



## Thanksgiving-Christmas 2013



**Beloved Co-Missionaries,**

**As long as I am on this earth I will always be grateful to each of you for your generosity and sacrifices that you have made to keep my disabled**



**children in Liberia alive. This Thanksgiving and Christmas I want to thank God for all of you and your continued support of the new non-profit named for my nephew Jerry. JCADF is a labor of love for the "poorest of God's poor."**

**Every once in a while my older children, who are now running Our Lady of Fatima Community school, give me a call. As usual, they all want to speak at once and have much to share. The last conversation, all they could speak about was Thanksgiving (which happens at the beginning of November in Liberia) and Christmas. They were excited as they are working hard at studying and trying to help the poor school children who now number about 300. As needy as they are themselves, they are so grateful for everything your donations bring to them - food, clothes, registration funds, and daily essentials that we as Americans take for granted.**

**No amount of words will ever convey the amount of joy that you always manage to send to my children. You have the courage to envelop their needs in your compassionate hearts and to keep them alive for another perfect Christmas. May our special Lord above who came to earth to help save all of us bless you and your families with abundant graces for "caring and sharing."**

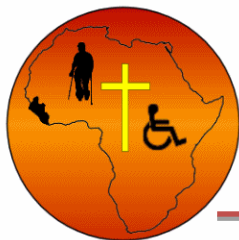
**A simple thanks seems so inadequate but I know that I will pray constantly for your special intentions and in thanksgiving and gratitude for your constant concern and generosity. Thank you so much for all your compassion and love for my disabled who continue to suffer the aftermath of that fourteen year old civil war.**

**Please don't forget to pray for me too!!**

In the Triune Lord,

*Sister Sponsa Beltran, OSF*

Sister Sponsa Beltran OSF



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



Thanksgiving - Christmas 2013



Dear Co-Missionaries,

We wish you the most Joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season ever! Just reading Sister Sponsa's words above we know that she can express our gratitude far better than we can. We know that times are very difficult and it is getting harder and harder to raise funds for our cause when there are so many tragedies around our country and around the world.

But without your generosity, we would not be able to help so many who suffer most in this world.

Since Kevin was last in Liberia in July many things have happened. The Rehab residents who Sister Sponsa raised have asked to begin purchasing their own food. Up until now our staff has purchased all of their monthly food and delivered it via truck and we receive the receipts. All in all, the food bills for so many average about \$4,000 per month. We will be working closely with them to make sure they are making the most of your donations. We want them to get the best value they can find in the country and purchase the most nutritious options, particularly for those they are caring for with open wounds, cancer and severe malnutrition. They are extremely grateful for your help and are striving to be more independent.

Just in these past few weeks, there was a large team of American doctors and dentists in Liberia who were in the country for six days and managed to see slightly over 6,000 patients. How grateful we are to our Liberian JCADF staff for bringing some of our most severely handicapped cases to be examined. This past year we provided the funds for two young women to have surgeries related to gynecological issues. There are only two acceptable hospitals where we would allow anyone to have surgery and even the cost of transportation to





and from can be a great expense. Having these doctors for six days was a great luxury and an amazing experience for those who helped. We lost track of the number of teeth that were pulled but we know that it was over 1000. There are no dental supplies over there and because of poor nutrition, all have poor teeth as there is no dental care available—so, extractions are the only solution. These doctors and dentists brought suitcases of novocaine and antibiotics with them along with multivitamins and tooth brushes and tooth paste.

We have learned from these visiting doctors that we have a number of surgeries needed for our handicapped. One such case is that of 16 year old Omo. The American doctors determined that he definitely needs his leg amputated.

About ten years ago Omo was struck by a car. Recently the leg swelled to three times its normal size. Unfortunately, our biggest obstacle in getting him the care he needs is his own parents. They do not want him to have surgery. Doctors have explained to them that this gangrenous leg may cost him his life if untreated, but Omo's parents feel that all he needs is an orthopedic shoe to correct his problem. So our team and Kevin will continue to communicate with them, hoping against all odds that they will eventually agree to immediate surgery. How he has lived this long is only by the grace of God.

It is difficult for those in a third world country to trust the opinions of doctors or really understand the severity of a medical condition when they have no education themselves. They are very superstitious and sometimes slow to understand how medical conditions are treated, something that seems so simple and essential to us here in the States. We even have several Liberians who had amputations and who knew Sister Sponsa who are waiting to speak with Omo and his family to help allay their fears. They want to show them how he can lead a normal life with an amputation and continue to attend school. Please pray that the parents agree to the surgery and that we can save his life if it is God's will. Without their permission, we cannot intervene.

We also have another child by the name of Abraham who was seen at the medical clinic and was diagnosed with a massive abdominal hernia. Here in the states this may not seem terrible, but something so simple without treatment in





**Liberia can be a death sentence. We have the same problem convincing his parents so please, keep him in your prayers as well.**

**Maude, our 16 year old with the maxilla-facial tumor is still awaiting surgery outside the country. We have contacted many organizations about her case here in the states and in Europe and Operation Smile is the only one who has given us some hope. She is now on their world program list and we eagerly await her acceptance. They are reviewing the doctor's notes from the medical clinic and will review her situation. After receiving the sacrament of the sick by a wonderful priest, she has rallied and she is now on methotrexate and two other chemo drugs. She attends school on the rehab campus on her good days and she often calls us to say thank you. We have made sure that she is receiving extra foods that are very nutritious and anything else she feels she can eat. Since we want her to be as comfortable as possible, we asked her, "If you had one wish, what would you wish for?" Maude asked us for a TV for all of the rehab kids.**

**On his last trip, Kevin personally had their electrical work checked for safety so we had the TV delivered. Now weekends are spent watching the only five TV stations that are available. They all are in awe and think they have arrived in heaven! When there is a soccer game on, all the boys gather to watch with the girls and there is NO FIGHTING because Maude says she will not allow it! She is in charge. Maude is a special girl and very talented. She organized and directed all of the cutting and ironing of the fabric for the Liberian Glory bags and she has a beautiful singing voice. Please keep her in your prayers.**

**Christian is a boy who was seen by the American doctors to treat large sores in his mouth. None of the doctors or dentists know what condition he is suffering from. We are making an appointment with a doctor at one of the local hospitals who everyone agreed may be able to help him. Once again we need prayers as the grandmother who raises him is not keen on doctors.**

**Victoria graduated in August with a degree in Business Management and she is truly an asset to our team, especially after God called Martha home. She and four others who Sister Sponsa raised helped the visiting doctors and we are so proud of their hard work and efforts. Sam,**



James, Roosevelt and Henry were fantastic workers! They sent us text messages and emails thanking us for arranging for them to participate in such an amazing event. They helped the doctors from early morning to late at night, checking in patients, keeping files of data collected and talking with families who travelled for miles to be examined.



Recently, in order to raise more funds, we had a private showing of the movie THE TRIUMPH here in the Pennsylvania area. This is a movie about a young man named Ben, his journey to Medjugorje and his battle with many addictions. The fundraiser was a success and thanks to our local donors, we were able to raise some money to put towards our food budget. We are going to show the film again, since many people were not available for the one day showing. Every penny counts and every penny helps us as we truly want to expand our program out to another village where there are many more disabled suffering horribly. We still need funds for a sea container and for wheelchairs, more surgeries and food and basic essentials. If you are in the Wilkes-Barre, PA area and would like to attend, THE TRIUMPH will be shown Saturday, January 11, 2014 at 2pm

at the R/C Movies 14 located at 24 East Northampton Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA. To reserve a ticket, please call Eileen at (570) 675-3397 or email [erockensies@epix.net](mailto:erockensies@epix.net). The suggested donation for tickets is \$15 for adults and \$12.50 for seniors. All proceeds go toward the JCADF Fund.

At the end of this letter, we have enclosed a page with some holiday gift ideas. We still have a variety of Liberian Glory Bags available as well as some colorful St. Benedict bracelets and CDs of music recorded while in Africa throughout the years. Please take a look and as always, your donations are much appreciated!

If anyone is interested, we will travel almost anywhere after the end of January 2014 to give a presentation on Sister Sponsa's children and how they survived a 14 year civil war, leaving their country in shambles and full of corruption. Please pass the word along to your friends and family so we can continue to help and expand our efforts. If anyone has creative ideas for fundraisers or if you would like to organize a fundraiser in your hometown, let us know. We would love to hear from you! In Sister's own words, thank you, thank you, thank you for all the encouragement and support! We



love and enjoy your letters and notes and we wish you the best Thanksgiving and Christmas season ever. May God bring joy and happiness into your lives and the lives of your loved ones. God bless you all!

In His Name,



Angie Cebulski



Eileen Rockensies



Kevin J. Rockensies

Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation  
(JCADF)

Cell: 570-406-4533

Email: [krock@epix.net](mailto:krock@epix.net)

Web: [www.africandisabilityfoundation.org](http://www.africandisabilityfoundation.org)

All contributions should be made out to:

**JCADF**

and sent to:

*Jerry Cebulski African Disability  
Foundation*

*47 Harford Avenue  
Shavertown, PA 18708*

*Donations are tax deductible*

*Merry*   
 *Christmas*



**Liberian Glory Bags – *Made by Sister Sponsa's handicapped in Liberia!!!***



**Miata Bag**  
**\$20 donation**



**Makula Bag**  
**\$15 donation**



**Maude Bag**  
**\$10 donation**



**Deddeh Bag**  
**\$10 donation**

**St. Benedict Bracelets**



**\$10 donation**

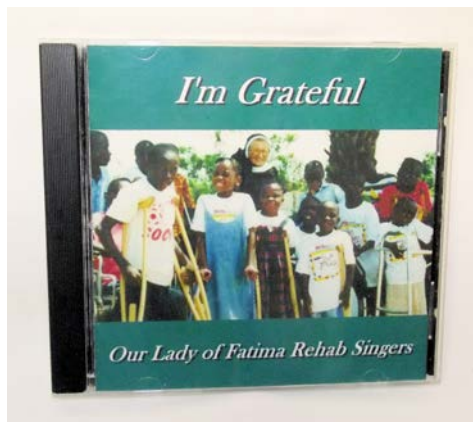
These bracelets were made in Medjugorje. Each one is adorned with several St. Benedict medals.

Adult (10 medals) & Child (7 medals) sizes are available in a variety of colors and are adjustable to fit one's wrist.

The bracelets are unblessed and come with a special St. Benedict blessing.

**FREE GIFT** – A Miraculous Medal that is said to have been blessed by the Blessed Virgin Mary during one of the apparitions in Medjugorje comes with each bracelet.

**Compact Discs**



**\$10 donation each**

The songs on these CD's are sung by Sister Sponsa's handicapped in Liberia.

**If you are interested in purchasing any of these items, please contact the Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation (JCADF) at 570-406-4533 or [krock@epix.net](mailto:krock@epix.net).**