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Deus Meus et Omnia
(“My God and My All”)

Spring 2014



Beloved Co-Missionaries,

It is my fervent wish that each of you and your families enjoyed a Blessed Easter and that God showered abundant blessings upon all for your most generous sharing and caring. At the present time I am preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27th and the canonization of Pope John XXIII and Pope John Paul II on this very special day. I hope you too are praying in preparation for this joyous feast as well.

My Easter here at the Villa was a joyous one and the sisters and I were tremendously blessed. I am feeling so much better than last year at this time and I thank all who have consistently prayed for me and my recovery. From the bottom of my heart I thank you. Each of you are so special to me and my children are so grateful. They called me on Easter

from Liberia and sang to me and then each spoke for about five seconds each. I think I was just as happy as they were to hear their voices as they were to hear mine! They seem to be getting along fairly well with the help of the new foundation but now EBOLA has traveled across the border from Guinea and numerous cases are affecting Liberians. Please keep all in your prayers as they struggle with their worries and try to continue on their daily schedules.

I have asked Kevin to please put the enclosed photo of my dear brother and Pope Francis in this attachment. Don't they look terrific together? He loves Rome and he will be returning for the canonization of the two Popes and he is eager and ecstatic to be granted such a privilege.

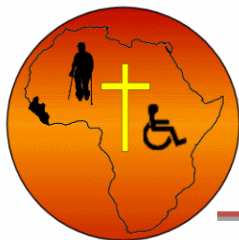
Please continue to pray for me and I hope by now you know that all of you are in my daily thoughts and prayers. May God Bless and love you now and forever.

In His name,

Sister Sponsa Beltran, OSF

Sister M. Sponsa Beltran OSF





Jerry Cebulski
African Disability Foundation Inc.
"Disability does not mean inability"



Spring 2014



Dear Co-Missionaries of Liberia's disabled,

We hope that you all had a Blessed Easter and are preparing for Divine Mercy Sunday. Kevin has returned from Africa and as with any trip to Liberia, we have always found that it is extremely eventful. This one did not disappoint us in any way.

For months prior to Kevin's departure, we received phone calls, emails and texts from the older girls on the Rehab campus. They told us they were not able to flush any of the commodes. This, of course, was one of the top priorities for our staff and Kevin to investigate on his trip. In preparation, we had Victor (Rehab president) hire a contractor to evaluate the water problem and possibly a septic problem. By the time Kevin arrived, the bad news had already been gathered. The contractor's report showed that all of the septic systems were clogged and the well was not producing any water. Victor was wise enough to find a contractor that was used by the U.S. Embassy.

We cannot express our gratitude enough for your generosity because we would never have been able to begin, much less finish, the huge project of fixing this problem. Many of you remember that in May 2004, Sister had a terrible fire in the boys' dormitory. At that time no one even thought about the water pipes or septic system. When the work men exposed the pipes, it was discovered that they were PVC and had apparently melted during the fire, thus blocking all waste materials from getting through. All of the pipes had to be replaced and the septic systems had to be chemically drained. All 14 commodes had to be swapped out as well.





The well and the water tower were a separate issue. The tower was getting very little water from the well and what was brought up was extremely dirty. The old water tower was very contaminated and had stopped functioning. The hand pump currently in use kept breaking down. After much consultation, we were able to install two 1,000 gallon reservoirs on the top of the existing tower. Spigots and a filtration and purification system were set up at the base of the tower and a new

electric pump and larger generator were purchased and installed. We knew that the Rehab certainly needed maintenance, but the adults running the campus today cannot in any way afford the repairs that were needed and continue to take place. At the first sound of water, cheers and screams rose throughout the entire campus. Something so simple as clean running water is essential and because of you, they have this again. There is still so much to be done but with your help, we are gradually making progress. We have only just begun!

When the current Rehab location was established in late 1999, there were no running showers or sinks. As I like to refer to it, the “Little House on the Prairie” method has always been used. This is the next project we would like to tackle as in all these years, everyone has bathed out of a little basin and hands are washed in buckets in which the water is never changed enough. After getting estimates to bring clean water into both dormitories, the school, and other buildings, it will cost approximately \$10,000. The buildings need more paint and some of the tin roofs continue to leak. We also obtained an estimate on bringing electricity into all of the buildings, which will cost an additional \$6,000. These are larger, long term goals that we have for the Rehab.

As I stated in our last newsletter, we opened an infirmary in the boys’ dormitory and hired a gentleman who worked for Sr. Sponsa to care for our most ill residents. While in Liberia, Kevin and our staff visited the infirmary many times, especially Rafic, who was abandoned and brought to Sister upon her return to Liberia from exile in the Ivory Coast in 1998. He was terribly ill for years and yet no diagnosis was ever determined. On April 22, we received a call from Sister’s “children” that he had passed away at 32 years of age. Please keep him in your prayers.





Two days after Kevin returned, we received word that Victor's house, which is near the Rehab, was robbed by 10 rogues armed with machetes, guns and knives. They came to kill Victor, but he was not home. So they stole everything they could carry and beat up Victor's wife, Felicia and their nine year old son, Joseph. They came seeking money for drugs. Prior to this trip, we heard that safety had become a real concern at the Rehab and the surrounding communities. Here, we once

again woke up to the reality that the handicapped are so vulnerable in protecting themselves and their own families. While in Liberia, Kevin noticed many homes and stores installed heavy metal doors over their entrances. We knew Sister Sponsa had these installed over the chapel doors and at one entrance of the boys' dormitory. We immediately called and made arrangements for iron doors to be installed at the entrances of the other Rehab buildings and Victor's house. It was only after this was done that the girls admitted that rogues were seen roaming near the campus and they were very frightened. The following is a note of thanks that Victor sent after all this work had been completed:

DEAR SPONSORS, ANGIE, EILEEN, KEVIN, ET AL,

GREETINGS!!!

MY FAMILY AND I DO NOT ACTUALLY KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE FOR SO MUCH THAT YOU HAVE DONE FOR ALL OF US, ESPECIALLY AT THE TIME OF OUR DYING NEED.

ACTUALLY, I COULD NOT WRITE IMMEDIATELY BECAUSE WE WERE SO CONFUSED. I GUESS WE WERE IN SHOCK BECAUSE WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE WOULD GO TO MY HOUSE FOR MONEY. THEY KNOW THAT WE HAVE SO LITTLE AND THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY TAKEN IN MY NEPHEWS AND 4 ORPHAN CHILDREN. THE WORST THING ABOUT IT IS THAT EVEN IF WE KNOW THE PEOPLE, WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING.

WE THANK GOD FOR EACH OF YOU BECAUSE WE ARE NOW ABLE TO FEEL SECURE ONCE AGAIN. WE KNOW OUR PROTECTION IS WITH THE LORD AND IT IS THE ALMIGHTY WHO WATCHES OVER US. FELICIA WAS TERRIBLY FRIGHTENED AND BY NOT LOOKING AT THEM, SHE BEGGED FOR HER LIFE. SHE HAS RETURNED TO SCHOOL AND SHE HAS COPIED ALL HER NOTES FROM FRIENDS. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TWO BLOOD PRESSURE CUFFS AND STETHOSCOPES THAT KEVIN BROUGHT WERE BOTH TAKEN. BUT, WE KNOW THAT THESE ARE JUST THINGS AND THEY CAN BE REPLACED. GOD SAVED OUR LIVES.

LET GOD BLESS EACH OF YOU ONCE AGAIN. YOU ARE ALWAYS IN OUR PRAYERS FOR ALL YOUR GENEROSITY. PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR US AS THE EBOLA VIRUS HAS CROSSED THE OPEN BORDER FROM GUINEA INTO LIBERIA.

*IN CHRIST,
VICTOR AND FAMILY*

This was our rude awakening to the arrival of Ebola into Liberia. Kevin had only arrived home when we heard that Ebola was killing people in Guinea. The Liberian president has refused to close the border between the two countries and therefore, the outbreak continues. From research we have found that this is a new strain of this virus which is spread through contact with bodily fluids. Unfortunately, many of the symptoms are similar to malaria and typhoid which are both very common in Liberia. Planes continue to travel in and out of the country. There is no cure for this hemorrhagic disease and it is highly communicable. We have sent, via email, instructions on how everyone can protect themselves. Although the outbreak has somewhat slowed, there continues to be new cases every day. Please continue to keep them all in your prayers as this is a very real threat, especially to our village children.



As Victor mentioned, his family has now grown from one child to seven. Felicia leaves for school early in the morning and Victor proceeds to the Rehab with the seven who are all enrolled in the Our Lady of Fatima Community School. Most had never seen a school before this. Annie, another leader at the Rehab, has recently taken in a four year old little girl, Princess, whose mother abandoned her and her father was no longer able to raise her. Miata, who is Principal of the Rehab school, has recently adopted Muneer, who can help her draw water from the well and push her in her wheelchair from one

building to another. As you can see, they have established a pattern, following in the footsteps of Sister Sponsa. Regardless of their poverty, they are always finding orphans who are in worse shape than themselves. What a tribute to Sister who accepted everyone who was left at her door in the name of Jesus Christ!

While Kevin was out in the villages with his staff, he admitted seven more disabled into the program. Two little boys, ages 9 and 10, were both hit in separate incidents by motorcycles this past October 2013. Both Abenigo (right) and Mohammed (left) had to have their left legs amputated, one below the knee and the other above. Abenigo attends school and lives with his aunt and uncle, but emotionally, he has been deeply affected by the loss of his leg. Mohammed also attends school and has adjusted



well to the loss of his limb, even playing soccer on his crutches with some of the local children. Both will eventually need prosthetics.



We have had a number of questions about Omo's progress. He was the boy who had gangrene of his leg and needed an amputation, but his guardian uncle would not give his permission to save the boy's life. Upon arrival in Liberia, Kevin and our staff headed right for the uncle's house. Reluctantly, the uncle finally gave permission for the procedure. When the boy was taken to the hospital, they were referred to another hospital where a new orthopedic surgeon had just arrived. When this new doctor saw Omo's leg, he told Kevin that Omo did not need an amputation. Mind you, this is after seeing at least six American doctors who unanimously agreed that gangrene had definitely set in. We are attempting to find another doctor in Liberia who may have more experience with cases like this, but even the medical care there is not as advanced as in the U.S. At this point, the family is confused

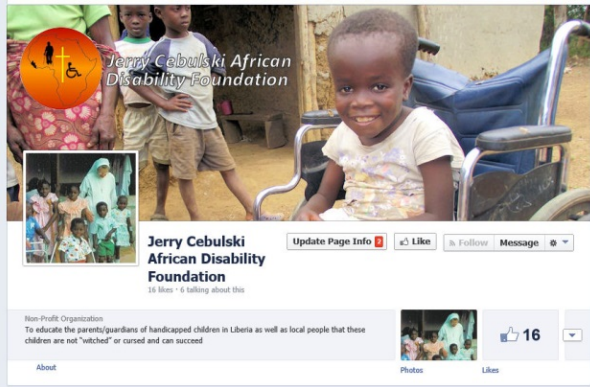
and even if they agreed to the amputation, none of the hospitals are accepting new patients now because of the Ebola virus. It is just so sad that this family has waited for so long to allow us to help this child (over 1½ years).

One day, while out in the villages, Kevin heard his name being called. When he looked up, who was across the road, but Abraham, our 15 year old, who had recently had a massive hernia removed. His smile was so big and he was so happy that he no longer had to be embarrassed. So, as you see, with all the tragedies, God always manages, through your caring and sharing, to help us help so many, one handicapped at a time. The following is a little note of thanks from Abraham:



Thank you, thank you to all of the donors of JCADF!! It is my hope that God blesses you for all that you are doing for us. I am so appreciative for the food, clothes, surgery and the new bed that I have to sleep on. I ask God every night to bless all of you for what you have done for me. You have made me so happy! I pray that God continues to bless your family and meet all your needs as you have met mine.

*Thank You!!
Abraham*



We are now officially on Facebook! - www.facebook.com/JCAfricanDisabilityFoundation . As with our official website –

www.africandisabilityfoundation.org , both of these are ongoing works in progress. The tax returns and financial report should be posted on the site within the next two weeks. Any suggestions for fundraisers are gratefully accepted. Presentations for groups are always available upon request in any location. Please

contact us at the phone or email at the end of the newsletter for more information or to make a request. Items have been posted in our online store - <http://shop.africandisabilityfoundation.org/> , so please visit us, especially for birthdays, anniversaries and confirmations. In the future we will continue to add additional items, so please keep coming back!

A Knights of Columbus council in Oklahoma City has expressed an interest in helping us obtain wheelchairs for our severely disabled. If you have computer access, please go to <http://www.kofc.org/un/en/service/affiliate/wc/index.html> and it will show you that Knights all over the country have embraced a wheelchair project for the disabled. So, if you are a Knight, please contact Kevin and perhaps we can link your council up with the one in Oklahoma City. This is such a tremendous need!

Once again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your unending sacrifices and generosity towards His least.

In His Name,

Angie Cebulski

Eileen Rockensies

Kevin J. Rockensies

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All contributions should be made out to:

JCADF

and sent to:

***Jerry Cebulski African Disability
Foundation***

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Shavertown, PA 18708

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