



October 18, 2008

My Dear Friends....

These are tough times indeed. I refused to look at the statements for our retirement accounts, but Joanne opened them up. It wasn't pretty! I'm sure that many of you are going through the same experiences.

Imagine what it is like in Africa! Gas has gone past \$7.00 a gallon and the cost of food is through the roof. All of this for people making less than \$700 a year.

While we are all anxious about the future of our economy, we must be thankful that we are not among the poorest of the poor in the world and that we still have the capacity for compassion for others.

Within the next few weeks **Joining Hearts and Hands** will be sending out our annual newsletter which is our major fundraising drive. If your address is on file, you will receive a copy via snail mail. **If you only receive e-mail updates and would like a newsletter, please respond to this e-mail with your address.**

As you can imagine, donations to Joining Hearts and Hands have slowed dramatically due to the crisis in the economy. That crisis is exacerbated in the third world. Won't you help? Every little bit helps and a very little goes a long way in Kenya. The good news is that the Kenyan Shilling is near 77 Shillings per U.S. dollar! That's nearly a 30% increase in value since our mission visit to Kenya and Tanzania in June.

Now for a quick update of **Joining Hearts and Hands'** progress over the past 4 months.

Hannah's Hope

The classroom structure for Hannah's Hope will be completed on October 22. The bathroom facilities will begin this week and the kitchen will follow soon thereafter. Please see the photo below. Isn't it beautiful!!!

The school year begins in January and Hannah's Hope will open with the coming new school year. Joanne and I will be traveling to Kenya for the opening along with Terry and Marilyn Congdon (Hannah's parents) and Elizabeth (Hannah's sister) and 9 friends and relatives. This will be a glorious celebration of the life of Hannah and all of the Angels, as the school will be dedicated to all 5 girls.



Hannah's Hope Nears Completion

Construction, Construction, Construction!!

In addition to Hannah's Hope, we have construction on-going on three additional sites. A kitchen is just being completed at Mbaka Oromo in Maseno, Kenya and two additional kitchens are under construction at Lufumbo and Iranda primary schools in Butere, Kenya.



Mbaka Oromo Kitchen



Iranda Kitchen Under Construction



Lufumbo Kitchen Under Construction

Joining Hearts and Hands works to improve the health of Africans by providing safe cooking environments and potable drinking water. Below is a photo of a newly completed water collection tank that we built at Lufumbo Primary School. It has become so popular that the villagers have been using it (The principal had to lock the faucet so that the kids had enough water!) It rains a lot in Western Province and the tank does a wonderful job of collecting clean, safe rain water from the school roof.



Lufumbo Water Collection Tank

Micro Businesses

We are happy to report that the micro-businesses we have started at Mbaka Oromo (tailoring), Iranda (horticulture) and the dairy goat project are thriving. We have established two breeding sites for dairy goats and we are anxiously awaiting the birth of our first kids! Check out our expectant goats below!



Kids are coming soon!!

Scholarships

Joining Hearts and Hands is supporting 67 students in secondary school due to individual donor sponsorship. We cannot tell you how important education is to the future of these beautiful children. **\$400 sponsors a child in secondary school with room and board for one year. If you want to save a life, there is no better way than to sponsor a child's education.** Joanne and I visit every one of our scholarship recipients twice a year. We bring letters and photos from sponsors and hope that a lasting relationship can be built.



Joanne, Bill and John with 3 Scholarship Students

John is a New Dad!!

John is our man on the ground in Kenya. He has been working with Joining Hearts and Hands for the past two years. He is an indispensable member of the Joining Hearts and Hands' family. On October 6th Eston Ed Muleshi was born. Congratulations John, Ed, and mom!



Multi-Media Presentations

Our presentations on Africa are visually vivid and grab all of your senses. Would you like us to present to your organization, club, group, school or classroom???? Joanne and I would be happy to spread the word. E-mail us at wcala@rochester.rr.com or jcala@rochester.rr.com and we can arrange a date!

There is a lot more to tell! Stay tuned for the annual newsletter!

With the hope of peace and joy for all children of the world,

Bill and Joanne Cala

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Our website is having technical problems. The following URL will get you to **Joining Hearts and Hands** while the problems are being ironed out. Thanks for your patience.

<http://themagicaldressfoundation.org/>

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