

Rouster Ramblings

March 2008



John Henry, Lorella, Whitney, John—taken at our home church, Hillside Community, on March 2, 2008.

Precious Friends,

Our lives are full and blessed in our roles as International Directors for Every Child Ministries. We are thrilled that we can contribute our time, talent, and treasure in ways that truly make a difference for African children.

We became International Directors for ECM in 1997 after serving ECM as missionaries in Congo. For most of these years, our personal support has run at about 80% of what the Board set for us. What didn't come in designated for us was made up from the General Fund.

We've recently run into some difficulty, though. The General Fund also supports the shortfall in support for all our African staff and so many other ministry projects! As the ministry has grown, it's become harder and harder for the General Fund to meet the 20% shortfall in our support level..

We haven't asked for personal support for years, but it is now clear that we need to do that. We need to raise our personal support up to 100% so

that the General Fund can be used for other vital ministry projects. We also need to raise some additional funds for the increased African travel we are now doing.

Altogether, we need to raise \$800 a month in personal support and \$220 a month for travel expenses, or a total of \$1,020 per month.

*Our letters reach friends who give to many ministry projects within ECM. Obviously we don't want to gain personal support by having people redirect their giving away from some other project. **We can't fix the front door by taking off the back door!** We are looking for friends who are not yet supporting ECM on a monthly basis or those who could give an extra amount regularly. Even an increase of \$5 or \$10 a month, designated for Rousters, would help.*

We are also looking for appointments with new friends you might recommend to us, people with whom we could sit down together and share our vision. We are looking for friends who would invite a few friends in for coffee or desert and give us the opportunity to share our burden and our vision for African children. PLEASE think and pray about this and let us know how God lays it on your heart to help us. THANK YOU! Thank you for all your prayers for us and for all you have already done for us.

Lorella recently returned from Uganda, where she trained those who are coordinating the ECM child sponsorship programs there. While there, she had her first lesson in Ugandan English. Lorella had been assured by our Uganda Director that there were screens on all the windows at our office where she was to stay. When she got there, not a single window had screens. It was then that she learned that "screen" in

Ugandan English means window pane or glass. No problem, though. It was so cold nights that Lorella had no desire to open the windows after 6 p.m.

Another funny thing also happened to her on her trip. Getting up in the early morning darkness, she thought there was enough light to brush her teeth. The toothpaste tasted so awful that she thought she might be using backrub medication for a moment. But no, it was toothpaste. Lorella reached for the water bottle to rinse the awful taste out of her mouth. Yuck! Even worse! Thoughts flashed through her mind that she might be brushing her teeth with drain cleaner or some dangerous substance, but she knew she had no such thing. She looked at the bottle again. Yes, it was a water bottle.

Just then she remembered. She had drained tuna fish oil into the bottle, saving it for cooking. (Lorella's natural conservatism really comes out in Africa..) Lorella brushed her teeth in tuna fish oil! She testifies that tuna oil is wonderful for cooking but not at all a good mix with toothpaste!

Lorella was speechless when the school in the Kamwokya slum GAVE ECM use of a private office for our ministry there and even had it painted for us! Again, she felt extremely pampered when a good friend treated her to a full body massage before and after her trip. Pampered! How much love is shared with us! We are so privileged!

Our Congo Director has written that "things are shaking" in Congo and has advised us not to come right now. So no more African travel until May 2, when Lorella will leave to train teachers in Benin. John and Whitney will join her in Ghana after Whitney gets out of school for the summer.

Thank you, dear friends, for praying for the Rousters! We love and appreciate each one of you.

John & Lorella (Whitney, too)

FAMILY NOTES:

- *Whitney has been diagnosed with some vision perception problems that are considered a form of dyslexia. She is now receiving therapy. Pray that this will help her reading.*
- *Our son John Henry spent an extended visit with us briefly after the shop where he worked went bankrupt. He has now moved to Lorella's childhood home in MI. Please pray that John would be able to get a job and for God's continued working in his life. John is a recovering alcoholic who is working hard to try to rebuild his life and we are extremely thankful. His visit was a wonderful and healing experience for us all.*
- *After Easter we enjoyed a day's visit to the Creation Museum in Cincinnati with Carrie and her family. The twins said their favorite part was the planetarium. Truly outstanding!*



Lorella with the Child Sponsorship team she trained in Uganda.

**John & Lorella Rouster
International Directors**

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"Hope for the forgotten children of Africa"
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I believe in the Rousters' ministry to African children & I want to partner with them & help them reach 100% support!

_____ As God enables me, I will give _____ a month for the Rousters' ministry.

_____ This is a new faith promise.

_____ I'll add this amount to what I'm already giving to ECM projects.

_____ I will pray regularly for the Rousters. Please send prayer requests to my e-mail address:

_____ @ _____

_____ I'll invite a few friends over to hear about the Rousters' ministry. Please contact me.

_____ I'm sending a list of friends who might be interested. I will talk to them before you contact them, recommending your ministry.

_____ I will arrange for you to visit my church, Bible study, class or other group. Contact me & we'll talk over the details.

Please contact me:

(_____) _____



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Designate gifts: **Rousters**

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Thank you SO much!

You can also give online at www.ecmafrica.org/36251.ihtml