

The Lord will guide you always, he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame, you will be like a well watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail ... you will be called repairer of broken walls, restorer of streets with dwellings Isaiah 58:11 – 12

August 23rd 2011

Dear friends,

Time seems to be flying by this year and as usual we are keeping very busy at Montgomery Heights.

Our short winter is drawing to a close and, although it is still quite cold in the early mornings and evenings, the days are warming up with clear blue skies and golden sunshine.

Our family are doing well. Both Nathanael and John, who I mentioned last time, are growing well. John has some significant health issues but he is on appropriate medical treatment and is making good progress.

Back in early March we were asked to take in a 5 month old baby girl whose mother had mental health issues and whose father had abandoned the family. It was alleged that the mother would wander off into the bush for a day or two at a time with the baby strapped to her back, giving the little one no appropriate care. Fiona went with the social worker to collect the baby only to find that the grandparents had decided they would look after her. Family care is always best if possible so everyone was happy with this arrangement.

However in June we received word that the grandparents, really rather destitute themselves, were not coping and were requesting our help. So Ruvarashe finally came to join us. During the three months since the case first came to our attention she had not put on any weight at all, had not been taken for regular checks at the clinic and had developed the worst case of raw nappy rash sores that we have come across. She was in a pathetic state.

Upon collecting her it was discovered that she has an older sister, Chantelle, who was also very neglected and traumatised and so two weeks later she also joined our family. Physically both little girls are doing very well now; sores all healed and both are putting on weight. Chantelle has begun to interact fairly normally with the staff and the other children of her age, but Ruvarashe is still very disconnected, not relating significantly to anyone, adult or child, and doesn't even have much of an emotional connection with her big sister. Her name means *Flower of the Lord*. Please pray that the warmth of the love and care she is experiencing here will soon cause this damaged little flower to open and bloom.



Chantelle and Ruvarashe August 2011

We often receive enquiries from friends overseas about what is happening nationally. I think some people have been surprised that I don't say more about that in newsletters. The simplest thing to say is that I don't believe it is wise, at this

point in time, to say too much. I will say though that there continue to be all sorts of 'rumblings' here and there, but other than being aware of an increase in spiritual oppression in the area, we at Montgomery Heights are fine. Rather than give our attention to the problems, we are seeking to focus on the Lord who is able to deal with the problems.

We have in fact been greatly encouraged recently with a number of unexpected blessings that have literally turned up at our gate... a virtual stranger bringing us a whole freshly slaughtered cow (though I have to confess that I didn't feel quite so blessed having to bag it all up for freezing once it had been butchered, ...my hands smelled as though I was a butcher's blockman for ages! Yeuk!) Then the same man returned a few days later with a tonne of maize. A Christian company who offer very expensive self awareness and confidence building skills development courses for teenagers, have offered to run their courses for our children as a free gift; complete strangers sent us a consignment of very good quality blankets; someone else dropped off 50kg of potatoes and so on. The country is in a mess, but many of the people in the country have generous, tender hearts towards the children.

My current Work Permit expires in December this year. The whole system of permits has changed recently under the Government of National Unity and no extensions are being given. Instead, Renewable Temporary Resident's Permits are now issued. I will be putting in my application for this shortly and would appreciate your prayers for a favourable outcome.

Over the last few years many of you have helped us greatly by sending in 'Christmas shoe boxes' for our children.

One of the issues with this has been that the postage has often cost much more than the value of the gifts in the boxes. However it was such a blessing to us during the years when our shops were almost empty and it was impossible to find gifts for the children here, so it was well worth it.

Since our currency changed over to the US dollar things have gradually improved and it is now possible to find suitable things in the shops again. However a negative change is that it is becoming increasingly complicated for us to get even small packages through the mail without having to pay customs duty. So this year we would like to ask you to help in a different way with our children's Christmas.

Would you be willing instead to donate the cash that you would have used for filling and posting a shoe box?

In the U.K donations can be made via my home church and in the U.S. via the Voice of Triumph financial office. These funds will then be transferred across to us and we will do the Christmas shopping for the children this side.

If you could send your donations fairly soon it would enable us to get shopping early while there are still goods available at reasonable prices in the shops.

Please make sure a notation is sent with your donation stating **'MHCCC Christmas Gift'**

U.K. donations: Payable to: **United Life**
Send to: Olive Creed, 1C Manor Place,
Sutton, Surrey SM1 4BB

U.S. donations: Payable to: **Voice of Triumph Ministries**
Send to: Barnabas Ministries,
Box 4967, Rumford, R.I. 02916

We would be so grateful for your help as we seek to give our children a special Christmas in 2011.

I will give you a report back on our Christmas shopping and of course on our Christmas celebrations when the time comes.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers

With love,

Lesley

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