministries was able to sustain all but one of its varied ministries, despite the difficult economic atmosphere and major illnesses faced by some of our most hardworking and faithful volunteers. Major successes of the year were the liberation of 52 “yevesi,” slaves of the thunder god, and beginning efforts at rehabilitation and vocational training. We also opened a boutique for the sale of goods made by slavery survivors, called “African Freedom Boutique & Books.” Another new area of ministry which has made an excellent beginning is our effort to “Fight Child Trafficking at the Source.” Our first effort was made this year at the Agbogloboshie Market in downtown Accra, an area known to be a major hub of child trafficking. A third successful ministry we expanded this year was our “Restore a Family” Project in Congo. The public presentations of the street youth in churches and on the radio motivated several families to go out searching for their children who had been expelled from their homes. Two were successfully reunited with their families.

Other milestones were trainings. Our first Stateside training called “Anti-Slavery Activism 101”, two days of intensive training in recognizing and combating child trafficking and modern-day slavery. It was the most comprehensive training we have offered thus far. We also held training at Haven of Hope on Reactive Attachment Disorder and Basic Training for new mothers.

Finally, this year we began our “Clean, Safe Water” program. The well we were attempting to dig with hand tools did not succeed because we hit impenetrable rock. However, we were able to build several filters using local materials and those are now in use at Haven of Hope home.

The only ministry that closed this year was the African Leadership Training Center, Urban Division in Kinshasa, Congo. Participants were no longer able to afford transportation costs to classes, even though scholarships were provided for their tuition and class fees. The staff made good use of the development, however, to continue to train children’s and youth leaders in churches throughout the city.

We recognize that only with the help of many faithful donors and volunteers were we able to achieve all that was done. Thank you to all the team, and we look forward to an even brighter year in 2011.

*John & Lorella Rouster*

International Co-Directors

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## Every Child Ministries Mission Statement

Every Child Ministries is a Christian mission for the forgotten children of Africa.

- Showing the love of Jesus in practical ways
- And teaching the Gospel.

We place special emphasis on training, equipping, and providing resources for African churches and leaders to accomplish these tasks.

☑ What is Every Child Ministries?

Every Child Ministries, Inc. (ECM) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to bringing hope to “the forgotten children of Africa.” While ECM seeks to help all African children, the organization places special emphasis on street children, orphans and abandoned children, trafficked and slave children, children displaced through war, prostituted children, children in prison, children with albinism and other at-risk groups, and others in desperate, dangerous and debilitating circumstances. To do this, ECM trains teachers and leaders for children and youth and seeks to encourage, empower, and provide resources for African churches to evangelize and disciple the new generation of their continent for Jesus Christ. In 2010, Every Child Ministries celebrated its 25th Anniversary of service to African children. The ultimate goals of the organization are to demonstrate the value of every child as created in the image of God, to show the love of Jesus Christ for every child in tangible, practical ways, and to provide every African child with an opportunity to make a life-changing decision for Jesus Christ by accepting Him as Savior and following Him as Lord. This opportunity is offered without coercion and all help programs are open to all without reference to religious affiliation or ethnic heritage.

Every Child Ministries maintains two basic kinds of program services—Education, Evangelism & Training Ministry, and Relief & Rehabilitation. While these are distinguished from one another on the functional allocation sheets of some organizations, our ministries are so tightly intertwined and mutually supportive, that we have found it impractical to try to separate them, so we list them together using both headings simultaneously.

**Educational, Evangelism & Training programs:**

- **Haven of Hope, Ghana** – a long-term home that provides a safe haven for children rescued from desperate, dangerous and debilitating situations. Haven of Hope is now home to 48 children ages 2 to 18 years. Of these, most were formerly homeless street children, some were children from devastating situations brought to us by the Ghana Social Welfare Department, others were victims of ritual servitude in traditional shrines and one a victim of child trafficking. Haven of Hope has one long-term African missionary couple and three American helpers with commitments of one to two years. The home employs 24 full-time workers. Haven of Hope also has nine permanent buildings, a playground, tractor, truck and two small vans. A cement security wall topped with barbed wire, a metal gate and guard house protects our 8 acres of property. Haven of Hope is supervised by four-member board of staff members. One of the Americans serving a year term began serving as business manager for the home in August 2010.

John Rouster took a three week training in the States on third world water technology in the Spring of 2010. In the summer, he spent six weeks at Haven of Hope building water filters and drilling a well to assure a good supply of clean, safe water at the home.



Maa Abena poses by corner signpost at Haven of Hope, Cooking club with the children

- Haven of Hope Academy, Ghana** – a school designed to meet the needs of those who have been educationally deprived because of homelessness or other debilitating situations. Haven Academy caters first to the children living at Haven of Hope, but 119 needy children from the surrounding area attended this year. The school opened in January of 2005 and completed its first full year of classes in July of 2006. Beginning in September 2010, Haven Academy offered classes from nursery through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Several older children are attending classes at nearby Rafiki Academy through an agreement with that organization. The first of our Haven of Hope children graduated from Junior High School this year at Rafiki Academy and now continues with high school. Haven Academy employs ten full-time teachers and has two permanent buildings. Two American missionary teachers helped during the academic year. During the year, a library was organized temporarily in one room of the guest center. Construction has begun on a two-story building that will provide additional classroom space, a computer lab, and a permanent library. An experienced Ghanaian educator was hired during the year as Education Director, and this has been a positive influence on the teachers, students, and educational program.



Haven Academy Drum Corps, Dental Education Day at Haven Academy

- “Character Building from the Bible” Program for Schools, Ghana** – a 45 minute special program is taught monthly in 153 schools in Ghana (up 32 from last year). This monthly follow-up program reaches approximately 61,200 elementary and junior high students. The program is directed by a full-time African missionary aided by one additional full time African missionary and part-time efforts of numerous African teaching team members. Six new schools in the Volta Region were added this year.

- **African Leadership Training Centers, DR Congo** – ECM operates two centers in Congo where “Teachers of Teachers” are developed in nine-month intensive programs. Specialty in Christian Education (SEC) Kinshasa gives training for urban ministries and SEC Garizim develops trainers for rural ministries. Eight trainers were developed at Garizim, but the Kinshasa Center had to close early in the academic year, after finding that students could no longer pay their transportation costs to attend classes each day. Each center is directed by a full-time African missionary aided by part-time efforts of other African staff members. About 15 workers and staff members maintain Mission Garizim, with seven permanent buildings. The staff at the Kinshasa center redirected their efforts this year to continuing their survey of the city’s churches regarding children’s ministries and to helping churches start programs for children.
  - **Hill of Blessing Clinic, DR Congo** – Every Child Ministries maintains a clinic and lab associated with the African Leadership Training Center at Mission Garizim in Congo. An African nurse and assistant operate the clinic which is partially self-supporting through minimal fees charged for its services.
- **Teachers’ Resource Libraries & Public Reading Rooms, Ghana DR Congo** – Active libraries were maintained in four locations in Ghana and in three locations in DR Congo to provide resources for teachers and Christian leaders. Two of these in Ghana also maintain a public reading room oriented to youth. The student reading rooms in Ghana, at Koforidua and Ashaiman, are especially well attended.

- **Training in Children’s Ministries, DR Congo, Angola—**

The Kinshasa staff in Congo has been making a multi-year survey of the city’s Protestant churches, neighborhood by neighborhood. We are seeking to know which churches are already doing something to reach children and youth, and which would welcome training to enable them to do this. Following the survey of each neighborhood, training seminars have been offered which have enabled many churches to establish new children’s ministries. The number of Sunday schools or other children’s ministries started through ECM training now stands at 2,378, including 27 in Angola, started by one of the graduates of our African Leadership Training Schools.

- **Film Evangelism, Ghana—**

A full time worker travels to various regions each month with film ministry and follow-up classes. Regions are targeted as a follow up and complement to other ministries we have there, such as the projects against slavery and trafficking. He works in conjunction with local churches of the area, to whom we commit converts from the ministry. The library of available films was expanded during the year.

## Relief & Rehabilitation Programs--

- **Street children, Ghana, DR Congo –**

ECM's programs for street children consist of Bible teaching, friendship evangelism, counseling, direct aid for basic needs, hot meals once or twice a week, and in some locations, literacy, sports and gardening. Four sites are worked regularly in Ghana – the Kantamanto Central Railway Station area and the Agblobloshie Market area, which are continuing ministries, the Nsawam Railway Station, which was added last year, and Koforidua bus station, which was added this year. One site is worked in Congo – the Kinshasa Binza IPN Market area. About 310 children are assisted weekly through these efforts. The Ghana street ministry is sustained by two full-time African missionaries and ten part-time team members. In Congo it is sustained by two full-time African missionaries aided by part-time efforts of other staff members. This year, realizing the success of the Kantamanto area ministry in preventing and intervening with child trafficking, a similar program of “fighting child trafficking at the source” was begun in the Agboglobloshie Market area. Late in the year, a staff member was enlisted to visit children and families and to spend four days a week in the market, becoming so familiar with it that he would be able to easily spot any irregularities.

In Congo, the street children sang and put on skits at local churches and talked on the radio about the problems of street life. All street children in Congo attended weekly literacy classes to teach them basic literacy and math skills necessary for life.



Street ministry at Kantamanto Railroad Station in downtown Accra



- **Restore a Family Project, DR Congo:**

The success of the programs in local churches led us to expand that program, for virtually every time the street youth show the realities of street life in the churches, parents in the congregation who have their own children on the streets are touched and motivated to seek them out and to work harder to work through family problems that led the youth out to the streets. Several families have been restored through this effort.

- **Street Youth Vocational Training, Ghana, DR Congo:**

Two street boys in Ghana have finished vocational training—one in body work on vehicles, and another in electricity. We raised funds to buy a plot and a container to enable them to start their work, but we have thus far been unable to find a plot for sale in an appropriate part of the city (one where they could find work). One street girl in Ghana is continuing vocational training in hairdressing.

In Congo, ECM helped four youth start up dressmaking shops, having completed their training courses. One former street girl has married and started a family. Five new girls have been enrolled in the dressmaking program.



Former street girls in DR Congo who started vocational training this year

- **Initiative to Free & Rehabilitate Slave Children, Ghana, Togo, Benin:**

The organization is heading up an initiative to end to the practice of ritual servitude in West Africa through prayer, education and dissemination of information about the practice, and through negotiating the liberation of ritual slaves known as trokosi, one shrine at a time. This year the staff continued their ceaseless efforts to liberate the slaves from three shrines in addition to the five already liberated.

In November a former head priest of the thunder god cult announced his decision to leave idolatry and follow Christ, the fruit of five years of patient teaching by ECM staff. He was facilitated to visit the 55 other priests under his authority. He informed them of his decision and urged them, too, to consider the claims of Christ.

This former priest had 52 shrine servants called Yevesi under his authority, and he announced a desire to free them and their children. Lorella traveled to Ghana in January 2010 to assist with arrangements for the liberation ceremony. Because of complications with a local official, the liberation was

not able to come off while she was there. However, ECM assisted the shrine with the preparations and the liberation took place on March 25.



ECM staff counseling former yevesi slaves prior to liberation

During the month of July two vocational workshops were held in which some of the women learned to sew handbags called FREEDOM BAGS. Some of these were purchased for sale in the U.S., and arrangements were begun to open a boutique called “African FREEDOM” at Sogakope in the Volta Region of Ghana to sell these and other items hand made by former trokosi. The workshop was led by Sharon Aldrich, a retired home economics teacher, and by Lorella, who taught simple principles of finance and business.



Former yevesi slaves learning to sew handbags



Freedom Beads made by modern-day slavery survivors, signboard advertising African Freedom Boutique



The slave child program is sustained by three full-time African missionary counselors, one full-time American counselor, and the part-time efforts of several other African staff members.

Visits were made to several shrines in Ghana to share the Gospel in a way to which the shrine devotees could understand and relate. The first edition of a manual for ministry amongst devotees of African Traditional Religion was published.

Continuing assistance was given to many of the women through the distribution of quilts, used clothing, and medicines. Counselors visited the women individually and in small groups throughout the year.

Most of above work was done in Ghana. The organization is also concerned with the practice of ritual servitude called "voodoosi" (voundounsi, vudusi, voudousi, etc.) in Togo and Benin. Efforts this year included the development and translation of literature and internet sites.

- **Initiatives vs. Child Trafficking, Ghana, Uganda:** Investigation was begun into the trafficking of children to work in stone quarries in the Eastern Region of Ghana. An preliminary fact-finding trip was made to the Central Region with a view to soon opening a major initiative in that area, which is known to be a major source area for traffickers. When a street girl was trafficked from the Kantamanto area, our workers were able to track her down and bring her to safety. At the end of the year, a worker was being prepared and was just beginning work (in September 2010) at the Agbogbloshie Market and its environs, which are known to be a hotbed of child trafficking.

In Uganda, plans were underway at the end of the year to begin a ministry amongst the group most often targeted for child trafficking: the Karimojong. Initial survey work had been done and we were ready to begin a sponsorship project amongst the Karimojong of Kampala.

- **Orphan Project, DR Congo:**

Thirty children are being assisted in the Kikwit area (Bandundu Province). The assistance consists of educational assistance (paying school fees), high-protein supplemental feeding and character-building teaching three times a week.

- **Initiative for Orphans & Vulnerable Children, Uganda**

The Uganda Initiative for orphans & vulnerable children grew considerably during the year. We now have 173 children sponsored in Uganda. We have also done preliminary fact-finding to enable us to begin a project amongst the very need Karimojong beggar children living in Kampala.

- **Sponsorship Programs, Uganda:**

Four sponsorship programs enable children to attend school and upgrade their standards of living. The number of sponsored children grew from 121 to 173. Sponsorship clubs were held for the sponsored children, involving Bible

teaching, health and other practical matters, sports and other activities and a nutritious meal. A program of weekly family visitation was instituted in all projects and much appreciated by all the families involved. A reading and activity room was provided for the Gayaza sponsorship project and children were welcomed after school hours for reading, help with homework, games and other activities. Special gifts given were mattresses and clothing.

- **Day camps for Vulnerable Children, Uganda:**

In July of 2010, a two person American short-term mission team was led by Cheryl Bockstahler. They concentrated on family visits and Bible clubs in the villages of the Tegotatoo resettlement area.

- **Resettlement of Internally Displaced Children, Uganda:**

A total of 75 huts were built to enable families of the Tegot area with resettlement. Two pair of oxen were supplied and several families were provided with seed grain. Several toilets were built. During July two American teachers taught from house to house in the resettlement area, evangelizing, discipling and encouraging families.

- **Initiative vs. Child Sacrifice, Uganda:**

A preschool age girl was discovered, discarded in a burlap bag and nearly drowning in her own feces. She was rescued by a kindly family who already had four children of their own, and lived in a small mud and thatch hut that was partially falling down. ECM became involved in helping the girl and the family. The child's eye teeth had been cut or sawed out of her jaw, presumably to make what some believe to be powerful magic, and she is now suffered from cerebral palsy. This has to have been brought about through her ordeal, since only perfect children are used in the shrines for sacrifice.

ECM has provided a CP (cerebral palsy) chair to enable the girl to sit upright and to work in a limited way with her hands. We have provided medical and nutritional assistance, clothing, and therapy, and have repaired the foster family's home. We have also been able to reunite the child with her natural parents, but authorities decided she was safer in the foster home. We are now exploring ways to discourage and prevent child sacrifice, which is a growing problem in Uganda.



Child being restored after enduring ritual abuse in Uganda

- **Project in Support of Children with Albinism (Ghana, Uganda):**  
Children with albinism are often rejected, ostracized, ridiculed and feared. In East Africa, they are in danger of being sought out and even killed by traditional shrines who believe that their body parts make powerful medicine. In addition, they face health challenges such as very poor eyesight (which often becomes an educational challenge as well), and tendency to skin cancer.

The project was initiated in both English-speaking centers this year. Last year we had developed teaching on the subject and delivered sunglasses, sunscreen and hats to Uganda to enable them to begin offering practical help to children affected by albinism. This year we placed information on our website, placed an ad in a local language newspaper in Uganda, did a Mission Network News piece on the issue, and delivered supplies to help children with albinism to Uganda. We have had some other groups contact us thanking us for enlightening them what they could do to help these children.

- **Project for Child Prostitutes**  
At the end of the fiscal year the organization was preparing to launch ministries to under age prostitutes. Some preliminary work had been done. Our report next year will include this project.

**“Mission Central” Supporting Activities—**

**Definition & expansion of “Mission Central”:**

The International Office acts as a Mission Mobilization Center and a hub of operations supporting all the African ministries. Many activities are performed at Mission Central for the benefit of the organization’s ministry programs, including development and production of African literature and teaching materials, sorting and packing supplies for African ministries, enlistment of supporters and child sponsors, gift receipting and processing, and communicating with the organization’s constituency and with African national staff and volunteer workers.

To celebrate ECM’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we held an Open House at Mission Central. Volunteers at various stations showed what goes on at Mission Central and talked about needs for their projects. Guided tours were given to over 120 people.



Volunteers & visitors at 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House at Mission Central



### **Volunteers:**

The organization relies on the efforts of many volunteers serving at Mission Central, from their homes, in a virtual capacity, and in small groups. This year, volunteer labor included efforts to remodel and finish Mission Central. During the year, 6,548 hours of volunteer labor were registered. This does not include the volunteer hours donated by the Board of Directors for Board activities, nor does it include volunteer missionary hours overseas.

Volunteers serve in many capacities at the International Office in Hebron, IN, such as special events, represent the mission at conventions, compile research results, translate literature, pack boxes for Africa, sew, and create teaching aids and gifts to encourage students.

The organization participates in the President's Volunteer Service Award initiative. During the year, three volunteers qualified for the Presidential Gold award for 500 or more hours of service, three qualified for the Presidential Silver award for 250-499 hours of volunteer service, and one qualified for the young adult silver award, and two qualified for the Presidential Bronze award for 100-249 hours of service.

The organization recognizes that it is only through the efforts of its many partners and friends volunteering a part of their lives that administrative and fundraising costs are able to be kept so low.

### **Oversight of overseas work:**

Ordinarily one or both of the International Directors visits each of the African field projects each year for purposes of supervision, evaluation, reporting, and prayer. This year Lorella traveled to Ghana in January for the liberation. The Rouster family spent June and July together in Uganda. Lorella conducted staff training on working with children who have emotional and attachment problems.

John successfully completed three weeks of intensive training in Safe Water—drilling, pumping, and filtering. He began using these skills in the summer in Ghana.

In addition to these annual visits, the International Directors receive monthly reports by e-mail from Ghana and Uganda. Communication with DR Congo is more difficult. Reports from Congo are compiled and sent quarterly by DHL. The Directors are in communication with African projects on an almost daily basis by e-mail.

#### **Sea Container of supplies to Uganda:**

One of the activities that goes on at Mission Central is the collecting and sorting of goods to support the African ministries, including preparing them for shipping. Collecting and boxing of goods actively continued during the year to provide for a sea container to Uganda.

#### **Teaching Websites:**

In addition to the main organizational website, [www.ecmafrica.org](http://www.ecmafrica.org), the mission redeveloped [www.teachingforafrica.com](http://www.teachingforafrica.com) as a website dedicated to offering training and teaching helps to African churches and leaders. During the year, it also maintained a number of websites dedicated to the dissemination of information on the issue of child slavery. We also maintained [www.truthforafricalovers.com](http://www.truthforafricalovers.com) and [www.ecmuganda.org](http://www.ecmuganda.org).

#### **Memberships:**

The organization is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1987 and meets all of their accountability standards. The organization is also an accredited charity with the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, meeting all their standards for charitable organizations. Every Child Ministries is recognized in each of its three major African centers: DR Congo, Ghana, and Uganda. This year, we received our NGO status countrywide in Uganda, the fruit of much labor by our National Director and other national staff there.

#### **Tax Exempt Status:**

The organization is exempt from income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and comparable state law, and contributions to it are tax deductible within the limitation prescribed by the code.

**Mission Central Staff:**

John & Lorella Rouster, International Co-Directors  
Monica Miles, Assistant to the International Directors  
Katie Sutor, Assistant to the International Directors

**Board of Directors:**

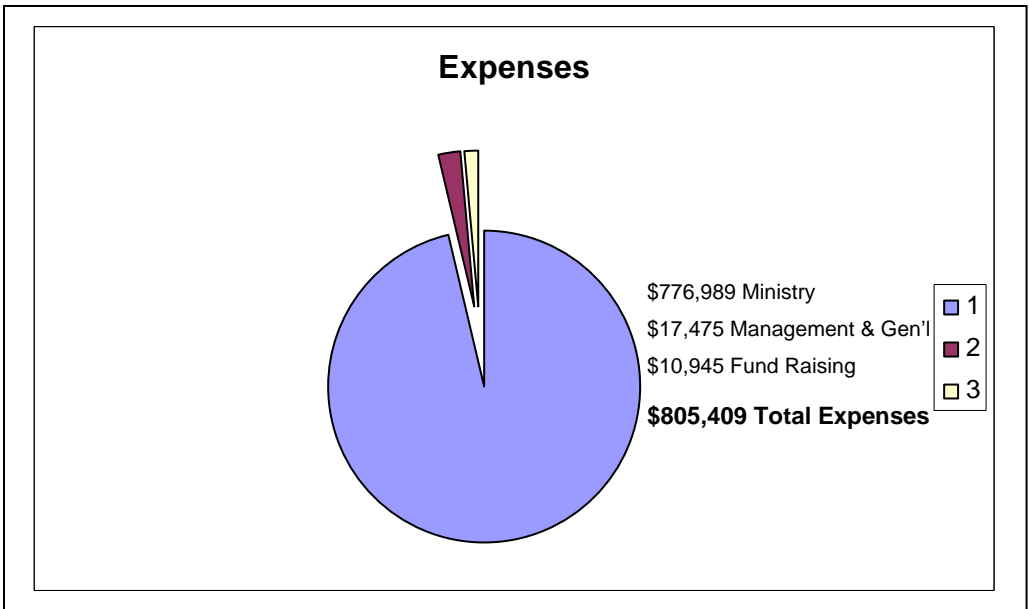
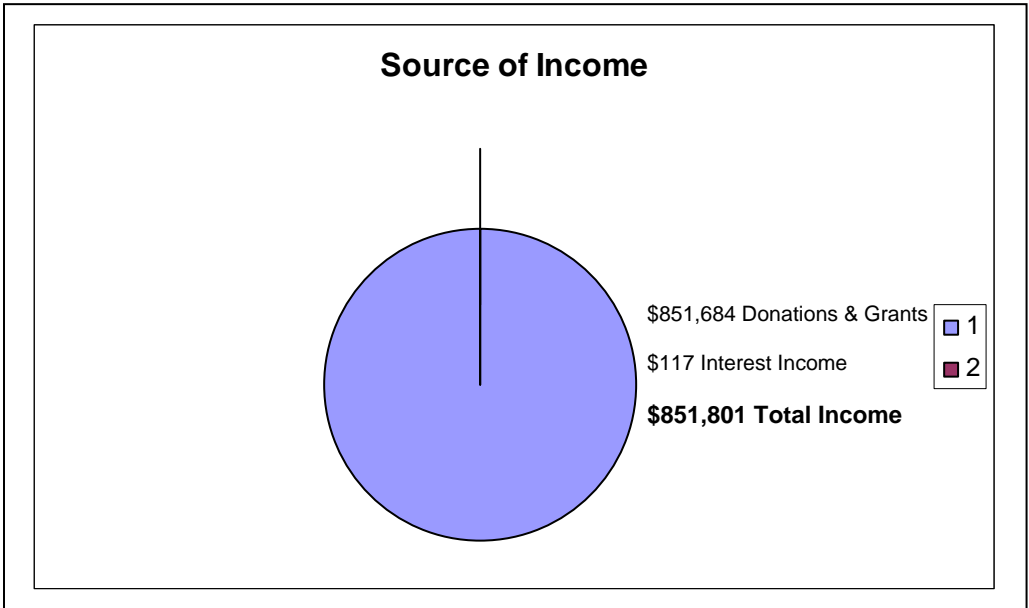
Mr. Desmond Charles (Chuck) Daily, Chair, Crown Point, IN  
Mr. David Bryant, Vice-Chair, Chicago, IL  
Mr. Berlin W. (Wally) Wyman, Treasurer, Demotte, IN  
Mrs. Ella Wyman, Demotte, IN  
Mr. Kurt Minko, Crown Point, IN  
Mrs. Kim Minko, Secretary, Crown Point, IN  
Mr. Joseph Joniec, Crown Point, IN  
Mr. John Rouster, Merrillville, IN  
Mrs. Lorella Rouster, Merrillville, IN  
Ms. Leslie Bailey, Chicago, IL  
Mr. Greg Obi, Merrillville, IN  
(Mr. Jack Krajnak was also a member for part of the year)

**National Directors:**

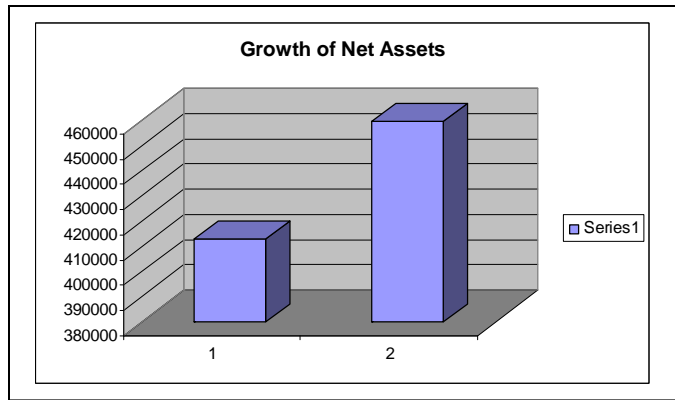
DR Congo: Rev. Mayele Kilele Jean-Pierre  
Ghana: Thompson Afari  
Uganda: Charles Obwoon

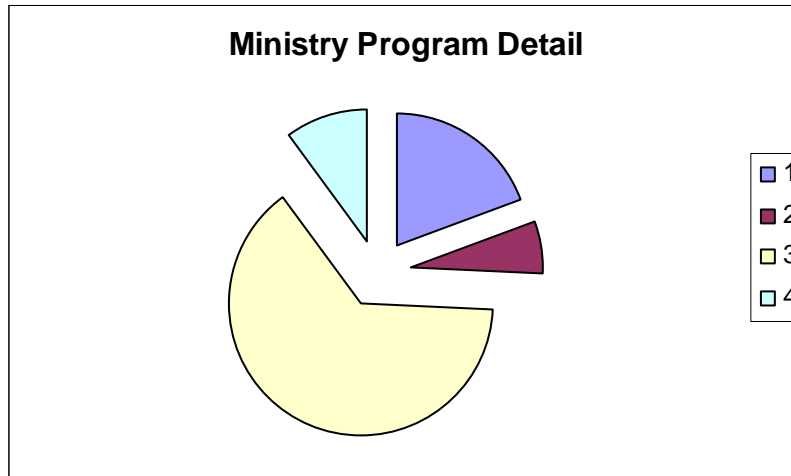
# Financial Summary

(Complete audited report and 990 available on our website.)



**Growth in Net Assets**  
\$413,000 Beginning of year  
\$459,392 End of year





- 1 \$151,564 Educational Programs (Children)
  - 2 \$48,131 Training Programs (Leadership)
  - 3 \$500,434 Relief & Development Programs- (Orphans & Vulnerable Children)
  - 4 \$76,860 Ministry to Constituency & Recruiting
- \$776,989 Total Ministry Expenses**

## African Ministry Project Detail (Expenses)

### Education, Training, Relief & Development Programs

Haven Academy	97885
Character Building from the Bible	37330
Film Evangelism	2998
Teachers' Resource Libraries/Reading Rooms	11904
African Teaching Websites	1447

**Total Educational Programs for Children (1 above) 151564**

African Leadership Training Centers	19777
Training in Children's Ministries	28354

**Total Training Programs for Leadership (2 above) 48131**

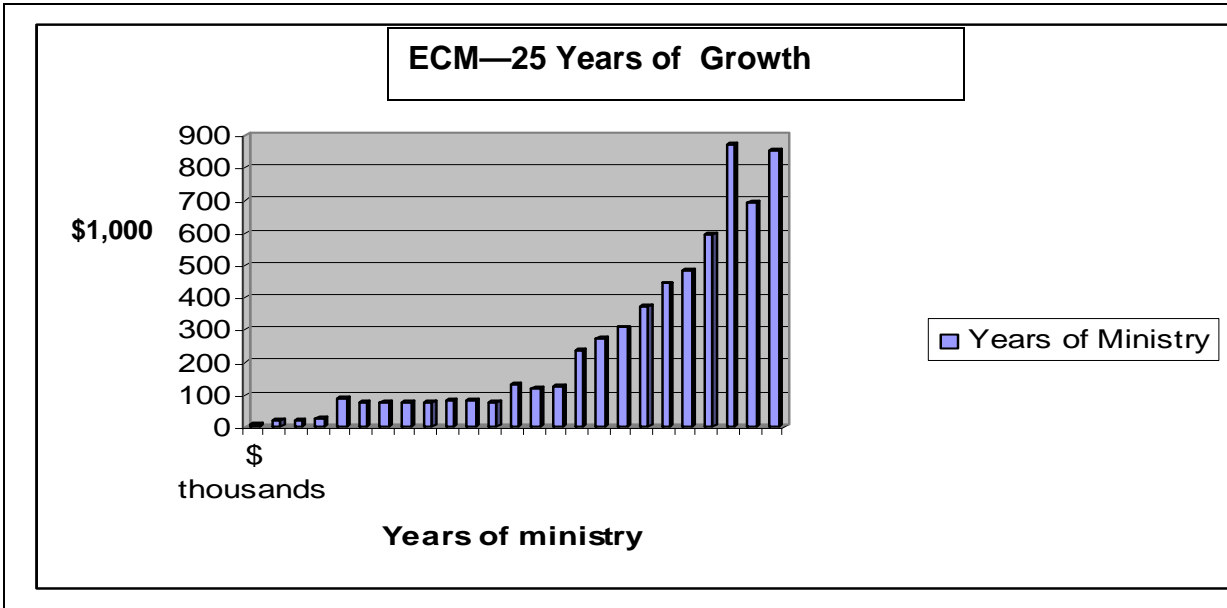
### Relief & Development Programs

### (Orphans & Vulnerable Children)

Haven of Hope	148287
Initiative vs. Child Trafficking	10508
Initiative vs. Child Slavery	74685
Initiative vs. Ritual Abuse & Child Sacrifice	3366
Initiative vs. Sexual Exploitation of Children	2741
Educational Sponsorships	192096
Day Camp	1440
Family Resettlement	10447
Children with Albinism	7879
The Way Home-Forever Families for Children	6218
Sudan	1756
Safe, Clean Water	5502
Street Children	18806

Restore a Family	1800
Street Youth	
Vocational	14903

**Total Relief & Development Programs Orphans & Vulnerable Children (3 above) 500434**



**Volunteer Hours Donated This Year: 6,548**

**Dear ECM Partners,**

**Thank you for your partnership & your prayers in 2010. You have been so faithful in these challenging times. Together, God has enabled us to do great things, so that thousands upon thousands of precious African children are FORGOTTEN NO MORE!**