

DECEMBER 2022 Newsletter

THE NEWSLETTER OF BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

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Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time when we want to make special memories, wrap them up, and tie them with a bow. In our efforts to make Christmas "perfect," we could miss that Jesus's birth was perfect in its imperfections.

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14

If we look at the situation around Jesus's birth, Joseph and Mary were a family in crisis. Giving birth to a child away from home and in a barn is far from ideal. When we hear the story, I never think that Mary and Joseph should have planned better. We feel compassion for this young mother and her family's situation, and we are saddened that no one helped them.

BCH's mission comes from James 1:27. We care for the fatherless—the most vulnerable. One of these children is Bruce. We care for at-risk children, like Bruce, in three focused and meaningful ways:

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BRUCE | 17 YEARS OLD | ZAMBIA



Bruce is 17 years old, one of 8 grandchildren living together with Grandma Mary in Zambia. When we first began to assist this family, he was insecure and withdrawn, very quiet, rarely smiled, and kept to himself. He had never been to school, was poorly clad, and refused to even try school because of his age. How could he start with the first graders? Sponsorship provided him with a secure house, blankets, adequate food, clothing, and private tutoring to learn to read in a safe environment of home and church. (continued on page 2)

HOMES OF COMPASSION

Homes of Compassion provides a temporary home at no charge for children whose families are facing crises in the U.S. Our HoC caseworkers, Hailey and Kortney, share more on page 3.

BCH CARES

BCH Cares is our trauma training ministry teaching how to care for those who have been affected by crisis. Meet Nicole, our new Director of BCH Cares.

HEARTS OF COMPASSION

Hearts of Compassion is our international program rescuing vulnerable children by providing hope through safe, loving homes. Hearts Director Debby tells more and introduces our new "remote" employee Darius.

This year, as you celebrate the birth of Jesus, I ask that you consider helping the vulnerable in our care. With your Christmas gift, together we can make a difference to children and families in crisis. Christmas is a wonderful time to give. Your gift will create a long-lasting legacy.

Merry Christmas,

Linda Brooks

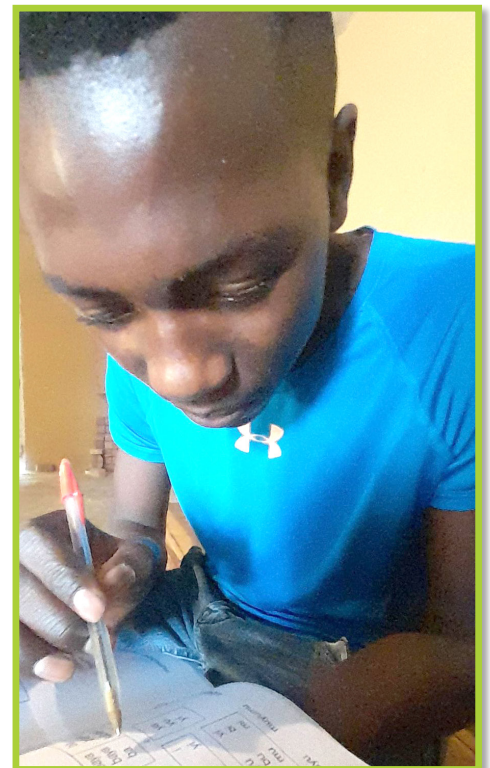
Linda Brooks
President

P.S. Your gift will help children like Bruce feel a renewed sense of hope for the future. If you would like to give in honor or memory of a loved one, we would be happy to send an acknowledgment of your generosity and thoughtfulness. Perfect for someone who "Doesn't need anything" this year.



Bruce has indeed changed in personality and confidence. After his tutoring sessions, his grandmother says he goes home and practices reading and writing. She says his attitude at home has changed. He now listens to authority with respect. His relation-

ship has improved with his grandfather. Mary's husband was so grateful for the new changes to their home, that he began going to church. He never misses, is the first to attend, and recently prayed for salvation! The effect upon Bruce and all the children is immense. Bruce is growing in hope and confidence, social skills, and care. He is preparing himself for school in the future. He loves to play soccer with his friends and has a growing curiosity of this Christianity that has changed their family life.



A Good Hair Day

Hailey Rotkovich & Kortney Persuhn
Caseworkers for Homes of Compassion

homes of
COMPASSION
A MINISTRY OF BCH, INC.



We, Hailey and Kortney, were able to get to know two amazing sisters, Jana* and Tati. Rides with the girls to and from school provided us the opportunity to connect with them daily. On Tuesday, the girls told us that they needed their braids done for picture day, which was on Thursday!

Usually, Mom gets everything

ready for picture day, but this year, Mom needed some help from us. With a looming deadline, we knew we had to move fast and find someone who could help. Some of a social worker's job is asking for help and finding resources. We were able to make a connection with a local hair stylist who was able to squeeze them in for an appointment! Not only did she make room in her schedule, but she donated her time to give these young ladies some gorgeous braids. Cecilia also took her time to teach us how to maintain the styles.

With children, sometimes the little things make a big difference. At HoC, we strive to keep children's lives as normal as possible while with their care family.

We knew how important it was for them to look and feel great for picture day. It might be a routine braid appointment, but to us and the care family, we saw the confidence of two young women skyrocket when they walked into school the next day. Thank you to all our volunteers for making the children in our care feel special and loved.

*Names changed for privacy



Ministering to Trauma

Nicole Moy
Director of BCH Cares

Trauma can be complex. Helping doesn't have to be.

For over 60 years, BCH has helped children and families "from hard places". During that time, we have seen the life-long impact that unresolved trauma has. As the Director of BCH's newest ministry, BCH Cares, I want to invite you to think differently about trauma.

As followers of Christ, we are called to come alongside those who are hurting. We know that while every church has children and families who have experienced trauma, 70% of leaders and volunteers do not feel comfortable knowing how to help. BCH Cares can help with that.

We will have four certified trauma trainers in January. If you are

interested in learning more about BCH Cares or to schedule a training, please email us at info@bch-cares.org. Learn more at www.bch-cares.org.

BCH CARES
trauma informed ministry
A MINISTRY OF BCH, INC.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRAUMA TRAINING, CONTACT US AT:
info@bch-cares.org or visit bch-cares.org

Our New "Remote" Employee and More

Debby Stowers

Director of Hearts of Compassion



him has been frequent and extremely valuable.

Darius is meeting a need for Hearts of Compassion by being our "feet on the ground" representative in Liberia. Through his work, he discovered that some of our children struggle in school because they must walk over an hour to the closest school available. Through this connection, we learn exciting stories as well as about illnesses, financial needs, and unique challenges. We then work together to expedite help.

Every international location has its challenges, such as rainy seasons, war, disease, corruption,

and extreme poverty. We strategically collaborate with our international care givers to provide the best individualized care for each child. This involves digging deep into their world, and the needs often are overwhelming.

The biggest blessing of my ministry is reading all the updates of our children and seeing pictures of their precious faces. I care about each of them individually, and I wish I could sponsor every child. Below are two featured children in our care, but I could share hundreds more. Learn more about sponsoring a child at www.bch-hearts.org or email me: debby@bch-inc.org.

I am thrilled to welcome Darius to the Hearts of Compassion team. His mother worked with one of our Liberian partners in Liberia, so Darius is new to our team, but has been in our lives for years. While he works remotely from Liberia, our communication with



Sponsor Their Future

Helen | Birthday: April 1, 2011 | 11 Years Old | Liberia

Helen's father died from a motor accident when she was still an infant. She likes cooking and wants to own her own restaurant.

See More Hearts of Compassion Children at bch-hearts.org

Kezena | Birthday: February 22, 2013 | 9 Years Old | Liberia

Loves: English, Math, Science, and Social Studies

Kezena likes smiling, reading, and studying for school.

She wants to become a national leader who will lead her generation to the right path, and maybe someday become the President. Kezena and her siblings lost their father in 2021.

