

THE NAMWIANGA MISSION



From: Ellie Hamby [mailto:ellieha@sbcglobal.net]
To: 'John L. Kachelman, Jr.'

John,

Thanks for the email. It may take me up to 3 weeks to get the letters of appreciation from Zambia and the final report. Yes, the orphans pictured received many of the items that were sent on the container. The building is the front of the home where they live.

We can send up to 4-5 containers to Zambia each year and we would be thrilled to partner with your group in sending these containers. We have so many areas of work there and they have such great needs. I will send you a DVD of the whole scope of our work. We have an excellent reputation in the country and I can assure you that everything we send goes directly to help the people there. We have an excellent distribution system. Of course, all the medical items go to our hospital and the two remote clinics that we have.

We also have an extensive HIV/AIDS and TB program to remote areas. We go to these villages at least once a month with testing equipment, HIV drugs, and other drugs to treat secondary illnesses. Much of the medicine we sent on the container will go to these villages to treat secondary illnesses that the patients have. We are in a program where we are able to get the HIV drugs

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free for our patients. We are saving lives and giving children their parents. Sometimes the task is overwhelming, but you just have to do what you can.

Our orphan care project reaches the orphans at Namwianga and then we supply formula and clothes to orphans in villages that are staying with family. They have to bring the children in to be weighed every six weeks to make sure they are being fed and taken care of. When we take clothes to villages we always work with the local headman and churches so they can make certain those in the most need receive the items. On our school supplies we serve over 3,000 students in our system. Our schools are all in rural areas so that we can serve those children that do not have access to proper education.

You can also see from the pictures I sent that we are a Zambian run operation. We have very competent Zambians making certain the cargo is delivered properly and no one receives any payment for doing this. This has been our plan and it is working.

I am forwarding you an email from Roy Merritt who works with the Orphan project. He just sent this out this morning. There is such a great need for orphan care in Zambia. Right now, we have three very nice facilities with Roy and Kathi Merritt running one and we have two Zambian couples running the other two (they are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sifwiyo and Mr. and Mrs. Gibson Muduli).

We are also in the process of starting a radio station at Namwianga. This will be a Christian radio station and we will be doing public service programs, such as HIV/Education, improve farming methods, education, hygiene, and many other things. Our aim is to improve the lives of the people in our area. There is no radio station at this time in our area so the need is huge. A study was done by some agency in Zambia that showed that 85% of people in rural areas receive their HIV/Aids information from the radio. It is rare to go to a village and not find at least one person with a battery operated radio. We are hoping to find a supplier that will donate us hand crank radios that do not need batteries, but we haven't been successful yet. We hope to have the station operating by the end of July, 2008.

Here is another picture of the orphans with one of nurses, Laura Oldenburg. They all had an ear infection and are at our hospital seeking treatment.

Thanks,

Ellie