

WEZI MZUMARA — Laid back...Crooked grin...No bitterness— Just hope.

How do you communicate dignity, respect and personal value to the most vulnerable—the defenseless child? One of the most memorable portraits of Christ is the Lord receiving children and becoming incensed with those who said that such was ill-fitting for the Lord's time (Matthew 18). The setting has long been the subject of the masters in their art masterpieces but even their skills are not sufficient to capture the essence of the communication of how truly valuable those most vulnerable are in the Almighty's eyes. Only reality can do that in an unforgettable way. Reality portraits of this point are presented below.

During 2008 we shipped six containers into Kalomo, Zambia. These have arrived and we are now receiving pictures and reports of the impact these containers are making in that location and its surrounding areas. The first two of these containers were shipped through the "Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program" and all logistics were coordinated by COUNTERPART, INTERNATIONAL with Rang Hee Kim and Meta Menning. The final four containers were shipped through the "Funded Transportation Program" where Phylliss Marshall and Diane Halverson coordinated logistics with Brian Goldy (Carrier Representative for Sealift, Inc).

These six containers transported a massive amount of items that are essential to the operations in Zambia as they reach out to the orphans and vulnerable population. In Africa, Zambia has more orphaned children than any other nation. The needs are overwhelming and those working to help do an incredible job with what they have available. Among the items shipped was a large amount of clothing. These bags of clothing are sorted and packaged by loving hearts that will never see the children they are helping. Every week these sorters work, often in small numbers, and diligently sort through donated clothing making sure that any item sent is in very good condition. These work unseen and unobserved. To some their efforts may appear useless and unnecessary. It is indeed often a thankless job. Here are two stories that help those sorting and packing clothing to realize how much their work means.

These containers were shipped through the United States transportation assist programs that enable citizen-to-citizen partnering in the USA with those in foreign nations. These programs are funded by the Department of State budget. Through these transportation assist programs (The Denton Program, Funded Transportation Program, and the Small to Medium Transportation Program—SMTP) there is an incredible amount of goodwill fostered toward our nation. The containers are sent to those in foreign countries who are trustworthy in their distribution. Our main emphasis is to send to local congregations of the Lord's Church so our brethren will distribute the items through the local Church and utilize the benevolent efforts to bring glory to God and recognition to His Church. Contact your elected Congressional Representatives in Washington, DC and thank them for funding these programs.

We continue to receive reports as the below that validate our efforts. Thanks to the cooperation and support of so many, we are able to do incredibly more than we could imagine (See Ephesians 3:20, 21).

Thank you for your help in these efforts—read and rejoice in the good that is being accomplished by our brethren!

John L. Kachelman, Jr.
Judsonia, Arkansas

From: Roy & Kathi Merritt [mailto:merritt@coppernet.zm]
Sent: Saturday, April 04, 2009 7:15 AM
To: 'Ellie Hamby'
Subject: Wezi

Eleanor,

Perhaps the most sympathetic person to receive clothing is Wezi Mzumara. We are adding him to the Eric's House, and gave him a bigger share than the others. He got his first shot at the used clothing pile, ten items, but what he wanted most he did not find—shoes big enough to fit.

Wezi is a street kid who has reached grade ten along a path so narrow and steep that—it's hard to believe he is still here.

Wezi is the only African I know who cannot name a single living relative.

I do not belittle how tough life is for the orphans in our home. But I am amazed a survivor as tough as Wezi is not totally criminalised by his life experiences. Below I have attached his own handwritten story.

When his father died Wezi was about four years old. An 'uncle' took Wezi from his grandmother, travelled with him to Livingstone 300 miles south, and abandoned him in the market. Wezi learned to wheedle and beg and managed to survive sleeping on sidewalks and in road drains. He also picked up all the bad habits such kids have. He went through a series of police events, orphanages and churches. Benefactors along the way liked his singing and soccer skills, and helped him once in a while—enough help that he speaks good English and has risen through grade nine. Now he's ready for grade 10 if you can help him.



Wezi. Laid back. Crooked grin. No bitterness—just hope.

Another boy, another story...

We have been asked to take on another street kid. The boy is in hospital and social services have asked if we can take him and try him out. A street gang beat him up and mutilated his sexual organs. They say the boy is so traumatized that he will not speak to anybody. I'll send you more on him if and when he shows up. We don't even know his name yet. He will get a good hunk of the clothing.