

**Pressing On...Pressing On...Pressing
On...Pressing On...Pressing On...**



Annual Report to our Partners

2009



Pressing On...Pressing On...Pressing On...Annual Report 2009

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, slave children, children displaced through war, children with albinism and other at-risk groups, and others in desperate, dangerous and debilitating circumstances.

To do this, ECM helps Christians worldwide but especially in the U.S. where we are based to become advocates for vulnerable African children, trains teachers and leaders for African 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 2009, Every Child Ministries is celebrating its 24th 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 demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ for every child, 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 or pressure, 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/Training/Evangelism Ministries, and Relief & Rehabilitation, sometimes known as Mercy Ministries.

Educational & Training programs:

- **Haven of Hope, Ghana**

Seeing the need for a safe haven for children in danger in many of our other programs, in 2002 ECM opened Haven of Hope (HH). HH is 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, and three were victims of ritual servitude in traditional shrines.

Haven of Hope has one full-time African missionary couple and employs 24 full-time workers. The home also has one career commitment missionary couple and one missionary teacher-helper serving a one-year commitment, Haven of Hope also has nine permanent buildings, a playground, tractor, truck and two small vans. During the cement security wall was finished and a gate and guard house built. It remains to add barbed wire to the top of the fence for added security. Haven of Hope is supervised by four-member board of staff members.

An effort is made to keep the children connected with their own culture. They learn to make Ghanaian dishes, plant and care for gardens, learn Ghanaian songs and cultural dances, and go on regular walks and outings in the community and around the area.



Security fence, completed this year



The children in the Acitivity Center with a Christmas worship banner made by a friend.



Lorella with the mothers (caregivers)



A mother whose children came to HH while she got on her feet receives her children back again. A happy day!



Inside view of security wall and guard tower



HH kids on outing to Boti Falls



Enjoying the water at Boti Falls



Enjoying the natural beauty of Ghana on a field trip

- 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 35 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. This year, the school taught children through 6th grade. Two older children attended classes at nearby Rafiki Academy through an agreement with that organization, while four students attend the local Junior High School. Haven Academy employs eight full-time teachers and has two permanent buildings. One American missionary teacher served as one of the teachers during the academic year. The school uses the national Ghanaian curriculum, generously supplemented with American and Bible-based materials. The school has begun efforts toward becoming recognized by the Ghana Education Service.



Two of the eight classes at Haven of Hope Academy, making learning available for the educationally deprived.

- “Character Building from the Bible” Program for Schools, Ghana** – a 45 minute special program is taught monthly in 121 schools in Ghana. This monthly follow-up program reaches approximately 48,000 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 15 African teaching team members. It is presently active in Accra City and Greater Accra

(Ashaiman), Eastern Region (Koforidua) and four districts of the Volta Region (N Tongu, S Tongu, Akatsi, and Ketu).

- **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 each site. 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.
 - **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 also maintain a public reading room oriented to youth and are visited actively by the youth of the community.
- **Teachers’ Training & Continuing Education, Ghana, Uganda, DR Congo** During the year Lorella held a one-day teaching training seminar in Kikwit, the Provincial capital of the Bandundu Province in Congo. The seminar provided training in the 4-step Active method of teaching Bible lessons for eight teacher trainers.



Lorella helps teacher trainers learn a new teaching method



This teacher is still using the ECM training he received in 1985.

Relief & Rehabilitation Programs:

- **Street children, Ghana, DR Congo** – The program for street children consists of Bible teaching, friendship evangelism, counseling, direct aid for basic needs, hot meals once or twice a week, literacy, sports and gardening. Three sites are worked regularly in Ghana – the Kantamanto Central Railway Station area and the Agblobloshie Market area, which are continuing ministries, and Nsawam Railway Station, which was added this year. One site is worked in Congo – the Kinshasa Binza IPN Market area. About 300 children are assisted weekly through these efforts. The Ghana street ministry is sustained by one full-time African missionary 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.

In Congo, the street children sang and put on skits at local churches and talked on the radio about the problems of street life. These skits have moved many parents to go to the streets, seek their children who had moved or been cast out, and bring them home. Because of its success, this is a program we want to expand next year.

All street children in Congo attended weekly literacy classes to teach them basic literacy and math skills necessary for life.



Anny Kutekana, former street girl, in her shop



DJ at work making a wardrobe—off the street !

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

Two street boys in Ghana were assisted with vocational training in carpentry. One street girl there received vocational training in hairdressing. In Congo, four street youth are in vocational training. ECM helped six others set up small businesses, joining in partnerships of two and three to establish a dressmaking and a carpentry shop.

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

ECM 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. The slave child program is sustained by two full-time African missionary counselors, one part-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 shrine devotees could understand and to which they could relate

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.



Judith (rt) counseling former shrine slaves



A new shrine slave being initiated at Klikor

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

The International Co-Director Lorella Rouster took two weeks of intensive specialized training on the subject, called “Abolitionist Investigator Academy” from the Not-For-Sale campaign. She came back with many ideas to push the project forward. Her first project was to develop and present a staff training program on the subject of human trafficking and modern-day slavery.



Highlights of Staff training in Uganda—Staff act out skits to show how people are trafficked; a small group discusses a specific case.

- **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. The program is maintained through child sponsorship. The International Co-Director visited the project this year and gave additional training to the national coordinators.

The first of the orphans from this project completed secondary school, with another in his senior year. This is quite an achievement considering the fact that for orphans to even complete primary school would have been thought impossible only a few years ago.



Guwenda, first orphan graduate



Some of the Kikwit orphans



The orphan shelter, outside & inside. Orphans gather here for meals and teaching three times a week.

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

The Uganda Initiative for orphans & vulnerable children grew considerably during the year. ECM now has 121 children sponsored in Uganda in three projects— Gayaza and Kampala Kamwokya slum in the south, and Tegotatoo Gulu District in the north.

More improvements were made to the Gayaza office, thereafter called Uganda National Ministry Center. Storage cabinets were added, the height of the fence was raised, the driveway and sidewalks were cemented, gardens were started and the area defined with a brick border, an office was made for the National Director, and the garage was remodeled into a classroom for the Gayaza sponsorship club. In addition, portable internet was added and a power backup secured to extend the electricity available.

In the north, family ministry was instituted and we began developing a library in conjunction with the Tegotatoo Primary School.

- **Children with Albinism, Uganda:**



Team members help an albino boy with reading, others show the sunglasses and hats received from ECM.

Learning of the difficulties that children with the genetic condition known as albinism often face in African society, ECM developed teaching to help influence public opinion. Teachings were developed for albino children, their parents and families, their friends, and for schools. The teaching were given by person and offered by email. Ads in local newspapers were taken out to advertise the project.

Children with albinism have eyes that are unusually sensitive to light, so ECM collected and distributed sunglasses to help children protect their eyes from further damage. Their skin is also sensitive and prone to develop sores and skin cancer, so we provided sunblock, hats and long-sleeved clothing to help reduce their risk. These helps were distributed free and we used the opportunity to offer the teaching and encouragement. The program was pioneered in Uganda. We will expand it to all the countries where we work next year.

- **Child Sponsorship Programs, Uganda:**

Three child sponsorship programs were initiated to enable children to attend school and upgrade their standards of living. The number of sponsored children grew from 64 to 121.

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. Soccer was also added to the programs. Special gifts were given including blankets, mosquito nets, Bibles and local language readers.



Misembe, after receiving a gift from his sponsor



Sponsored kids learning to use a mosquito net



Brecka, an ECM missionary, with sponsored girls, kids active in Gayaza & Kamwokya projects

- **Assistance to Internally Displaced Children, Uganda:**

In December 2008 the Uganda national team assisted by a team visiting from the US held a Christmas/New Year's Festival for 600 children at Tegotatoo village and resettlement area. There was a visualized Bible lesson, group activities, and a special Christmas meal including meat and a soft drink. Each child also received a piece of clothing and a small toy.



Clothing gifts, Bible teaching, passing out juice drinks to 600 kids in celebration of Christmas

- **Assistance to Displaced Families to enable resettlement, Uganda:**

Many families headed by grandmas and single mothers were mandated to leave the IDP camp (by the government), but were unable to construct homes. Every Child Ministries built 75 huts to assist resettling families. In addition, several families were helped with animals and expanded crops. Regular family visits helped ECM workers keep abreast of needs.



Hut for Robacken Moses family Hut at the IDP camp, marked by gov't for destruction

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

In the summer of 2009, Katie Suitor led an American team to partner with Ugandan staff in putting on a two-week-long day camp for vulnerable children at Tegotatoo village and resettlement area in the northern Gulu District. Together they taught Bible classes, led developmental and recreational small group activities, provided a simple lunch for about 300 children, and held a first aid and simple medical clinic every day.



Americans and Ugandans working together to benefit Ugandan children

- **Nonformal Education project called “Educational Boost”, Uganda:**

Two of the summer team members stayed on in Uganda through early December, concentrating on “Educational Boost,” a program to help prepare unschooled children to enter school. Twenty-eight children participated and saw great progress in the basics. Others participated in an after-school program to help them achieve success in their classes, again with significant progress. These programs were continued by Ugandan staff. Still other children in addition to those sponsored received assistance in the form of school uniforms.



Children lined up to receive new school uniforms from ECM, Melissa Rogers helping children get ready to enter school

“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 receiving and processing, and communicating with the organization’s constituency.

In February 2009 the home support team moved into its newly completed “Mission Central” building just across from the old center, an historic moment which was the culmination of years of efforts by dedicated volunteers. Lack of space had been crippling our support efforts for many years, so we were very thankful to be in more adequate facilities. Through it all ECM remained and remains debt-free, thanks to the loving efforts of many volunteers who did the finishing and furnishing work on the building.



New volunteer work area; John Henry Rouster by the reception desk he made for ECM.

Recruiting:

Missionaries for long and short terms are recruited through our website and through participation in the Urbana Student Missions Conference held every three years by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. This year was an Urbana year. ECM developed a new display and was represented by David Bryant, Monica Miles, Katie Sutor, and Lorella Rouster.



Lorella, Katie, David, and Monica in front of our booth at Urbana

While ECM works largely with African national staff, long term or career missionaries can make a vital contribution in strengthening the work. At present we are seeking long term missionaries for Ghana and Uganda. ECM will accept experienced missionaries to serve in any African country. Short term missionaries are often effective in helping to open up new ministries and new areas. We seek to send teams to Ghana and Uganda every summer and Christmas-New Year's break.

Volunteers:

Every Child Ministries 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, 7824 hours of volunteer labor were registered, an increase again from last year. 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.

ECM participates in the President's Volunteer Service Award initiative. During the year, five volunteers qualified for the Presidential Gold award for 500 or more hours of service, seven qualified for the Presidential Silver award for 250-499 hours of volunteer service, and five qualified for the Presidential Bronze award for 100-249 hours of service.

ECM 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.



Some of our volunteers being recognized at the IN Banquet
Gordon Becker, Wally & Ella Wyman, Sandy Enyeart, Lew & Pat Horner,
Greg Obi (crouching), David Bryant, Boar Chair Chuck Daily,
Int'l Co-Director Lorella Rouster, Wilma & Ted Koelikamp

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 Congo, Uganda and Ghana. The Rouster family spent June and July together in Uganda. Lorella conducted staff training on human trafficking and modern-day slavery for all ECM staff in Uganda and 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 for a sea container to Uganda went on throughout the year. A list of currently needed supplies is available through the Mission Central office.

Teaching Websites:

In addition to the main organizational website, www.ecmafrica.org, the mission redeveloped www.teachingforafrica.com as a website dedicated to offering training and teaching helps to African churches and leaders. The server for this website crashed during the year and the organization has not yet rebuilt another site. During the year, it also maintained a number of websites dedicated to the dissemination of information on the issue of child slavery. The organization had several sites on Geocities, which discontinued service this year. We recreated similar updated sites including www.truthforafricalovers.com . www.trokosi.com, and www.ecmuganda.org.

Memberships:

ECM organization is a member in good standing of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability since 1988 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. To enhance local relationships in the small town where our International "Mission Central" is located, ECM also joined the local Chamber of Commerce this year.

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 Suitor, 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. & Mrs. Berlin W. (Wally & Ella) Wyman, Demotte, IN
Mr. Joseph Joniec, Crown Point, IN
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt (Kurt & Kim) Minko (Kim is Secretary), Crown Point, IN
Mr. Jack Krajnak, Seattle, WA
Mr. John Rouster, Merrillville, IN
Mrs. Lucretia Tolliver, Valparaiso, IN

Financial Summary

EXPENSES BY MINISTRY PROJECT

Benin OVC	172
Benin websites	200

372

Congo African Leadership Training Centers	15165
Congo Child Rescue	615
Congo Orphans	9893
Congo Leadership, Occupancy & Vehicles	14038
Congo Medical	1288
Congo Street Children	7082
Congo Street Vocational	14489
Congo Sunday Schools	19903
Congo website	60

82533

Ghana Child Rescue	145
Ghana Child Trafficking	2000
Ghana Evangelism	850
Ghana Haven of Hope Construction	40971
Ghana Haven of Hope Operations	62829
Ghana Haven Academy Construction	0
Ghana Haven Academy Operations	37831
Ghana Leadership, Occupancy & Vehicles	7273
Ghana Missionaries	88581
Ghana Missionaries, Short Term	9812
Ghana Public School Ministry	16304
Ghana Slave Children	28088
Ghana Street Children	17755
Ghana Street Vocational	1938
Ghana Teachers' Resource Libraries	2784
Ghana Recruiting	1106
Ghana websites	228

318495

Sudan OVC	97
-----------	-----------

Togo OVC	1210
Togo websites	200

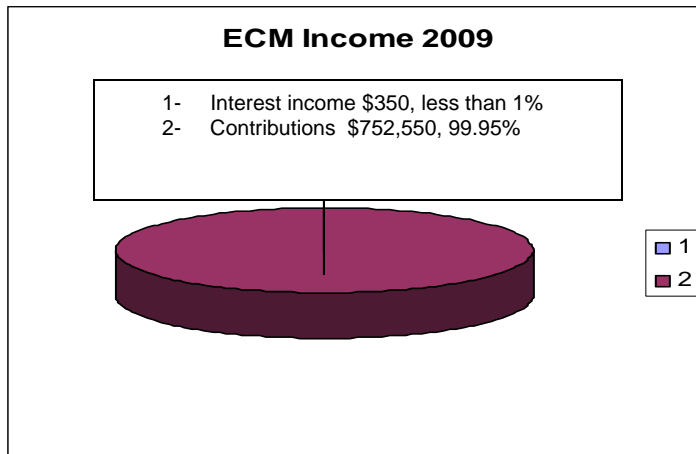
1410

Uganda Child Rescue	3100
Uganda Child Trafficking	2634
Uganda Leadership, Occupancy & Vehicles	48519
Uganda Missionaries	74025
Uganda Missionaries, Short Term	40543
Uganda OVC	9695

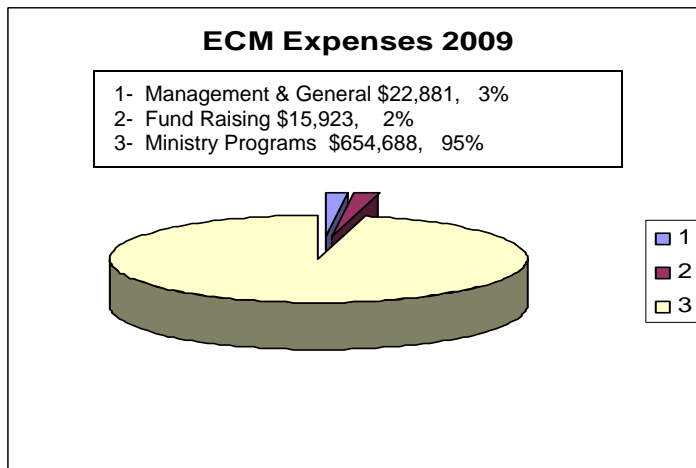
Children with Albinism	4376
Gayaza	11790
Kamwokya	6471
Tegotatoo	9250
Uganda recruiting OVC	2000
	212403
Ministry to Constituency	39378
TOTAL	654688
TOTAL AFRICAN	615310

Financial Snapshot

This statement is intended to be a pictorial summary. Full financial details (Auditor's Report, IRS 990) are posted online at www.ecmafrica.org under Ways to Give. Email or hard copies are cheerfully provided on request from Mission Central.

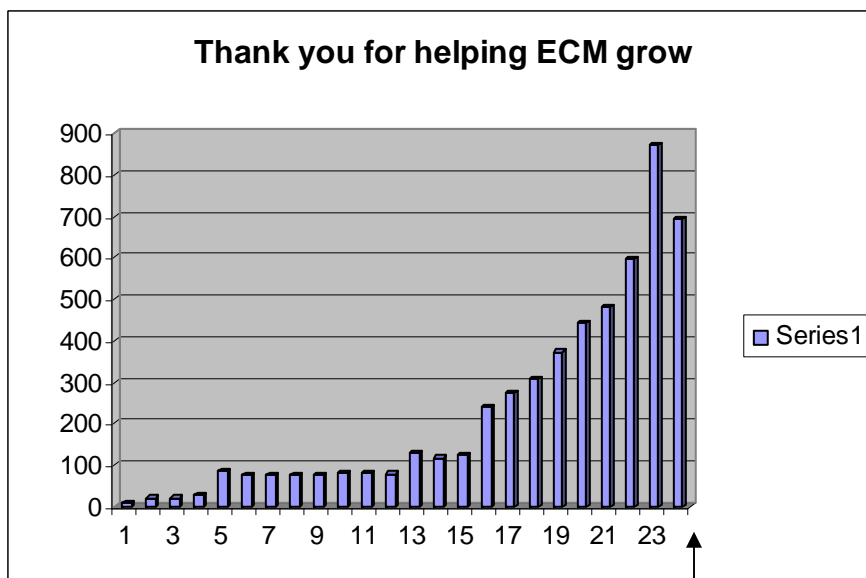


Total Income \$752,900
Down slightly from last year,
Which was our best year ever.



Total Expenses \$693,492
We used funds that had been
saved up, especially for
completing Mission Central &
for other ministry projects.

Although expenses exceeded
income, ECM is not in debt.
Our policy is to remain debt-
free.



Series 1 represents
 \$100,000

24 Years in 2009 !!