

Date: Thu, Nov 20, 2008 at 8:32 AM
Subject: Thankful for your prayers

I hope this email finds all of you well. Please see the attached update on the feeding program here in Zambia. Thank you for your prayers and support. Many blessings,

Rev. Tamlyn Collins
United Methodist Church
On Mission in Kitwe, Zambia
with The Mission Society

The ministry taking place at the New Life Centre in Zambia is varied. One of my favorite ministries is their involvement, through Sandy Groves, with the Community Health Educators (C.H.E.s) also known as evangelists. These C.H.E.s are evangelists for many reasons. First, they spread the good news of Jesus Christ through their kind acts and through the generous gift of their time and talents to those in the community who are in need. Second, they are evangelists because they teach people about Christ through the health education pamphlets they share with the community. Oh yes, did I happen to mention that most of the C.H.E. s are Zambians?

The C.H.E.s are able to relate to the people in their community because they are an actual part of the community. So far I have witnessed the sharing of information and resources among the C.H.E.s in three separate locations. They teach their neighbors about prevention of malaria, AIDS, tuberculosis, worms, diarrhea and much more. There is a great spirit among the C.H.E.s, and it is because the Holy Spirit is alive and well within them.

I want to invite you in to my last visit with the C.H.E.s Picture yourself sitting in a round mud hut with a thatched roof and a charcoal fire in the center. Both men and women sit closely around the circle with smiles on their faces. They share with you their precious ground nuts, known as peanuts in Georgia, and refuse to take any for themselves. They share a simple story from the Bible and then two of the C.H.E.s act out the drama. They will then give this same information about spiritual growth to their neighbors. Some of these neighbors will come to Christ.

The C.H.E.s then take you outside and show you the programs they have to improve the nutrition of their neighbors out in the bush. They have goats in a house standing several feet off the ground and made of tree limbs. They grow crops and are learning to dry sweet potatoes to be used when they are not in season. The C.H.E.s discuss ways to keep chickens healthy. They are grinding meal in a little hut behind the main hut, and one of the local boys smiles at you with a face covered in meal dust.

If you had come with me to be with the C.H.E.s in Kitwe on Friday you would have found them feeding 15 hungry children with a porridge made out of Mealie Meal, cooked over a charcoal fire, with water carried in containers on their heads from the water source down the road. We added leaves from the local Maringa Tree as a nutritional supplement. You could have squatted with me and played with the local children as we flicked pieces of the local round fruit through sticks placed on the ground. A small girl named Martha was the champion, but she did not flaunt her victory. She just taught the other children how to play this impromptu game. At one point some of the boys who had been sliding down an ant hill on some discarded plastic came to check out the goings on.

At the end of the day all of the children, even Felix who seemed most anxious to eat, were well fed and left with smiles on their faces promising they would return next week. This is who the C.H.E.s are. This is one ministry you are encouraging and supporting through your prayers, and we, at New Life Centre, want to thank you.