

Baird Congo Journal # 10 – Orphans in School – Wish You Could Have Been Here

Dearest Partners,

Have you ever been scooped up by the Holy Spirit to do a certain thing for God about which you had no prior knowledge? Well that is exactly what happened to me a few weeks ago when God introduced me to this new Orphan Ministry! Our Majestic Father is amazing beyond my ability to comprehend! Give him all glory and praise!

Wish you could have been here on Saturday, when I counted out 14 one hundred dollar bills to the Minister and Elders of the Bizimana Christian Church. They were most amazed to have all that money in hand only days after we had discussed what would be needed to get all 41 orphans in school by today, Monday, September 12, 2011. They could not stop saying, “Asante Mungu, asante Mungu!” “Thank you God, thank you God!” And they could not stop thanking all of you! We all had a cup of chai and prayed and just let the joy soak in.

It only took a few more minutes for them to realize all the work *they* would have to do in the next two days. Since this is the first time circumstances have ever been that they could pay for 41 children to enter school, they had to take time to think! These leaders want all members of the Bizimana congregation to understand as much of the whole picture as possible.

1. The church must continue its own ministry of feeding and caring for the orphans.
2. The church is responsible to use all funds as necessary, and to account for as much as possible (they will not have receipts for some items because uniforms, shoes, notebooks, etc, are bought at an open market where cost is cheaper because items may be bargained for).
3. For now, the contributions for the missionary and the American Christian are funding for schooling, financial oversight and lots of prayer.

Financial Report: Thus far, we have received commitments for \$3,625.00 toward Orphan Schooling. We needed \$3,510.00 to get them enrolled, clothed and the 1st trimester’s tuition paid. This means that we already have \$115.00 toward the 2nd trimester. We will need \$1,300.00 for the 2nd and 3rd trimesters, for a total \$2,600.00. And, two individuals have committed to supporting this ministry full time before I have even had time to ask or arrange for it. WOW!

Please pray for the Bizimana Elders in their new tasks and for these children as they enter school. I will shortly have pictures of all the children and their families for you to view.

As I have already asked, please pray for me as I listen to the way God has planned for us to spiritually and financially carry out this ministry.

Blessings to All,

Dawn

PS Many thanks to Jean Pierre, our wonderful friend and colleague, who scoured Bukavu looking for a source to loan us money until the wire transfer arrives this coming Friday the 16th.