

Praying for Bread

May 2016

Since the 57 orphans moved into Congo for Christ Center (CCC) over four years ago, your generous donations, through monthly sponsorships and other gifts, have enabled us to provide lunch and dinner for the children. The children have grown and are now much healthier than when they first arrived. The two daily meals consist mainly of rice and beans and even though it must be a monotonous diet, the children are thankful to be fed on a regular basis. Many times over these past four years Pastor Jeremiah has requested we also provide breakfast for the children. The standard breakfast in Congo consists of bread and a cup of tea. Sadly, most of the time we have not had the funds to meet this very basic need of providing the children some type of nutrition before going to school. Currently, they have nothing to eat until after school which gets out at 1:00 in the afternoon.



Makeshift cooking area for feeding program before new kitchen

As reported in last month's newsletter, we have started a weekly feeding program to provide lunch for the community children in addition to the CCC orphans. This wonderful outreach (see page 2) required that we provide funds to expand the kitchen to meet the demands of feeding over 500 children at a time. The previous cooking area had collapsed which

led Pastor Jeremiah to secure the services of a man with expertise in building kitchens. We asked Pastor Jeremiah to find out if he could also build an oven for baking bread, and quickly learned, to our delight, it would be possible.



Kitchen expert who designed and built the new oven which will provide breakfast for the orphans at CCC

Pastor Jeremiah shared the following concerning this opportunity: *"On Friday night we had an overnight prayer and on Saturday at 2 pm we had another prayer session for the center. For sure we were able to pray for these needs of a baking oven and completing the kitchen so that God may help them have breakfast. **While we were praying, the children cried to God in pain.** May God bless you, Mama Renee, for listening to this burden we have for the children to have a baking oven and the cooking stove. When the children will see the baking oven being built for sure they will celebrate for what God has done."*

We are so happy and thankful to report that the oven has been built and will soon be put to good use. The plan is to bake 490 loaves of bread per week. To begin the bakery there are additional one time start-up costs as well as the ongoing cost to bake the bread. A two-room addition to the kitchen is needed to provide

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The orphans at CCC are growing and doing so well. They have been praying God will provide breakfast for them.

a place to knead the dough as well as store the bread and a small room to store firewood so it will be dry and available for use. The cost to complete this room is \$735. An additional \$695 is needed for baking pans, mixing bowls, tables and shelves to store the bread. Any donations towards these costs

will be greatly appreciated. Eleven of the orphans and current staff members have been designated to learn how to bake the bread. Providing breakfast will not require hiring additional staff.

Many of you already sponsor one or more children at CCC and your monthly gifts go directly to buy the food for their lunch and dinner. It will cost \$7 per month to cover the cost of breakfast for one child. Perhaps some of you would consider becoming a "Breakfast Sponsor" and a monthly gift of \$35 would provide breakfast for five children. Your generous monthly gift can be the answer to these children's prayer for breakfast!



What man among you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him!
Matthew 7:9, 11

Congo Feeding Program is a Huge Blessing!

We are thrilled with the continued updates about the success of the Community Feeding Program at Congo for Christ Center. Each week the number of children who arrive for the church service and lunch increases. An African proverb says "hungry bellies have no ears." On April 23rd there were **520 children who attended the service and heard the gospel and were fed. Of that number, forty-six children prayed to accept Jesus as their personal Savior.** In the previous weeks an additional sixty-seven children have given their hearts and lives to Christ. Pastor Jeremiah reports that members of the community are happy that so many children are being taught the Word of God. They are already seeing wonderful changes in these young lives.

We asked them to share some of the testimonies from the children who are participating:

--A boy named Makalengi shared that when he was bathing in the Kalimabenge River a large stone fell and almost crashed into his head. He said it was because of the prayers at the service he believes God protected his life.

--Another boy shared that he was swimming in Lake Tanganyika and a crocodile was chasing him and he was afraid he would be attacked. He quickly prayed that God would save him so he could attend the service at CCC, and the crocodile swam



Your gifts provide physical and spiritual nourishment

away.

--Another child thanked God for the food he received because he had not eaten at all the previous day.

Each month we are increasing the funds to feed and minister to these precious children. This is only possible through your continued generous giving. In the words of Pastor Jeremiah, "**May God bless you our donors and may you continue with that great heart.**"