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OUR ORPHANS HAVE SHOES

by Mike Jones

Whenever I see new shoes, I'm taken back to memories of "the bare-foot preacher", and the many people of years gone by attending Sunday morning Church services with no shoes. Both yesterday and today, only one's very best is worn when going to church. To be without shoes in church meant nothing was owned, found, or borrowed that could cover the feet. Bare-foot people in church is something never seen today, which is one of many "signs" of God's blessing His people all over this land. I've come to the bus station in Kalomo to collect a package of shoes bought in Lusaka (six hours drive) for orphans. The bus station people met me, informing me that the package of shoes would not fit in my vehicle. We had sent money to friends in Lusaka with sizes of shoes to be purchased. They wrapped the shoes in thick plastic and stuffed it in the lower luggage space of a big bus. People came off of the buses and help push and pull and roll the huge package on top of our vehicle roof rack. I've included a picture of only some of the shoes being divided for orphan children we support (partnership with Global Orphan Relief).

From the very beginning of our orphan care, when people

bring their orphaned relative children to us, we go ourselves to "inspect" the actual conditions to seek the Lord's guidance on what the child really needs. Some need a home, blessing us with another



child. Others just need a little help, like paying school fees, uniforms, etc., allowing the child to remain with their relatives. When we began helping orphans in the

valley of Sinazongwe (near Lake Kariba) a local pastor had given us the names of one-hundred and six orphaned children that wanted to live with us in our home. We discovered that only six of these children actually needed to live with us. The others were better off staying with their relatives with a little assistance from Noah Ministries. These are orphaned children that would likely not be able to go to school without our help.

The Zambian government has made it so the relatives can't just bring their children to us, unless the government has approved. By the way, we never ask or take money from any government. They could do this because the economics of the country has improved (God's grace), enabling most people to care for their orphaned relatives. And causes that create orphans, like the overall health of the people, has greatly changed for the better. Orphans will always be with us, but God is answering our prayers with fewer suffering orphans. Namwianga (Church of Christ) Mission on the opposite side of Kalomo has

closed their orphanage, along with several others. We are actually caring for far more orphans that ever before through school sponsorship.

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The school sponsorship has taken on a life of its own, and become a great tool for evangelism and church growth. The pastors that help us identify needy orphans gather the children with their relatives in church where they thank God for blessing them with things like uniforms. They did this on their own and put the church services on Facebook. People are saved in these meetings, and “touch” by God in various ways. While the children we have taken into our homes providing total care (really an adopted family) are just as precious to us as ever, and are really doing great. Our heart for orphans and the leading of the Lord has positioned us to reach more orphans with the love of God, and more relatives/people with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

These pastors that are helping us support orphans in their communities and holding special church services that are well attended for the supported orphans and their relatives

(usually many) are either former or present MOT-MOT (School of Ministry) students. I’ve put much emphasis on MOT-MOT as the Lord directed, often sleeping two weeks a month in a tent, and the results (fruit) is very evident. It’s like God multiplied Mike Jones many times over. Every MOT-MOT class gets better because God continu-

the beginning of classes each day spiritually lifts the heavy load of work and rugged travel, “fruit” that blesses my soul, and leaves me wondering how I can express these experiences with you, our partners. The word is getting out about the class, and people are excited. So am I!

Calls for me to come and preach are so many, as people “hunger and thirst” for more of



God, I’ve directed them to call my wife and let her schedule for me. God still saves, heals and delivers. As I prayed with people that had come forward in church for healing, a man took my

ously teaches and reveals new things to me which I share in the classes and preach in the churches. The class in Chifusa continues to grow. It sounds too good to be true, a university level course coming to the very rural villages. Church pastors and even multi-church overseers called me saying they wanted to come next time. The testimonies given at

hand and pulled me down the aisle dancing all the way. He had limped to the front of the church for prayer, and God healed him! You were dancing with us, because you partnered with us. The orphaned children we sponsor with school uniforms wear those uniforms to church, because it is the best they have. Remain Faithful,

Prayer

For our many children, strong in the Lord.
For spreading this great move of God..
For greater uplifting out of poverty.

Praises

For youth working into leadership in churches.
For healings and miracles.
For the most beautiful crops I’ve ever seen.

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