



INTERNATIONAL D.O.V.E. ASSOCIATION Inc

Development, Orphanages, Vocational Education

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A GIFT...Of Love and life



How many of us can understand the desperation of a 17 year old mother, holding her baby against her chest while he screams with hunger and she has nothing to give him? Which of us can understand the despair of a young father as he holds his newborn infant while his wife takes a dying breath, leaving behind 5 children?

With so much controversy going on in the media right now over the adoption of children from unfortunate circumstances in third world countries, we would like to share some of our own success stories. We want you, our readers and supporters, to understand how significant your role is in the care of our Dove children.

Above is little "Daddy" with his adoptive sister and brother. Little Daddy was born to one of our orphan girls. She found herself pregnant just before she moved in to our Dove Children's Home. She was 16 years old. She didn't even know what the whole childbirth process was! She was devastated by what had

happened to her and became depressed, knowing she could never take care of her child. Little Daddy would have become another statistic in Sierra Leone - a child raised by a child, without the means to feed and clothe him. She certainly would never have been able to send him to school.

More of the story...

Little Daddy

The alternative for her was to have him adopted. All of us have our own viewpoints about adoption: taking a child out of his natural environment, removing him from his birth mother, having mixed families. Well, little Daddy, *who is now named **Samuel***, is shown above with his adoptive sister and brother. His expression says it all as he thrives with his family in Alberta, Canada. He is loved and cared for by his new family and enjoys all the benefits of an affluent country. He receives everything that children are entitled to - food, clean water, clothing. He basks in the love of a family unit. We can't begin to compare this to what life would have been like had he stayed in Sierra Leone. By being adopted, he has received the gift of love and the gift of life.

Thank you

Food, clothing, education and a safe, caring environment are basic human rights but they are often denied to children in this country! Dove works very hard to provide these benefits to our children. They are loved and cared for by our staff and are given the best home environment that we can give them. Once they have completed the education that we can give them here in Sierra Leone, many of them will receive scholarships to complete their education abroad. The goal and mission of Dove is to raise these kids to the very best of our abilities, so that they can become leaders in their communities, helping to better this country for future children.

Thank you for the part that each of you plays: some by adopting, some by school scholarships, some by child sponsorships and some by prayer. We would not have a ministry if you did not partner with us.

Melrose

Melrose is another little Dove that is on the edge of receiving the benefits of adoption to Canada. She is a beautiful 6-year-old girl who bounces around our compound, communicating with all that surrounds her in a full-bodied voice. In desperation her mother and father deserted her because they were unable to care for her. Melrose was brought to us almost a year ago and she has received kindergarten level schooling, regular meals, a bed of her own and good medical care. *When she arrives in Canada*, she will be enveloped into full family life with parents, brothers and sisters. Melrose's adoption is completed but she is now caught up in Canadian

Immigration red tape. Her adoptive parents came to take her home but ended up having to leave her behind because her case stalled at the Canada Immigration visa office, something that was unforeseen and shouldn't have happened. When the adoptive parents were forced to leave Sierra Leone without Melrose, it was heart wrenching to hear Melrose' sobs. ***Please pray with us that the visa will be made a priority so Melrose can join her new family in Ontario by Christmas!***



Journey's end-

David and Jonathan Nelson –

New Canadian Citizens!

David and Jonathan are our very own twins. They were abandoned at 5 months old by a despondent young mother who later died. She was unmarried and desperate. The elderly caregiver that she left them with could not care for them either and they began to starve to death. At two years old they were sickly and weighed only 14 pounds. Dove found them and brought them home where they were immediately embraced by the entire staff of Dove and all the children. They became the legal children of Nelson's a few months later. ***It has been a 6-year process, but they are now Canadian Citizens! They will be able to enjoy all the benefits and joys that life has to offer a Canadian child.*** They have a unique life as they continue to live part time in Sierra Leone as well as Canada with their adoptive parents. If you ask them, they will tell you that they feel they get the best of both worlds. They are eager for each Dove child to follow in their footsteps – for them to grow up in a safe, secure environment, to receive a good education and everything needed to equip them to return to Sierra Leone one day to help improve their own country for the benefit of future children.





We Have A Baby! Sponsor needed!


Two-week-old Ibrahim weighs in at 2.2 kgs. He joined our Dove family just a few weeks ago. We received a call from the Mercy Ships clinic one morning and asked if we could take a baby. We asked our Dove family what they thought and it was a unanimous YES. Ibrahim was born with a cleft palate and lip. His mother died 3 days after giving birth. The father took one look at Ibrahim's deformity and declared him

to be a devil. He took the little newborn baby into the bush and left him there to die. Someone called Ibrahim's uncle who went to the bush and saved him. The uncle is a single man and unable to care for a baby, especially one with special needs. In desperation he took the baby to the Mercy Ships clinic and begged for help. When Ibrahim has reached sufficient weight, he will go to Liberia, where one of the Mercy Ships will be docking, and receive surgery to repair his palette and lip. We praise the Lord for bringing us this little baby to care for and be part of our Dove family.

You Can BE A PART OF THIS!

 Even though Dove is no longer facilitating adoptions, you can still partner with us to care for the children physically, emotionally and to sponsor their education so they can grow up to be young men and women loving and serving a God who cares. Our website now has information on sponsorship. It will be completed in the near future with information on all our children and staff. You can actively take part in raising a child through financial giving.

 If you feel you can't commit to a sponsorship, you can also help with one-time gifts for food, education and housing for our kids. We always welcome *Birthdays or Christmas gifts* for the children as well. You can sponsor or send gifts to our house parents – Daniel and Augusta. They love and care for each and every child as if they were their own. You can email the children and Daniel and Augusta through Dove's administration at intdove@hotmail.com. We have made donating easy by putting a button on our website under the **MAKE A DIFFERENCE - Donate** section.

 You can give your time. Come over for a couple weeks, a month or a year. Teach in our school, putter on our plantation then help a child with homework, do some mechanics then read a bed time book to a child, do some carpentry and teach a young teenager the basics, give them a hug, a smile – they will love you for a lifetime.

BE A PART OF DOVE- GIVE THE GIFT OF LOVE AND LIFE

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- ◇ I want to commit to a monthly gift of \$
 - ◇ Please accept my Christmas/Birthday gift for a Dove child \$
 - ◇ I want to sponsor a child at \$30/month
 - ◇ I want to sponsor the house parents at \$___/month
 - ◇ I want to help towards a child's education in the amount of \$
 - ◇ I promise to pray regularly for a Dove child. Please add me to your email prayer list. My email address is: _____
 - ◇ I want to give my time to help the Dove children. Please send me more information on volunteering.

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