



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



+
JMJ

Summer 2021

"Mankind will not have peace until it turns to my Mercy." (St. Faustina's Diary 300)

"Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

Beloved Co-Missionaries,

Summer has arrived and it is hard to believe that it is already almost July. Last week, we had temperatures in the 40's and 50's and this week it will be in the 80's and 90's. I wish that I could write you a completely happy and cheerful letter, but unfortunately as time goes by, every day brings more suffering for the disabled of Liberia. I keep thinking about Sister Sponsa and all of the lives she saved. The people of Liberia have definitely caught on that JCADF is the continuation of Sister's vision. So much has happened recently that it is difficult to know where to begin.



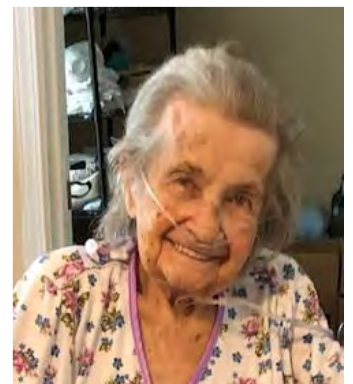
We recently appointed a new Board member, Teresa Shudak Goble. Teresa is a nurse, teaching at a college here in Pennsylvania. She is a relative of Sister Sponsa's and brings with her a wealth of new ideas. These would now like to introduce herself to all of you:

"My married name is Teresa Shudak Goble. I currently live in Johnstown, PA, but I grew up in Wilkes-Barre. I work teaching nursing at Mount Aloysius College in Cresson, PA, and I also care for my son James Goble. Sister Sponsa was one of my grandmother's (Matilda Shudak's cousins). I grew up visiting with Sister Sponsa when she came to Pennsylvania, and hearing of all the wonderful things she did in Liberia. My mom always made sure that we got to visit with my great Aunt Frannie when Sister Sponsa stayed with her. Sister Sponsa has always been so important to everyone in my family."

Welcome Theresa to the JCADF Family!

Joann Cebulski and Rosie Cebulski Morris, two of Angie's daughters, are very busy keeping Angie's spirits up and working on her speech and physical therapy. Angie has begun to speak again and she is showing genuine signs of improvement. She sends her love to each of you, and of course, her prayers.

Much of Liberia is on lockdown as the cases of Covid there are now explosive. Only the AstraZeneca vaccine is currently available and there certainly is not enough in the country to vaccinate everyone. They continue to wear masks, socially distance and keep to themselves. We find that most Liberians are petrified of contracting the Delta variant of the disease and there is a shortage of available beds in the



hospitals. Their government is telling everyone in the country to stockpile vitamins C, D, E, B-complex and paracetamol, which is similar to Tylenol. Unfortunately, they fail to acknowledge that their people are so poor they do not have access to these vitamins or if they did, they would not have the funds to purchase any of them. When you live in the bush there is not a local pharmacy where people can simply stock up.

We want to fill you all in on Sister's main work team so that when we mention their names, you will know who they are: Henry Theoway, Lovetta Kelly, Matthew Nyumah, Chris Kyne and Sam Karto. These are the five main team members, but please understand that every one of Sister's children who is with JCADF joins in and helps. From now on, when we mention one of Sister's children we will put (S.S.), so you all will know who they are.



Many people sell small bags of water or sticks or coal in the market place along the main road in order to make a little money. This goes on almost 24 hours a day. Last night, one of our disabled village boys named Jonathan sat, along with his sister and parents, trying to make a few extra pennies to buy a half cup of rice to eat. Chris Kyne, one of our staff, received an urgent phone call saying that a car jumped the curb and plowed right into the family. The father was killed immediately and the mother died within a few hours. Jonathan and his sister were taken to the closest hospital. They are both critical and both are in body casts. Chris and Henry jumped into action and supervised the burial of the parents. The two children will be in the hospital for at least one month with broken bones and internal injuries. After the burials, Chris and Henry found an aunt whose daughter will stay with Jonathan and his sister, Jestina, in the hospital while they recover. They visited the brother and sister and broke the sad news to them.

It is hard to imagine how a car accident like this could happen but in Liberia, there are few paved roads. Those that are paved are in terrible shape and full of potholes. There are no traffic lights outside major cities, no set speed limits and so many drivers do not even have licenses. They take risks and all too frequently, there are tragic consequences.

Those of you who visit our Facebook group page have seen the photo of two month old Prince, who was born with a cleft palate and lip. When the village chief saw him, he ordered his mother and the baby killed as he declared the baby "witched" or cursed. The mom grabbed Prince and ran to get away from the situation. The father of the child is blind and paralyzed from a recent stroke. Some other family members were helping to care for him. Sam Washington, one of Sister's disabled children, saw Prince and his mother sitting on the ground in the street. She was trying to feed him a little water off her hand because the baby is unable to suck due to his cleft palate. We asked that they be brought to a local hospital where they were found to have ringworm. Baby Prince and his mom remained in the hospital until she learned how to feed Prince a special formula from a spoon. On July 2, Prince will have surgery by a doctor connected with an organization called "Smile Train." This non-profit only repairs cleft palates and lips, so we are praying that the surgery will be a success. We are hopeful that Prince's quality of life will be improved.



We want to update you on three year old Charles who has a malignant tumor behind his left eye. After his mother abandoned him, his grandmother came to stay with him at the hospital. That only lasted about two



weeks as she contracted chicken pox, so she was brought to a health clinic. She was not allowed back to the hospital in her condition. Now here we get to the good news – an American doctor specializing in children’s cancer took over Charles’ case. He placed Charles in a private room and discovered that the doses of chemotherapy Charles was receiving were far too large and he was amazed that Charles was still alive. This doctor, Dr. Crusoe, re-evaluated Charles and said he would need seven phases of chemo, but in much smaller doses of the medications. Charles recently completed his fourth phase and our American doctor is extremely excited and amazed that the child’s bloodwork looks so good. He even went so far as to ask Lovetta, “How could a child possibly be so sick and have everything look so good?” Lovetta said that she told him,

“Charles has his own army of prayer warriors who love him and who never stop praying for his recovery.” The doctor shook his head in agreement and said he was so happy for this little fellow.

Korpo is a fifteen year old who goes to school and is as sweet as honey. Recently, Sam Karto, one of Sister’s disabled, received a call from the girl’s mother. He was told that Korpo, in the last week, lost her eyesight completely. Once again, we told him to take her to the New Eyesight Hospital. She was examined and was found to have two huge cataracts. Her surgery was extremely successful but also extremely expensive. Korpo can’t stop smiling and she is back in school and wearing sunglasses as the doctor said the cataracts were definitely caused by the strong sun.



The following day, someone knocked on Lovetta’s door. When she opened it, she found two moms holding two toddlers, three year old Chris, who is blind in his left eye and two year old Evelyn, who recently went completely blind. They were neighbors and walked for miles with the children, looking for Lovetta. It is amazing that even though our houses are spread out, all of these people can find us and they all remember Sister Sponsa. Lovetta sent us a message explaining the situation. She immediately cancelled her appointments at school and took the two moms and children to one of the local hospitals that we frequently use. They were then referred to another hospital so the children could have a series of tests. Please understand that Liberian hospitals have very little equipment. Some do not have x-ray machines, only one hospital has a CAT scan machine and only two that we know of have ultrasound equipment. Whatever tests are done typically do not yield results for

a long period of time. Two weeks later, we found out that little Chris has a damaged cornea and Evelyn was diagnosed with glaucoma. They were given medications and will both return for a check-up on July 8. This afternoon, Lovetta reported that Chris’ mom called her and told her that for the last three days she and Chris have been staying with anyone who would take them in. Her boyfriend threw her and the child out of their house without any clothes, food or medicine. He threatened to kill them both. Tomorrow morning, Lovetta, Henry and Sam will take the mom back to the house to attempt to collect their belongings. We have shifted our residents around in our Mary’s House and we will have a comfortable and safe room awaiting them both.



Lovetta tells me that according to Liberian law, if a man does not marry a woman and he throws her out of their home, she typically cannot claim anything that has been left behind because he did not choose to marry her.

This morning, Henry, Lovetta and Sam took three year old Chris and his mom with the police to the house where they were living. The boyfriend was not at home, but in speaking with a neighbor, they were told that he had moved, but before doing so, he had taken every piece of clothing of little Chris' and the mom's and burned everything. Even the police were saddened. Lovetta called to Mary's House to make sure their room was ready, but when they arrived, the landlord said that strangers were not welcome during the pandemic. So once again, we had no home for little Chris and his mom. Sister's children never give up. So they moved onto our St. Joseph's House where we have a set of girl triplets and little Prince, his mom, aunt and cousin. This means they have been wearing the same clothes for four days and they had nothing. By tonight, new beds will be moved in we will have them quarantined for ten days in their room. Tomorrow, our team will purchase clothes for mom and Chris, washbasins and everything that they need.



You may remember little Andy Ben, who is six years of age. He was our baby who was born with hydrocephalus. We finally found a doctor visiting from the United States who knew how to insert a shunt into the ventricle of his brain and then run it down behind his ear, down his neck and into his kidney where the tubing drains all the spinal fluid, thus preventing his head from enlarging further and causing brain damage. Every month, he goes back to another doctor who assisted with the original surgery. Two months ago, I told Sam Washington that when Andy's mom took him for his monthly checkup that she should express concern that he might need a longer shunt as he has gotten taller since the initial surgery. The doctor did not express any concern. Two weeks later we were notified that Andy was convulsing uncontrollably. I told Henry to get him to the hospital because he definitely needed a new shunt. The doctor now agreed but he did not know how to do the procedure. They did not even have the equipment to replace the shunt. They had to get a doctor from Germany to fly over with the shunt equipment and Andy was brought into surgery which was

extremely successful. He is a bright little man, very talkative but he still cannot walk. He was discharged yesterday and is doing fine.

A few weeks ago, on her way home from church, Lovetta decided to stop and see Saylor, one of Sister's children who is confined to a wheelchair due to polio and his fiancée, Sianneh and their three children. As soon as she came through the door, the odor of decaying flesh met her. She found Sianneh in agonizing pain laying on one of the children's beds. Her leg was completely stripped of flesh and all she could see was the dry bone of her leg. The month before we had sent her to a local hospital to find out why she was having so much pain in her leg. They gave her antibiotics and sent her home. So when Lovetta went to visit, she was shocked to see her in such bad condition. Lovetta got on the phone, called the rest of the team and they brought her to another hospital where she was diagnosed as having buruli tumors. In discussing with the doctor, Lovetta discovered that there was only one hospital in Liberia that was able to treat such a condition. Unfortunately, the hospital was four hours away in Nimba County. They managed to get a car and Sianneh's mother who went with her. When she arrived, she was told that they could treat her but she would be there for six months. The team bought her a phone and everything that she and her mother would need for the extended stay. She was very concerned about Saylor and the children. Lovetta and the team



assured her that they would be well taken care of and every day now she is able to speak with them and her sister who has stepped in to help Saylor with the children.

I have become the General in action and I constantly find myself giving more and more orders. I knew that the mattress on which Sianneh had been laying would need to be burned and the bed and room had to be disinfected immediately. Another mattress had to be purchased for Sianneh's sister, along with washbasins, linens, clothes, soaps, Clorox and the basics. Sister's children make frequent visits to Saylor and the children and at the moment, everything seems to be running smoothly. We recently had to send funds for four pints of blood which Sianneh desperately needed. Please keep them all in your prayers.

By now, you must all be very tired of listening to such sad tales and I could tell you a hundred others that have occurred since you received the last newsletter. However, I want you all to be aware of the many lives you are saving and anyone who knows about Divine Mercy is aware that every act of kindness that you do for the hundreds of our children or anyone else is what Divine Mercy is all about.

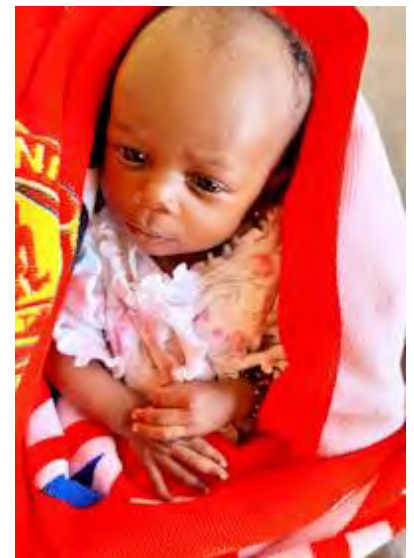


Sister's children never complain, yet their own schedules and their families are constantly being disrupted by another crisis. Presently, it is the rainy season and the monthly food distribution will take place on Monday. During the last food distribution, we had Beauty and Abraham in one of the cars as a team. They were making their way to a local village where there are many disabled when they came to a small bridge made out of logs laid side by side. The car drove over the bridge but the driver stopped as the logs began to roll beneath them and the bridge started to collapse. Local villagers carefully helped the two disabled out of the car and off the bridge. They then focused on saving the car. Beauty and Abraham admitted they were very frightened as it took over two hours to get them out of this mess. Both, however, were brave enough to realize that so many were still in need of their food, so they got back on the road and continued until all their deliveries were made.

Because it is the rainy season, there is flooding and we now have a rat infestation. It is so bad that at night, the villagers can actually hear the rats gnawing on their bed frames. The other night, one little fellow awoke crying because a rat climbed into his bed and bit his finger. Being from New York, I used to see rats in the NYC subway stations, but living with them is something that I could not ever imagine. Years ago, Sister Sponsa used to keep her money wrapped in a plastic bag under her pillow. She would frequently tell me that she did not have a good night sleep. Concerned, I would ask why. She would laugh and say, "The rats got in my bed and were chewing on the money bag under my pillow." I was horrified, but from what her children tell me today, this is very common. We are working to find a way to keep these critters out of our African homes, and we welcome any suggestions.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned our tremendous need for wheelchairs and I am happy to announce that one of our donors is presently attempting to collect and help ship the chairs that we need.

Another of Sister's children, who is a social worker, recently contacted us regarding a one month old little girl. The baby's mom was mentally challenged and was raped. She gave birth in a dilapidated small shelter among a pile of





garbage. Benjamin got the mother to the safety of a home for the mentally challenged but he needed help with the baby. The child was malnourished and did not even have any clothing. Benjamin left her in the care of her grandmother and aunt, but we found out they were giving her herbal medicine. From past experience, we know that this can be deadly but they had nothing else to feed the newborn. We warned the grandmother and aunt to stop giving the baby the herbs. We then immediately took the child, who we named Rosarie (which was Sister Sponsa's birth name) to a hospital for a complete examination. After treatment, which included IV's, we brought her back to the grandmother along with formula, bottles, clothes, and other necessities. Rosarie is now thriving and doing well.

At left is the small shelter and pile of garbage where Rosarie (see previous page for photo) was born.

I could go on telling you about children and babies who were abandoned, left by the road to perish, because the parents do not have any food. We see the potential for more starving as the cost of food every month is doubling. The hospital and doctor bills are as bad as here in the United States. Sister's children continue to talk to business managers, doctors and anyone who will listen, explaining that we cannot afford the prices. They have a gentle understanding that I am sure they got from Sister Sponsa that if you quietly express your situation, eventually someone will listen. I have known many people in my lifetime, but I have never met up with such a large group of compassionate, kind and caring individuals who are Sister Sponsa's children. They keep each of you in their daily prayers as they know we have lost many donors to this horrible pandemic.

We cannot thank you enough for your generosity and your continued support during such difficult times. Know that each one of Sister's children tell me how much they love you because they know you definitely care. They see all of you as a part of their family.

God Bless you for caring and sharing!

In His Merciful Name,

Angie Cebulski
Co-President

Eileen Rockensies
Co-President

Phone: 570-406-4533

Email: krock@epix.net

Web: www.africandisabilityfoundation.org

www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofJCADF

All donations should be made out to:

JCADF

and sent to:

Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation

47 Harford Avenue

Shavertown, PA 18708

or go to:

africandisabilityfoundation.org/Donate2.html

Donations are tax deductible

Matching gifts are appreciated!

We Need Help !!