

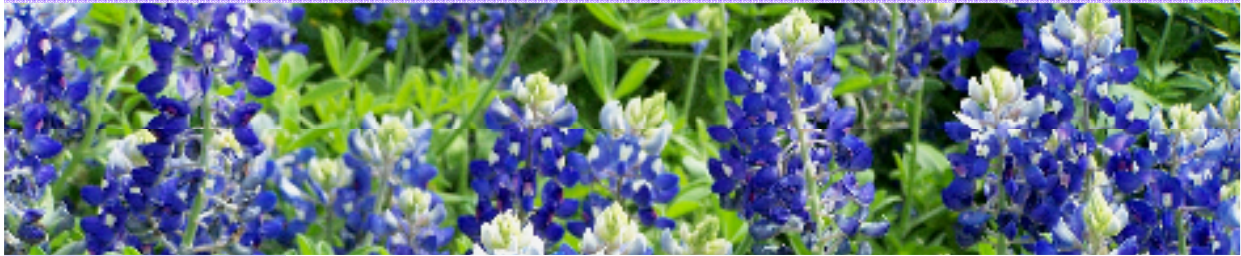
# HEALTH, EDUCATION & LITERACY PROVIDERS, INC.

*Partnering with West Africa*

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Texas Bluebonnets

may 2008

## A Calling by Jenni Sternberg

The following article was written by Jenni Sternberg, a new addition to HELP staff. She went to Nigeria for the first time on our February 2008 mission trip. Her role at HELP is to oversee the Adopt-A-Child program for the Fulani school in Okoloke and the CARE Center (orphanage) in Egbe.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A Calling by Jenni Sternberg	1-2
Adopt-a-Child Sponsorship Program	2-3
Update from the Mission Field by Raye Elerson	4
Donation Request for Car	5
Paintings for Africa	5
Wish List	5
HHYCH	Back

I stood in complete awe of God as I listened to fourteen of the most beautiful voices I've ever heard. The words they sang touched the depths of my soul, "We want to thank you for coming down to where we are, we just want to thank you, we are saying you are highly welcome." The night I arrived in Egbe, Nigeria for the first time God allowed me the honor of greeting the first boys to arrive at the new C.A.R.E. Center. Meeting those orphan boys that night fulfilled a dream of almost thirteen years.

Since the young age of twelve, I've wanted nothing more than to bring the hope of Christ to orphans and street children overseas. Throughout high school

and college the Lord refined that dream and He grew my heart for those affected by HIV/AIDS in Africa. As my love of photography and writing grew as well, I purposed that one day I would love to help with a child sponsorship program. I had no idea when or how that would happen, but knew deeply in my heart that God created me for such a role.

One of the most significant "God moments" in my life was meeting Patty Goen, a little over a year ago. I was looking for a new place of ministry at the time, and

as she poured her heart out to me about H.E.L.P. and her heart to build an orphanage in Nigeria; I knew College Station, TX was exactly where God wanted me. I will never forget the day, a few months later, when Patty called to share with me some incredible news. The H.E.L.P. board of directors, upon her recommendation, wanted me to consider taking the position of Adopt-A-Child Sponsorship Coordinator.

The vision God has given me for the Child Sponsorship Program is to help sponsors here in the United States truly know



## A Calling cont...

their child and be informed about all aspects of their life. Being aware that many sponsors may never be able to go to Nigeria themselves to personally meet these children, my hope is that the correspondence and pictures (capturing the children at school, play, meals, etc.) will enable sponsors to truly feel a part of their lives. I had the honor of personally interviewing each child last month, hearing everything from how their parents died, to life on the street, and how and why they came to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Most of the orphans have experienced things in life that we, in America, can't even imagine. In Okoloke, the Fulani school kids

were so excited to talk with our team, hold our hands and follow us around... always wanting to be with us. Walking hours to school each day, they are eager to learn and desperately need sponsors who are enthusiastic about helping further their opportunities to be

*"Most of the orphans have experienced things in life that we, in America, can't even imagine."*

educated. The children of Nigeria have captured my heart. I am so

humbled and honored that God would allow me to serve on staff with HELP (in partnership with my local church) to see children's opportunities for the future expand. During the 7 weeks I will be in Nigeria this summer, my hope is to capture their stories through pictures, video, and personal correspondence to return to the United States. The Bible is clear about God's heart for children. Please join me in praying for and supporting these children...because He first loved us.

# ADOPT-A-CHILD Sponsorship Program

THE ADOPT-A-CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM WAS BORN OUT OF A VISION TO HOLISTICALLY MINISTER TO TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE- ORPHANS AND FULANI SCHOOL CHILDREN. NIGERIA ALONE HAS OVER 950,000 ORPHANS, A NUMBER GROWING EXPONENTIALLY EACH YEAR.



There are over 2,000 references in the Bible to God's heart for the poor and orphaned. He has called us to play our part in sharing the good news of the Gospel with those in need, as well as providing for their physical needs in practical ways. The heart behind the Adopt-A-Child program is that "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)...We hope that you would prayerfully consider becoming a child sponsor!

If you are interested in participating in the Adopt -A-Child program, please email Jenni: [jenni.sternberg@gmail.com](mailto:jenni.sternberg@gmail.com)

**IN AFRICA HIV/AIDS CREATES NEW BROKEN FAMILIES DAILY. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ALLOW AMERICANS TO LITERALLY ADOPT THESE ORPHANS, WE CAN PRACTICALLY HELP BY PROVIDING PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT THROUGH H.E.L.P., INC. A MAN IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY OF EGBE, NIGERIA HAS DONATED THE LAND TO BUILD A C.A.R.E. CENTER AND THROUGH THE DONATIONS OF GENEROUS PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, A BEAUTIFUL PARTNERSHIP WAS BORN. THIS HAS ENABLED A CENTER THAT WILL HOUSE UP TO 180 ORPHANS AND MANY WIDOWS.**



Adopt an Orphan

**EACH ORPHAN HAS MANY NEEDS THAT WE TAKE FOR GRANTED EVERYDAY. EACH CHILD NEEDS CLOTHING, FOOD, AND TO BE PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EDUCATION. DUE TO THE CORRUPTION AND LACK OF TRAINING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, THE DESIRE OF H.E.L.P. IS TO SEND THE CHILDREN TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL WHERE THEY WILL BE PROVIDED WITH A TOP-NOTCH EDUCATION. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM A REAL CHANCE TO BECOME PROFESSIONALS, WITH A HOPE AND A FUTURE.**

*This requires four sponsors at \$400 annually per child.*

**THERE ARE OVER 20 MILLION FULANI IN THE WORLD, WITH OVER 14 MILLION OF THEM IN NIGERIA ALONE. THEY ARE MOSTLY A MUSLIM NOMADIC PEOPLE GROUP, WITH LESS THAN 10% HAVING EVER HEARD THE NAME OF CHRIST. THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP WITH DOCTORS TRACY AND PATTY GOEN, GOD HAS PROVIDED AN OPEN DOOR FOR H.E.L.P. THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL WAS BUILT UPON THE REQUEST OF THE FULANI TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN EDUCATED. THE FULANI HAVE A HISTORY OF MAKING THEIR LIVELIHOOD FROM THEIR COWS, OFTEN VALUING THEM MORE HIGHLY THAN THEIR OWN WOMEN. THE FULANI NOW SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EDUCATED AND ARE EVEN SENDING THEIR YOUNG GIRLS TO SCHOOL. THESE CHILDREN WALK HOURS TO SCHOOL EACH MORNING FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE BUSH. THROUGH THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM EACH CHILD WILL BE PROVIDED WITH TUITION FOR SCHOOL, A UNIFORM, AND ONE MEAL A DAY.**

*This requires one sponsor per child at \$330 annually.*



Adopt a School Child

## Update from the Mission Field by Raye Elerson

A lot has happened since I moved to Nigeria nearly four and a half months ago. To say that I have seen the hand of God at work would be an understatement. God has done many amazing things, and He is helping me get accustomed to my new life and teaching me how to fit into a culture that is totally different than the one I know.

There are many stories I could choose to share with you, but the one I feel led to share is about a two-day "bush outreach" to a remote village, approximately three hours west



of Jos, Nigeria: A team from Colorado that comes once a year helped plant a church there in 2007. So when the team came this year, we went back to this village to do a medical outreach, show films at night, and have a thanksgiving service at the church. I have been involved in bush outreaches before, but never on this scale. In all, there were about thirty people that went on this two day journey. With-

out the joint efforts of Americans and Nigerians working side by side, this could not have happened. Each person was gifted in a unique way and used the skills that God had given them to serve these people. It was an incredible time of seeing God's love in action to help these people see their biggest need.

After spending time with the people of this village, I could see that almost all of them had some form of religion in their life. There were idol worshippers, Muslims, people who did witchcraft, and even some things that I did not understand. All of these people knew they needed something; but they were chasing after a lie, because the enemy had blinded



them in so many different ways. We were just trying to show love and help them see the truth. I cannot say that everything went the way we had hoped, but there were a lot of people whose eyes were opened. Now their names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

There are many things we plan to do during outreaches, but the thing God keeps impressing on me is that if you want to make a difference, keep going back. Our works are appreciated, but the thing that makes the biggest impact is when they keep seeing us come back. They are captivated, because we keep coming. And every time we come, we love. God's love is what changes people. And it's an amazing thing to see a group travel half-way around the world to show that love. The thing I enjoy most is seeing first-time missionaries come. It changes their view of God and the world, as they put God's love into action. If you have not been to Nigeria yet, who knows?...Maybe one day we will meet, and you will get to show these people God's love too.



## Donation Request for Car

You may remember an article in our last newsletter about Samson Adeniji, a Nigerian college student who has come to study here in the U.S.

Samson's first semester has been great, as he is learning how to live in a culture that is very different from his own. He even got to see snow for the first time in his life! Unfortunately it was Texas

snow, so there were just a few flurries that melted upon touching the ground; nonetheless, he was fascinated by this.

Samson has been living with the Goen family (founders of HELP, Inc.) and has joined their carpool to get to and from school, along with the Goen's four children still living at home. But as Samson's schedule has been

becoming busier with summer classes, church activities, and employment soon, we have recognized the need for him to have his own transportation. If you have an old car that you would be willing to donate to HELP, Inc. for Samson's use, please contact the HELP Office.



## HELP's Wish List

If you would like to donate any of the following items, or give a special money donation towards any of these items, we would be so grateful! If giving a money donation, please write in the memo line which item(s) you are donating towards.

### Care Center (Orphanage) Use:

- Clothing for boys, 8- 12 years old (summer clothing in good condition-no sleeveless)
- Soccer cleats
- Soccer Balls
- Frisbees
- Challenging Puzzles
- School Supplies
- Light Blankets or Quilts (good condition)
- Twin Sheet Sets (good condition)
- VCR (excellent condition)
- Pillows (new)

### Office Use:

2-3 Large Storage cabinets with shelves and locks

## Paintings for Africa



*One of HELP's previous mission trip participants, John Wechter, is now auctioning off paintings, inspired by his Africa experience. He will be auctioning one painting per month and all proceeds will be donated to HELP. If you would like more info, or to view his artwork, please visit his website at:*

[www.paintingsforafrica.com](http://www.paintingsforafrica.com)



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## Here's How You Can HELP

Would you like to make a donation to HELP? If so, please send a check to:

**HELP, Inc.**

**Attn: Lisa**

**5750 Elmo Weedon Road  
College Station, TX 77845**

On the **memo line** of your check, please write which project you would like your donation to go to:

**HELP: General Fund**

**Water wells**

**The Good Shepherd Primary School**

**Care Center**

**Medical Supplies**

**Items on wish list (please specify)**

