

African Jewels



A publication of Every Child Ministries
A Christian Mission for the forgotten children of Africa
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Missionary team growing— bringing God's extravagant love to desperately hurting children

The children of Gulu are not like others to whom we've ministered. Their faces are sad. They seldom laugh or smile. They seem dazed.

Some of these children were forced to kill loved ones. Some of them had to clap while they witnessed friends being hacked to death.

The scars on their souls are deep, but we believe that God's extravagant love can still reach them.

We know you believe that Jesus is the great Healer. He is using you as a vessel to bring deep healing to their wounded souls.



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New ECM Missionaries to proclaim God's extravagant love –Jesus' powerful touch in Uganda

A much-needed team of long-term missionaries (two years or longer) has begun to form for northern Uganda. This is good news because a team approach is desperately needed to even begin to address the extreme needs of the children there.

We are thrilled to welcome to the ECM family Christine Sliwinski of Brookfield , WI and Nancy Cardoza of Worcester, MA. Both confirmed their call to long-term service with ECM on short-term ministries in 2008. They met the ECM Board and were confirmed as missionary appointees to Uganda on March 21.



Christine (on the rt) takes pictures of sponsored children in Uganda last January. Kitty Rickert is taking information and Lorella Rouster is assisting the child. Debi Howey is also partially shown.

Christine will finish her school year as a middle school math teacher and then go to Uganda as soon as her support team is in place. Christine has also participated in several ministries at Ridgewood Baptist, her home church. She has a special burden for middle school age youth and teens. "I saw them, clinging to the edges of the younger-aged group, watching what was going on from a distance," she says. Christine's vision is to bring them in.

Nancy will be leaving her employment in pension administration, where she has worked for over 20 years, and selling her home. She has been deeply involved in children's ministries at her church, Burncoat Baptist, and at

another church she attended previously. Nancy has a vision to help youth with vocational education and with discipleship in small groups.

These women are now building support teams. They have pictures and first-hand stories from Uganda, so if you live near their areas, maybe you would like to invite one of them to share with your church or small group.

This is the beginning. Our goal is to have 8-10 long-term missionaries on the Gulu team. This may



Every kid in sight wants to hold Christine's hand as she walks.



Nancy Cardoza (left) meets ECM sponsored children in Uganda. Other team members pictures: Luke Voight, Becca Voight, Marjorie Nelch, Catherine Hayes, Hannah Gibson, Kendra Lyman, Jodi Donahue

seem like a lot, but we believe that those who have been there and have seen the overwhelming needs will easily understand that goal. THANKS to all of you who are helping to share God's extravagant love with these desperately hurting kids.



Micky Beaujean – Healing for former slaves



Judith enjoys a warm hug from Micky. She looks forward to working with Micky to help the freed slaves have the opportunity to come to Christ.

Ghana is also getting more missionary help. Around the middle of May, Micky Beaujean will be leaving for an 18-month

term in Ghana. Micky's vision is to strengthen and train Mary and Judith, our Ghanaian counselors who help the women and girls being freed from slavery in idol shrines. Micky will use her experience in counseling and her organizational skills to help Mary and Judith develop even more effective programs to help the women rebuild their broken lives. She will also help set up a sponsorship program to help children of former slaves complete their education.

Micky has served a short term in Ghana and is prepared to be your representative in bringing the healing touch of Jesus to those who have been degraded by slavery and idolatry.



Micky enjoys the company of Paa Kwesi and Emmanuel Kwesi Darfour, boys at Haven of Hope.

Attention, Women's Groups !! Ghanaian Partners Needed—

In addition to Micky's help, one more step is needed to adequately strengthen ECM's rehabilitation efforts. Mary and Judith each need a permanent ministry partner—another Ghanaian woman to work with them on their projects.

Jesus sent His disciples out two by two. We never read of Him sending them out alone, one by one. We know Mary and Judith would be more effective and much safer working two by two. Yet ECM has been forced to send these brave women out alone. We didn't have appropriate partners, and we didn't have support for them. It was difficult and frankly, dangerous, but these women never complained.

And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two...

Mark 6:7 (NKJV)

We are thrilled to announce that at last, partners have been found and approved for these women. We only need to raise their monthly support. We need \$135 per month each to enable these partners to begin serving with ECM. Then as Micky trains Mary and Judith, she will train their ministry partners as well.

Would you or your group like to support an African missionary, either fully or in part? Would you like to be an integral part of the process of fighting slavery and idolatry? **Please, let us hear from you.**

THANK YOU to all those who are sending Micky!

Driscoll's Doings, Gowin's Goings, Lindsay & Elise, too –The team in Ghana

From Jere & Ruth Ann Gowin: We like our heads!

Don't know about you but I like my head. I don't like how my head looks or works --- never have -- but I sure like to keep it on my shoulders. Recently a local king died and they are burying him this Friday. In time past, they found an unwilling "participant" and took his head from him to bury with the king. Seems some kings need company to "talk to" in the grave. Even the memory of the practice invokes such fear in the local children that we have found it necessary to take them home from school in the van every day until after the funeral. They are desperately afraid their head may be taken in as they walk home alone.

Jere recently went with ECM's Volta Region team to show the Jesus film in villages that are strongholds of idol worship. Attendance ranged from 200 to 600, and MANY cried & groaned as they



Kwesi helps Elise learn the secret of Ghanaian "snap" handshakes—used between friends. Isaac and Kobby look on in the background.

watched the crucifixion. Many came to Christ. At least one priest of an idol shrine watched the film. Pray with us for a lasting harvest. Pray with Jere as he and the Ghanaian staff consider orphans from the area to possibly come to Haven of Hope. **Jere and Ruth Ann will be in the States April 16 to May 4 for the birth of a grandchild. They hope to see many of you.**

From Jim & Carolyn Driscoll:
Keeping Families Together

As a supplement to ECM's street ministry, we have been developing a Family Aid Program. It targets women who would otherwise end up on the street with help to keep them at home instead, and keep children with whatever family they have. It's a prevention program, supplementing our other programs that aim to help kids after street life has already devastated their families.

We have progressed to the point that we can now set up the co-ops. We've completed the application/interview process and are now distributing the mini-loans into bank accounts that are being set up for the team members. About 135 ladies have applied. Our priority is widows first, then most needy women and those with the most children. We want to impact the most children possible with the project.

Pray that this will go well as we launch the program and that we will have wisdom in our decisions of who to help first. Can you imagine how many hundreds of children might be spared the cruelties of street life through this project?



Lindsay shares a moment with Victory, one of our African Jewels at Haven of Hope.



Village kids walking home from Haven Academy, hand in hand.



Mission Central – Moved In !!!



February 21 was our long-awaited move-in day at our new Mission Central. We are SO thankful to be using our expanded facility. Thanks to John Henry Rouster who worked constantly on the project the last few months, and to ALL who donated time, labor, materials, and cash. Your labors of love are now paying off with increased capacity to help more children. THANK YOU so much!

Above: Pat Horner, Glenn Leszczak our computer expert, Sherry Hamby. Below left: John Henry Rouster, Gerry Albright, Lew Horner (in background) Karen Fleming, Monica Miles, Lorella Rouster. Top photo below: Karen Fleming, Wally & Ella Wyman, Margie Jackson, Sherry Hamby. Bottom photo: Ella Wyman, Margie Jackson, Cindy Baumeister & boys.



Mission Central—
All to better
equip us to serve
children like
Francesca !





The Directors' Corner—

by John & Lorella Rouster

I remember in my brother Norman's Senior Year Book it said of him, "The age of miracles! I'm graduating!" That's kind of how we at ECM all felt the last couple of weeks—not that we were graduating but that we have finally moved into our new Mission Central Office across the driveway from our old office. It has been 2 years in the process since the decision was made to put an addition on to the ECM property in Hebron, IN, and many more since we started on the Mission Central project. Now we have a facility equal to the task to which God has called us.

In the fall of 1987 Lorella was sharing at a women's Missionary Meeting at what was First Baptist Church of Crown Point. She told the ladies that ECM, which had been started in the basement of the Rouster home in Cedar Lake, IN, was in need of an office and asked the women to pray for this need. Helen Bollen was at the meeting. She came up to Lorella after the meeting and said, "I live in Hebron, IN and have a used clothing store that I would close and let ECM use the building rent free. So we and some of the Board Members looked it over and with a little fixing ECM moved in Feb. 1988. We worked out of that building for 21 years, and it seemed to get smaller every year. With a very special Board of Directors and many fine volunteers as well as African staff, ECM has grown every year. In 2008 we had our best fiscal year on record. There are now two full time missionary families in Ghana with another missionary, Micky Beaujean, to arrive in May. Work is still going on in Congo despite the war there, and the work is budding in Uganda, the third major center ECM has started. THE GOOD NEWS IS EVERYTHING IS ENTIRELY DEBT FREE. PRAISE THE LORD GIVE HIM ALL THE GLORY AND HONOR.

And of course the devil has not taken a day off with challenges on many fronts. It's been said if you don't want the devil to bother you, don't do anything! So I know that we here at ECM are planning on going forward and would covet your prayers



John Henry, Lorella, Whitney, & John, taken when John Henry spent some time helping finish off Mission Central

on a daily basis. On March 21st the board approved two full time candidates to work in the IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps in northern Uganda. Please pray for Christine Sliwinski and Nancy Cardoza that the Lord will help them raise their support and will bless them in their work in Northern Uganda. ECM is also planning to establish a home to take in abandoned babies in the Gulu area of Northern Uganda. Pray for wisdom as we look for the right property and that the Lord would guide and direct as this project develops. We have a person interested in working in a baby's home as soon as it comes together.

So in closing let me thank all of you who partner with ECM in prayer, financial giving and volunteering. I know the Lord will credit it to your account in Heaven and when we see all of those Africans who are there because of what you did with what HE gave you it will be worth it all. Like the hymn says, "It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus. Life's trials will seem so small, when we see Him."

THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US AT ECM, TO ALL OF YOU, OUR CHERISHED PARTNERS

Love,
John & Lorella



www.teachingforafrica.com – back on line !

Everywhere we go in Africa, and in many of the emails we receive almost daily from most of the countries of Africa, one cry is constant. There is an immense need for appropriate teaching materials. For 24 years, Every Child Ministries has worked hard to help meet the needs of those who give their lives to teach Africa's children.

Realizing that it will be some time before ECM is able to get to every African country seeking our help, we developed an online service for African churches. Many have access to the internet at least in their headquarters. The site was doing well, but some time back, the server for ECM's teaching website suffered a crash. Our teaching and training site was off line for many months.

Good news! We are back online at **www.teachingforafrica.com** ! This is the place where African churches can find free Bible lessons and training materials. Those called to minister in Africa can find teachings designed especially for Africa. Materials are available in several languages, and our goal is to eventually have substantial help available in every major language of Africa. New items are being added almost daily.



Children from Benin greeted us as we passed them last year. The teachingforafrica.com website will help prepare the church to effectively reach children like these all over the continent!

If you know missionaries serving in Africa, if you have contacts with African churches, if you know those preparing for service in Africa long or short term, we encourage you to share our teachingforafrica.com website address freely.

Do you know someone who is fluent in both English and an African language who might volunteer his services to translate some of our materials? (Remember that French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Arabic are also spoken in Africa.) Please help us connect with such translators.

Other missionaries or African pastors that have developed materials for Africa that they'd like to share are invited to submit them to ECM by email. All materials are subject to ECM's approval, of course.

..that I might by all means save some.
1 Corinthians 9:22

Volunteers with basic computer skills are also needed at our Mission Central office in Hebron, IN to convert documents to pdf format for inclusion on the website.



ECM seeks to empower African churches to reach the new generation by all means possible—including the internet! Check out our new teaching/training site at **www.teachingforafrica.com** !



*Children
are any nation's
greatest resource—
a precious treasure
from God!*

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**See how great it is to share the gift of love.
Sponsor a child —yourself, or with a group.**



Please?



Can you believe that only \$30 a month enables a child to go to school and also gives regular spiritual training and nutritional support? If you can't quite afford to sponsor a child yourself, why not talk to your class or group about doing it together as a project? Right now ECM desperately needs support for 15 of the neediest of the neediest of the needy. Three of these children are pictured above. Tell your friends about this opportunity by passing on our 3 min. video at this address: www.impactmovie.com/ecm. During this Easter season, share the gift of love!