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Deus Meus et Omnia
(My Lord and My All)

Spring 2015



My Dearest Co-Missionaries,

I pray that this little note finds each of you and your beloved families well and enjoying a little sunshine and looking forward to a wonderful summer. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all of your Birthday wishes and prayers. I appreciate you and your generosity to my Liberian children so much and you never forget me.

As I sit here in our new chapel I think about the increasing number of poor and downtrodden in Liberia. If only the world would take your great example of caring and sharing with His Least, then we would have no more wars. Your love and concern for the Least of His Brethren shines out in this darkened world of ours and calls out loudly for PEACE. For those who know the rosary, please make sure you pray it on a daily basis for it is Mary's gift to us and our armor of protection against the evil one.

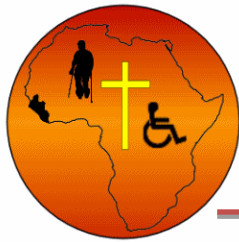
Never forget Fatima and our Mother's messages to us. Prayer, Fast and Sacrifice can conquer all of the terror that is in the world today. My friends and family, this is not a message for just today. It is a message for all and forever. My children in Liberia—so many have forgotten what I taught them about the power of prayer and they have severely strayed from our family and flock. Please try hard to remember them in your prayers. The evil one is on the prowl in search of souls who are no longer faithful to God. Unfortunately, he is winning over so many, especially our young who have forgotten how to pray and how to thank Him for all their blessings. Many don't even recognize what a blessing is today and yet we have so many -- healthy children, wonderful families, food on our tables, jobs, a roof over our head, a bed beneath us, clean water, sunshine, laughter and joy of family life and so many other gifts.

Know that you are in my prayers. I ask that you all remember me in yours even though I have nothing else to offer. I love you as you are all members of my faithful family. Remember, *“The family that prays together, stays together.”* - **Fr. Patrick Peyton**

A Super Grateful,

Sister M. Sponsa Beltran, OSF

Sister M. Sponsa Beltran, OSF



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



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JMJ

Spring 2015

Beloved Co-Missionaries,

It is our fervent prayer that you are all enjoying God's sunshine and flowers after this harsh winter. Up North, we had snow and ice and we can laugh now as we finally were able to take in the Christmas lights from the front lawn as the ice slowly thawed and released its grip on all the twinkles. We want you all to know that we remembered each of you and your loved ones on Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday and we pray that this season is especially joyous for each of you.



Sister Sponsa had a wonderful 90th birthday on March 25th and although she occasionally has set backs, she continues to speak with us on the phone very frequently. Her memory continues to be sharp and nothing seems to dampen that Beltran sense of humor. Her prayers continue for all and personally, I have no idea what I would do without them. Sister is so special as well as that loving sister of hers, Angie.

The last three months at the Rehab have been difficult. We have discovered cases of violence and abuse of power on the Rehab campus. The core group of leaders at the Rehab have decided to practice the Pentecostal faith instead of the Catholic faith in which they were raised. We have no problem with the Rehab residents choosing whatever faith they wish, especially since Sister Sponsa took in children of all faiths and did not discriminate. However, the disabled young adults who are in leadership have evicted and physically threatened those residents who do not agree with their ideas. They have prevented the local Catholic priests from coming to celebrate mass in the chapel on the campus and have asked us not to send them any contributions. What is so shocking is that we have disabled turning on their brothers and sisters who are disabled. We are helping those who are now without homes to rent rooms in houses off campus as it is no longer safe for them to live at the rehab. This has all come as a great shock to us and due to the nature of the situation, we have launched an intense investigation and we are now in litigation with the

residents involved. We are not happy with the current administration and their dishonesty with us here in the States. However, we have new leadership ready to step in once those who are causing problems are stopped.

This has been a very sad time and by all appearances, things always seemed to run smoothly at the Rehab. However, the residents causing problems always knew when visitors were arriving and leaving, so good behavior prevailed when our American staff would visit. Those disabled who are now living off campus were so afraid and intimidated and it took a long time until they mentioned how much they were suffering. Those who are now off campus are reuniting with others who were put off campus years ago, some with nothing to eat and begging for a few pennies to survive. When they were banned from the Rehab they were forced to leave everything behind. So "Operation Rescue" has begun in full force. We will continue to keep you posted through newsletters and anyone wishing to know more may contact us at any time.

Anyone who has known Sister Sponsa since the beginning knows we have a strict policy about NEVER releasing anyone's email addresses, names or addresses. Somehow this group of disabled appears to have obtained a few of our donor email addresses and have sent inflammatory emails about Sister, Angie, Eileen and JCADF. We ask that anyone who receives these emails to please remember we are sadly dealing with a violent and radical group of individuals and whatever they have to say, although painful, is simply not true. Unfortunately, it is this small group of disabled who are not as committed to the project that we, our families, and their fellow disabled Liberians have poured our hearts into for years. They are taking away from all the good that has been accomplished. We are working quickly to remedy the situation and justice will prevail with Mary and Her Divine Son.

In sharp contrast to this disturbance, those disabled who are off campus are working hard, distributing family food packages to thousands in communities in Sinkor and Paynesville. Many of these disabled young people are attending college or vocational schools and we now hire buses to allow them to attend Mass every Sunday and Holy Day. They have also begun a prayer ministry at a local church. They are all so happy to be back together again. The Pastor of the local church wrote me an email stating that "These disabled are just so special. They have brought new life into my parish and I truly miss their presence during the week as they are so enthusiastic about their



faith and helping others regardless of their own infirmities.” Some of these young people are married and have small children. We are helping some of them take classes preparing them for Baptism in the Catholic Church. We know why this large group is so special, because Sister Sponsa raised them. It is bittersweet since we cannot understand why a few have gone astray. All we can do is pray for them. Please join us.



On a joyful note, Victoria Harmon (one of our Liberian JCADF staff) was married to Thomas Woart on April 25, 2015 and it was a beautiful ceremony at the local Catholic Church. They had a wonderful little reception after the mass and of course all were invited and all attended with their families, including some of the local villagers who were excited to see a celebration.

Liberia today is a sad place. Fourteen years of civil war and almost a year and a half of Ebola has taken its toll. Liberia was just recently declared Ebola free. However, new cases have been discovered in bordering countries. So they are aware that it can flare up again at any moment and we still continue to encourage all to take precautions to protect themselves. The village children are doing very well and we have many enrolled in school. We have our first two high school graduates expressing interest in vocational school and they are deciding what field they are most interested in. We have several newly discovered disabled who need wheelchairs and beds. Our dream is to have more beds made for all we are caring for but right now our priority is keeping everyone fed and clothed. We continue to distribute monthly food to all the village children, the rehab residents living off campus in apartments, the blind community and the deaf community. Food and medical care are our top priorities! Without you they would all die of starvation.

Two of our off campus residents, Lovetta Kelly and Sam Karto, have established a tutoring and mentoring program for children who are unable to afford school. They are so surprised that so many parents are approaching them and asking for their children to join their “learning groups.” Lovetta and Sam are two very special disabled children of Sister's. Lovetta is completing her first semester in Stella Maris College and is majoring in teacher education.



Sam is in a vocational school and studying computer technology. Both were forced off the rehab campus but they are so grateful and happy that through your donations, they are being helped to get some semblance of order back in their lives. They repeatedly send BIG THANK YOU'S to each of you and their LOVE.

We send our deepest condolences to the family of Lottie Bunsick who passed away recently. We thank everyone for asking those attending the funeral to please send contributions to JCADF in lieu of flowers, in memory of their sibling, mother, sister and beloved friend. For her tremendous generosity through the years, we know that Lottie was met at the gates of heaven hearing those special words of love, "Well done my good and faithful servant." Thank you to all who continue to help us. We deeply need it and dearly appreciate your generosity and kindness in the midst of your grief.



Jack Benjamin was one of Sister's deaf children. He was forced to leave the rehab and was found wandering around without food and only the clothes he had on his back. Most of Sister's children know how to "sign" so when a few he grew up with saw Jack, they had no problem approaching him and finding out what happened to him. To say he was ecstatic to see them is putting it mildly. Here he is moving into a rented room with a new bed, clothes, food and daily essentials. He is now back reconnecting with the off campus rehab adults who include him in all their activities. We ask you to pray that we are able to get Jack into the Oscar Romero School for the Deaf in September where so

many of his friends are now living. The school is essentially at full capacity but they hope to admit some more of Sister Sponsa's children next semester if they have any openings.

This is Dionysius, a double amputee from the war who everyone lost track of. He is praying from his bible in thanksgiving after Sister Sponsa's children found him, heard his story and delivered food and clothes to his little hut. This is a man who has a master's degree in Library Science and taught at the Rehab school for many years. The suffering he has endured is almost intolerable. His faith and devotion have truly saved him.





The elderly gentleman you see here is Samuel Togbah. One of Sister's off campus adults found him and patiently listened to get his story. He lives with his only child—a grown daughter who has absolutely no interest in caring for her father. Up until a short while ago this man was able to move about and cook for himself as his daughter certainly was not sharing with him. He was also able to wash a few pieces of clothes and dry and bleach them in the hot African sun. All of that has now ended. He is no longer able to move and he is burning up with fever. He now needs to be carried to get to a bathroom or latrine, which does not happen often so he is soiled most of the time. Today we had one of

Sister's adults take him to the hospital for an evaluation. He is suffering from pneumonia, malaria, typhoid, diabetes, hepatitis, enlarged heart due to hypertension, a hernia which cannot be corrected due to his severe condition and malnutrition. He is very ill. He was given numerous medications and released. Obviously this gentleman is one of those who really has no one to care for him. He is grateful that someone cared enough to take him to a hospital and get him some medications. Ignore him and he will just disappear is the prevalent attitude. Unfortunately, many are just seen as useless and children frequently would rather not have them around. Many are starved to death. On a positive note there are some children who treasure their parents and their lives and do everything they can to keep them alive. There are no nursing homes and usually little money to go around. Please keep these "seniors" in your prayers as well. They have suffered so much through wars and trying to earn a few pennies to support their families. It is so sad! This gentleman will receive a wheelchair on Monday to help him as he heals. Once again thank you for saving another life. Without you we would not be able to help any of these precious souls.

How can we ever thank you for your caring and sharing? The needs keep increasing by the day as do the number of disabled. The poverty only seems to worsen and children and adults continue to struggle. Just this past week our off campus group found three little ones who were on the verge of dying. I feel that God keeps directing all of these sick and needy towards Sister's once "witched" children. They are not purposely looking for them. They just look up and there is someone else in dire straits. They are all like the "good Samaritans" of the Bible. We receive at least three texts, emails, or phone calls a day begging for some assistance for food, clean water or medical care for the disabled but also for the able bodied, especially the elderly. The port in Liberia continues to remain closed and we are still collecting necessary items to send. We certainly hope that the port will soon be open so the sea container can be sent by the end of this year. Please keep praying. We are so grateful to all who have contributed items to help fill the can. We have a way to go but we are steadily progressing.

Our love and prayers we once again extend to each of you for all of your kindness and generosity. May God bless you and your loved ones. Each of you are so special and it is truly an honor to know you and love you.

God Bless You All,



Angie Cebulski
Co-President



Eileen Rockensies
Co-President

All contributions should be made out to:

JCADF

and sent to:

***Jerry Cebulski African Disability
Foundation***

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Shavertown, PA 18708

Donations are tax deductible

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