


INTERNATIONAL D.O.V.E. ASSOCIATION Inc

Development, Orphanages, Vocational Education

Box 4167 Olds, AB, Canada T4H 1P7 403-335-9199

www.internationaldove.com office@internationaldove.com

July 2007

IMPACT!!

IT HAS BECOME OBVIOUS...What life would be like for some children in Sierra Leone if Dove were not here.

Born with cleft lip and palate, he was thrown in the bush to die. His mother was dead and



Ibrahim before surgery.

he didn't look 'normal,' there was no one to love him. Someone found him and wanted to help him but didn't know how. He couldn't suck from a bottle. He just cried and cried. They took him to a Mercy Ships clinic and begged for help. The clinic called Dove. Dove went and got him.

His welcoming committee of over 20 children lined the road. A cheer went up for him as we stepped out of the car with him. Another life saved. Another little one brought home. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

Timothy, with his straw like orange hair and ribs sticking out is eight years old and weighs less than 20 pounds. He stands next to David and Jonathan and barely reaches their shoulders even though they are the same age. A Dove volunteer was taking pictures in



Ibrahim after his first surgery.



the community. His tiny, malnourished body was caught in the background of a photo. His mother had abandoned him because he was a sickly baby. The stress of a crying baby and the medical bills were more than she could bear. His young father sells cashew nuts near the prison and does not want him either.

There are more important things in life like having the latest model mobile phone and baggy jeans. The twelve year old girl who is supposed to take care of him runs off to play, leaving him in the dirt at the side of the road, as she does every day. Occasionally a neighbor will take pity on him and give him a mouthful of rice. A family in Ontario sells baked goods to raise money so Dove can reach out to needy people in the community so we took a rice meal to him and fed him. Every day he gets a meal from Dove. Timothy begins to smile and play. His belly is now full. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

For months men swing their machetes, they carve out the jungle. For months they mix cement, carry stone and sand, lay block after block. For months they hammer and nail to build buildings. Month after month, year after year men from nearby communities greet each other as they trudge up and down the mountain to their jobs at Dove. Men who were hungry. Men who had sick children. Men who had no hope for employment. Now they share their skills. In the hot sun, they gladly carry stone and cement for pay. Now their wives have rice to cook and their children go to school. They are caught up in the vision of Dove's team - providing hope and a future for orphaned and abandoned children. They want to be part of the family. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

A 3 year old child runs from rebels in terror. She turns and sees a bullet enter the body of her mother, sees her fall, distorted in death.

The child hides under the bushes until it all becomes quiet. Night falls and she shivers in fear and loneliness. The next morning an old woman finds her, takes her to the burned out village and scrounges some food for her. Then the old woman sees a person with a Canadian flag on their arm, walking towards the village. She holds the dirty, hungry little girl out to the person, begging with gestures, for help. The Canadian person takes the little girl home to Dove, bathes and feeds her, hugs and comforts her. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

The community has a death, another child overcome by malaria. The whole neighborhood is wailing. The family is poor. They are shamed in front of their friends and neighbors because they do not have money to buy a white sheet to bury their child in. They send a neighbor to the Dove compound where they know they will find help. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

A 15 year old boy grimaces from the constant pain in his eyes. His eyes are cloudy and the pain is relentless. He is very sharp and bright in school but his school work has suffered now because of his eyes. He has no family, no one really cares that his eyes hurt. Then one day some foreign people come to see him. The Chief has mentioned to them that this boy is going blind with glaucoma. They take him to a good eye specialist and then home to their compound. They pay for his medicine and give him a home. They put him in an English school and he thrives. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

A tiny 20 pound boy struggles under the weight of the firewood piled on top of his head. The load weighs 50 pounds and his feet slip, he staggers but rights himself. He is

desperate to get the firewood to market. If he doesn't sell it all, his guardian will beat him and he will go to sleep on the cold dirt floor once again without any thing to eat. He dreams of going to school, becoming an accountant. He is good with figures. He should be. He is a child slave, selling wood for his guardians since he was old enough to walk. He is now 12 years old. His parents were killed in the war. No one cares anything about him except that he meets his quota in the market. No one cares that he hasn't eaten in 3 days. Then one day some foreign people come to him. They call out his name. He wonders if he might beg a couple coins from them for something to eat but they do more than that. They take his pile of wood and throw it in the ditch. They show him a paper. They tell him it means he is going to live with them now. They tell him he will never again collect fire wood, he is free to be just a boy. He is going to share a house with other boys his age. He is going to go to school. He can be an accountant one day if he wants to. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

A young girl has become a master of escape. She escaped repeatedly from the rebel attacks against her family and friends. She remained unhurt and untouched. But the rains are starting soon. She needs a place to sleep, something to eat. She makes her way to the city with throngs of other homeless people. Someone directs her to a church. She steps inside and the pastor greets her with a smile and a pat on her back. He takes her home, promising to take care of her as the Bible commands, as a good Christian should. That night the horrors begin as he attacks her in the night. "You owe me, I saved your life. I gave you a home and food to eat so do as you're told," he tells her. Month after month he abuses her. She escapes into her mind. She has no other place



to go. Then a woman comes to the door and takes the girl away. She is led into her new home. No one ever touches her again except to give her a hug and a smile. They teach her to love back, to care about others. They give her regular meals and put her in school. She no longer needs to escape. She is safe. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***

Bible study is over and the girls walk back to Dove village. It is dark; they are wearing flip flops on their feet. Suddenly one of them begins to scream in pain. A snake has bitten her toe. She is rushed back to Dove then on to the hospital. The doctor hesitates and then whispers, "The medicine is costly. Should we just let her die?" A donation has come to Dove that very week to be used as needed. She endures days of torturous pain, medicines and Intensive Care but she is alive. She will recover. ***But what if Dove wasn't here...***



Is Dove making an impact in Sierra Leone? All the above stories are true. They are the kids we care about, live with, teach in school. This is our community. We are the ones people run to when they have a crisis. Sometimes it is overwhelming. Sometimes it is emotionally draining. But what we are here for? Isn't this God's love in action? Isn't this what we are called to do? Some are called to be overseas, some are called to pray, some are called to encourage and some are called to give. Which one are you?



We Have An Oven!!!

We can now bake our own bread and goodies to sell in the community. A primary school in England held musical concerts and other fund raisers so we could have an oven. They have now had another fund raiser so we can finish the kitchen with counters, ceramic tile to keep it clean and a charcoal stove indoors so the rain doesn't interfere with meal making. Thank You!



We Have A Wall!!!



Our miracle wall is almost complete! A cement block wall all the way around 12 acres on the side of a mountain seemed impossible a few months ago. Thank you to each and every person who gave money to make this wall possible. Our children are now safe. We ran out of money with 125 feet to go but that is good news! We found out that our road is going to be fixed (constructed) and we may lose the front of our property in road allowance. If we had completed the wall, they may have knocked it down for the road work! Once the road is done, we will finish our wall. For now all that is left is the gate. This is very, very exciting.



FROM Dove's BOARD

Phil came back to Canada at the beginning of January to attend Dove's annual meeting and to have surgery on his knee. Due to complications with his recovery, Phil is still in Canada at this time. He has blood clots that are not breaking up and move through his body which can cause him great pain at times. His knee causes him more pain now than before the surgery. Please pray for Phil's health, for encouragement, for wisdom as he pursues other medical options. Pray for Phil & Judy during this time apart and for Judy as she runs the work in Sierra Leone without him.