

JUNE 2017

Mother's love

Rescue me, LORD, from evildoers; protect me from the violent, who devise evil plans in their hearts and stir up war every day. (Psalm 140:1-2)



Jane and Baraka

Jane is a young single mother whose son, Baraka, has albinism. Baraka's father died before he was born. When Jane gave birth to her son, she named him Baraka which means "blessing." But because he had albinism, the family of Jane's late husband rejected both her and Baraka. Like so many others in Tanzania, they assumed Baraka's albinism was a curse that made him less than human. Jane was left to fend for herself and her newborn son. Before long, her son was targeted for attack by relatives that wanted Baraka's bodyparts to sell to witchdoctors to

make potions people believe will bring fortune and good luck. Jane protected her son in one attack and then soon afterwards, an uncle warned Jane of another planned attack, and she fled with Baraka in the night.

Laurencia was newly married and gave birth to their first child. The child was born with albinism. Immediately, conflict erupted with her husband and extended family. She bore a second child without albinism, but when her third child was born with albinism, the family turned against her, accusing her of "dirtying the clan." Relatives attempted to attack her and her children at home in the night, but miraculously, they entered the wrong house and neighbours were able to warn Laurencia. Separated from her husband, she took her children to a government-run centre for children with albinism. After a year at this poorly equipped centre, the youngest child was very ill and died. After burying her child, Laurencia tried to go back to her husband but he refused to take her in.



Laurencia (right) with Rose selling their products at School Fair



INTERNATIONAL ALBINISM AWARENESS DAY

It is hard for many of us to imagine the terror Jane and Laurencia have faced simply because their children were born with albinism. This month, on June 13th, people worldwide recognized International Albinism Day which seeks to raise awareness of the condition and promote the basic human rights of people with albinism. Albinism is a genetic condition (carried by both father and mother) characterised by a lack of pigment in the skin, hair and eyes which causes vulnerability to sun exposure and light and subsequent damage. In Tanzania and other African nations, people with albinism are discriminated against and have been attacked and even killed for their body parts to be used in witchcraft.

I say to the LORD, "You are my God." Hear, LORD, my cry for mercy. Sovereign LORD, my strong deliverer, you shield my head in the day of battle. Do not grant the wicked their desires, LORD; do not let their plans succeed. (Psalms 140:6-8)

Jane made her way to Mwanza where she met people from the charity Under the Same Sun, who were able to help her and Baraka with a safe home and the opportunity for Baraka to attend school. Laurencia now rents a small home in Mwanza and her children, sponsored by Under the Same Sun, attend Lakeview School. Jane and Laurencia are both part of the "Upendo wa Mama" ("Mother's Love") Group in Mwanza, Tanzania, which seeks to support women who have children with albinism or have albinism themselves.

"Upendo wa Mama" ("Mother's Love") Group in Mwanza

We meet together, a group of nine mamas, twice a week. Together we read the Word of God and pray for one another. Often we have read through Psalm 140. Able to share stories and burdens, the group can encourage one another and share joy together. We have started income-generating projects to raise much needed money to support the mamas and their children. We make paper bead necklaces and cards. With local beeswax, we make candles, soaps and lip balms. We have recently been able to purchase sewing machines and two mamas have attended a tailoring course. We are planning to purchase an oven and some of the women hope to start a baking enterprise! The group is officially registered as a Community-based Organization and now has its' own bank account. The women have learned that albinism is a genetic condition and not a curse and want to show their community that living with albinism does not have to mean a death sentence or life on the run without opportunities.



"Upendo wa Mama" Group with their children

As a group, we have met with God and experienced his love and healing power. As each mama grows in confidence

and skills, their hope is strong for their children and their future. Baraka's name carries the truth that these precious children truly are a blessing.

I know that the LORD secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy. Surely the righteous will praise your name, and the upright will live in your presence. (Psalm 140:12-13)



Written by Rachel Monger. Rachel and her husband, Tim, and their two daughters, Amisadai and Louisa, live in Mwanza in Tanzania where they coordinate EI's work with Tanzania Assemblies of God Church as well as supporting the Upendo wa Mama group.



EUUK Garden Party/ Summer Social

8 July 2017

starting at 11 am

Trinity Church

Hindes Road, Harrow, HA1 1RX

Children are welcome!

We are meeting at Trinity Church Harrow. It is easy to get to, with plenty of parking available nearby (more details on how to get there on our website).



Don and Rachel Sayers and their children **Daniëlle, Hudson and Nathan**, from South Africa, will be in the UK and will join us. They would love to see you!

We also plan to Skype some of the other families who are overseas, to hear first-hand news from them.

Please bring a light lunch to enjoy in the middle of the day. At 5pm we'll have a BBQ. Food will be provided for the BBQ. A small donation towards the South Coast Challenge fundraising walk in August will be appreciated.

Please let us know at the office if you are coming so we can let the catering team know how many people to expect.

Everyone, including children,
welcome!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Mongers' work in Mwanza, come to the

Summer Open House with the Mongers

on Saturday, August 19th
3 till 6pm

at The Point

Tadley Community Centre,
1 Newchurch Road, Tadley, RG26 4HN

Tea and Cake! A chance to chat and catch up. Presentation and Q&A at 4pm.

RSVP Ellen ellen@thebraithwaites.co.uk

A team from Springvale Church Stouffville travelled to Haiti to make a difference



The team from Springvale Church

It's estimated 430,000 children are orphaned or abandoned and still need help in Haiti.

Recently a Team of 13 keen people from Springvale Church travelled to Port-au-Prince, Haiti. They were fully loaded up with tools and medical supplies, led by Stouffville residents Heather King and Paul Risi.

“The team completed renovations, delivered medical supplies for the paediatric clinic in Jacmel, brightened up the orphanages in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel with a new coat of paint and a giant mural on the wall to the delight of the children. They also built new bunk beds, shelves and purchased a new freezer,” said Risi.

Sponsorship of \$30,000 for the trip was raised by friends of Springvale Church, Emmanuel International Canada and the local community.

“This is the 4th Springvale team to Haiti and the alarming thing is it's estimated

430,000 children are orphaned or abandoned and still need help in Haiti,” said Risi.

Both orphanages have property adjacent to local churches that also include school facilities. When children first come, they receive medical treatment and nourishment so they can become healthy to begin school and faith based activities.

Freedom House orphanages is a Christian ministry that rescues and cares for the welfare of orphaned and abandoned children, providing safe housing, high quality medical attention and education that were founded fifteen years ago by Dave and Sonia Lock who are also from Stouffville.



Working on the playground

*Written by Lindsay O'Connor, Media/
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