



Julie's Heart Cry

Bringing Hope to Women Globally

April 2020
Newsletter

Yes, all children have dreams



“The truth is, none of us gets to choose the country of our birth, our parents or our socio-economic background.”



Dear Friends & Partners,

Part 2 of 2

As we were driving through the slums of Katwe in East Africa, a woman turned to me and asked, “Do these children who are running around barefoot and jumping over open sewage have dreams of becoming something?”

Whenever I hear this question, it makes me sad that people don't understand that *all* children have dreams – regardless of their circumstances in life.

Children at risk

If you travel to a developing country for business, pleasure or a mission trip, you can't help but come face to face with extreme poverty ... unless you intentionally choose to avoid seeing it. So many children now live in child-headed households because war or death

has robbed them of their parents. The majority of families live on less than \$2 a day.

Parents pressure their children to beg for food or loose change from passersby. If this is unsuccessful, they head to the dumps on the outskirts of the cities to scavenge for whatever they can find to eat or sell. Others go hungry for days, which accounts for the alarming rate of malnutrition. And then there are the thousands of street children who are forced into begging on a regular basis by traffickers.



What would you do?

So, if the average family lives on less than \$2 a day, and a pair of shoes costs roughly \$10, what would you do? How can parents possibly provide for their families?

These children did not choose where they would live or who their parents would be. Would anyone *choose* to live in this kind of overwhelming poverty? The truth is, none of us gets

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Children like this little boy roam the city dumps scavenging for food or something they can sell if they want to eat that day. According to USAID, about 50,000 children in CAR age 5 and under suffer from severe acute malnutrition.



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to choose the country of our birth, our parents or our socio-economic background.

As followers of Christ, we should humbly recall the words found in Proverbs 22:2: *"The rich and poor have this in common, The Lord is the maker of them both."*

A wise investment

As complicated and overwhelming as this issue seems, the bridge to the dreams of these children one day becoming doctors, lawyers, teachers and more is our willingness to invest in the one in front of us. It could be the child next door, across the street or around the world.

We must understand that the same God who created us — who afforded us the privilege of living in a country that has countless opportunities — also created children living in desperate poverty. And yes, they still have dreams for themselves.

Some of these future leaders, as young as 6 to 10 years old, are

Did you know ...

The Central African Republic, with a size of 622,984 square kilometers, is slightly smaller than Texas and about four times the size of Georgia.



Pascal, above, graduated from theological school and Robinah, right, graduated from vocational school, where she studied tailoring. Both now have promising futures, thanks to the generosity of people like you.

forced to live in refugee or displacement camps with no parents. They have no hope for tomorrow ... no hope for a pair of shoes, let alone pencil and paper.

You are transforming lives

When you invest in a child, you are inevitably investing in the future of his or her community and in the world — and most importantly, sharing the love of Christ.

It is because of a Gospel-given love that we can utilize our resources to equip these children for a brighter future. No longer will they have to eat from dumpsters, play among raw sewage, beg for food and money or be taken advantage of by traffickers.



Because of the generosity of people like you, children like these are attending primary and secondary school at this Christian academic institution and others are going to vocational schools and universities. Thanks to you, these children are realizing their dreams by earning degrees in theology, nursing, social work, interior and clothing design, law, education, cinematography and so much more.

Thank you so much for all of your prayers, love and support for Julie's Heart Cry!

Julie Mad-Bondo

Thank you!

I want to thank each and every one of you who took the time to give feedback on the February 2020 newsletter concerning the women's conference in East Africa. And may I extend a big heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all of you who take time to give feedback every month!

P.S. Please note my new mailing address!