

Hello to all of the friends of Jonathan's House for Orphans in the Central African Republic (CAR),

There is a lot of news since I last wrote to you. This is an exciting and challenging time to be serving in CAR. As you read this, I hope you'll be in awe of the way that God has richly blessed this ministry and the love that He has for His children. Here's the news:

- 1) The adoptions of three of our girls were completed and they arrived in Indiana in April to be at home with their family. These were three of a total of six adoptions from CAR to the United States since 1999. Several more adoptions are now in progress. Due to the success of the girls' adoptions, I believe that the groundwork has been laid for many more CAR-USA adoptions in the future.
- 2) The security situation in CAR has improved dramatically since my last visit in January. The French military still maintains a base right next to the orphanage, although have reduced the number of troops at the base as the threat of rebel violence has decreased. Their activities have changed from security to humanitarian assistance. Just last week, they arrived at the orphanage to build a retaining wall for us. This will keep water runoff from entering the goat house and prevent our parking area from crumbling. Someday we might even own a vehicle and need a place to park it. ☺ A photo of the French military at work is below. They have been VERY supportive of the orphanage and I am VERY thankful for their help.



- 3) In June, two of our staff travelled to Ndjoukou, on the southern border of CAR, across the river from Congo. This is an area that has been devastated by violence and the needs for orphan rescue are overwhelming. Access to Ndjoukou for non-profit aid groups is extremely difficult and dangerous, so this village has been largely unable

to benefit from the support of the many organizations now providing help in CAR. We were able to gain access to Ndjoukou in June and July with an aid group from Norway who has a four wheel drive vehicle. Jonathan's house does not own a vehicle other than a motorcycle. Our initial assessment included approximately 200 orphans in dangerous conditions and numerous other medical needs.

- 4) We were able to rescue Cyriac from Ndjoukou. He had lived in the forest with a very dangerous medical condition, but was unable to gain access to medical care because no medical facilities were available. We immediately transported him to a hospital in Bangui. His surgery took place on July 15, and his recovery is going well.
- 5) We accepted a thirteen month old baby whose mother was shot in the violence. The baby has been in the care of his thirteen year old sister in the forest for most of his life. Incredibly, the baby survived but is severely malnourished. We immediately transferred the baby and his sister to Action Against Hunger (Action Contra la Faim), a hunger prevention organization. During the past week, they both were released from the clinic and came to live at the orphanage. They are eating and doing well.
- 6) We lost Louise, a seven year old girl, to starvation just two days after she arrived from Ndjoukou. She had also been living in the forest for many months, and her malnourishment was just too extreme for the doctors to reverse as her body shut down from lack of food. Her death is a reminder to all of us that we need to seek and rescue the other children like Louise. Matthew 19:14 has provided our only comfort after we lost Louise, as Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children." I never had the privilege of meeting Louise, but I'm looking forward to seeing her in the fellowship of believers in Heaven.
- 7) We received a six year old boy, at the orphanage in April from the town of Ngreko. He came from a polygamist family. After his mother died by poisoning, he was in the care of the first wife of his father, who was a rival of his mother. He was later placed in the care of his father's elderly parents because the father was very ill. The grandparents were unable to care for him properly, and the boy was severely malnourished. He suffered from a wound on his head that had not healed after four months. His father died just five days after the boy arrived at the orphanage. He has suffered more in six years than most of us have in our entire lives. I'm excited to see what the Lord has planned for Elysee. A photo of the child with his grandfather on the day we met him is below.



- 8) Our school finished the year in June with almost 200 students. The next school year will start in October, with the addition of Grade 7. As usual, we'll accept orphans into the school without requiring them to pay school fees. Last year, 94 orphans attended for free, including the children at the orphanage. The school has been a great opportunity for outreach and education. We plan to add a grade level each year so our children will

continue their education instead of starting a life of poorly paid field work. In the next year, we'll be making plans for a new school building to accommodate grades 8 – 11.



I'm headed to CAR with a team of five people for a visit from August 10 – 20. We now have 29 children at the orphanage. I'm looking forward to spending time with the children, seeing the school building plans, and helping with the basketball program. We'll also be taking audio/video equipment to show the Jesus Film, and I think that will be a great evangelization tool. Members of our visiting team will include a children's trauma care specialist to teach our the staff about the identification and treatment of children with histories of extreme trauma, as well as a children's special needs educator and a family that is interested in adopting. While the needs seem overwhelming, the Lord has demonstrated that He is sufficient to supply all our needs. He loves these children. Our staff will soon return to Ndjoukou with instructions to rescue children who are in danger of dying if they do not receive medical treatment. I'm thankful for all of you who make this ministry possible with your prayers and support. This simply would not be possible without both of those. Prayers are free, and highly valued. I know the Lord hears your prayers for His children. Donations are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. I do not know a place on earth where donations can have a larger impact than in CAR. Lives are saved for what we spend on lunch in our own country.

Thankful,
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