

# HEARTBEAT



A NEWSLETTER OF HEARTS OF THE FATHER OUTREACH



## Legacy

*"When I was a boy growing up, I realized that I was bigger and stronger than many of my classmates. I also had a caring for kids who couldn't defend themselves. When I saw weaker ones being picked on or kids being bullied, I would step in the middle. I would make sure that the bullies would leave the weaker kids alone."*

With these words, John began speaking to the older children at the dedication of the boys' dormitory at the Casa Hogar, the Hearts of the Father Outreach home in Cuernavaca.

*"I believe that this is how Jesus would want all of us to respond. He would want us to protect the weak and help the helpless. I believe this is how Jesus would want you to respond. This is how you can care for those around you, especially the little ones. Remember, you teenagers are the examples in this home for the 'ninós' (little ones). This is also how you can be at school and out in the world. People will see something different in you. In this way they will see Jesus reflected in you."*

"A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in His holy habitation." Psalm 68:5

This was one of the main qualities that drew me to John twenty five years ago (*Happy Anniversary, honey*), his kindness and compassion. John always looked for the best in every person. His compassion and caring seemed to me to be a gift from God. It was an inheritance that was passed on to our first born son, Joshua. Josh had a tender heart just like his dad. He too embraced that kind of compassion. His teachers recognized it. His classmates recognized it. His precious younger brother, Daniel, frequently tested him on it. Though Josh was bigger and stronger, he never used his size against Daniel or anyone else. He never struck Daniel or was mean

to him. He did pin him down a few times and rebuke the teasing spirit, so Josh wasn't without the will to correct his younger brother.

In his few short years, Josh reflected the kindness of God. The significance of our lives is not measured by the years we dwell on the earth, but by who we are and what we do to impact eternity. Joshua spread the love of Jesus all over. It just spilled out of him, and it was contagious too.

These were some of the thoughts in my mind as John spoke. How much Josh was like him. I felt that pang once again...

*"I ask you to be like Jesus. Will you stand up for the weaker children in your schools, for your friends, and for the weaker children here at the home, including all the new children who will come to join you here?"*

"Si, Papa John!"

I'm sure that John never realized in all his life that he would be a voice around the world for the cause of orphaned and abandoned children. Yet God knew. He had placed this gift and purpose in John. This purpose was to impart the heart of the Father, which is God's heart, to other fathers, and to love and bring comfort and hope to the fatherless.

This was part of John's legacy to Josh. Josh didn't get to live it very long.

But sitting there in the Cuernavaca sun, I realized this was a more far-reaching legacy. Wherever John goes, he is passing on this legacy. Wherever children are, he will be bringing it. It is part of him. We pray that each child would embrace it and make it his and her own. And we pray that there will be some Josh's among them who will make it alive to the fullest, something that they too can pass on to others.

Libby  
Libby Moritz



# Africa *January 28 – March 3, 2005*

## Highlights:

❖ Jan. 28 - Feb. 8, Uganda & Kenya – John Moritz, Mike Carey, and Ken Dako review and refresh HFO programs in Kampala and Tororo (Uganda). Review a new program in Bungoma, Kenya. Articles – *Plant a Seed* and *Ezekiel*

❖ Feb. 8 – Feb. 18, Burkina Faso – Operation Christmas Child distribution, team of five from the USA works with Joseph Koomson and Burkina team. Containers are delayed in customs so the team improvised for half their stay by visiting children in hospitals, schools, and homes.



*2005 OCC Burkina Faso team – Ruth and Doug Karrel, and John Street joined John and Libby in Burkina Faso*

❖ Feb. 18 – March 3, Ghana – Operation Christmas Child distribution in the Upper East Region, 14 from the USA join a Ghanaian team led by Dan Ofori and Ernest Addo. Thousands of children were blessed. Article – *In Memory of Brooke Fairchild*



*2005 OCC Ghana team – standing, from left: Jeff Fairchild, John Gozo, Paul Moritz, Kwesi Jones, Steve Ames, Katherina Driscoll, Linda Weaver, Bruce Weaver, Dan Ofori, Gail Flannery, Dennis Flannery, Libby Moritz, Sandy Gibbs, Ken Dako, Barbara Raymond. Kneeling from left: Joel Odom, Sylvia Kau, Ernest Addo, Pam Butler, Liana Hyde, Betsy Botts, John Moritz.*



*Sandy Gibbs joyfully gives a gift*



*Bruce & Linda Weaver distributing OCC gifts*

## GOOD NEWS

### GHANA

*From children in the JoshKrisDan Home in Old Ningo*

• “Last year (Feb., 2004) Mama Libby, you and Aunt Jayne prayed for me and God truly gave me a new heart and mind. I now love my houseparents, my brothers and sisters and my school. I’m thankful to the Almighty God for doing this for me. I want to be His example to them. I love you.” **Grace, 18 years old**

*Grace is the oldest of the children at the home. For almost a year prior to Feb., 2004, she had become distracted, negative, and even rebellious. Her direction was not good and her dream of becoming a doctor was in question. We are grateful to report she seems back on track and is once again a blessing.*



*Children of the JoshKrisDan Home in Old Ningo*



*Houseparents John and Esther Gozo*

• “I never thought I could have a home and a mom and dad. I lived on the streets in a cardboard box. Thank you God for bringing Papa John and Mama Libby [into my life] and my houseparents for loving and caring for me. I thank God every day for what He’s done for me. He has made me beautiful. I’m beautiful to Him. I love school. Thank you, thank you, God.” **Agatha, 14 years old**

*Agatha brings a spiritual fervor to the home. She is always ready to pray and give thanks to God. She has a glow that does make her beautiful.*





## *In Memory of Brooke Fairchild*

*Beloved Daughter of Jeff, Jayne and sister to Elizabeth Fairchild*

*By her Mom and Dad*

Children are very precious to God. There are many orphaned children in Africa. There are also many Africans who are helping their own orphaned children.

Our trip to the Gbeego Orphanage and School was not on anyone's itinerary. We heard about this home and school for deaf children while on distribution. We ventured into the bush to find it. The trip was very long, indeed, much longer than any of us expected. Our bus labored down the dusty, dirt roads, which seemed to wind on forever.

Upon our arrival the children and a few teachers who slipped out of their classrooms to see what was going on, greeted us warmly. We did not have an invitation and no one was expecting us. This was a divine appointment!

We learned that these children and teachers had been on their knees praying for someone to come and help them. In the northernmost reaches of Ghana, they were so far out in the savannah that no one ever came to visit. Their last guests came over eight years ago. Out of the blue, on this fine day, we showed up. We told them we had gifts for the children. They were overcome with joy that God had answered their prayers.

To make this visit even more special it is important to note that the gifts we were carrying were from the Colebrook Elementary School in CT. They were

donated in memory of a little girl named Brooke Fairchild, who prayed for orphans for seven years. She went home to heaven at age 9. She always wanted to go and visit orphans, give them gifts, and tell them about Jesus. Today, her Daddy, Jeff, and the team from America were delivering these gifts to the thankful, happy children of Gbeego.

All of the children could understand sign language. One of the teachers stepped up and said that he would interpret for us. John Moritz began by telling the children of the orphaned

Jewish girl named Esther who became queen of a great kingdom. John encouraged the children that they too could become great, no matter who they were, because with God, all things are possible.

Libby Moritz told the children that our team had come from a distant country called America. Then she shared with the children about an Eternal country called HEAVEN where there is no sorrow and no tears. All of the children expressed a desire to go to heaven some day, so we invited the children to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. They raised their hands high towards heaven and signed "aloud" a prayer accepting Jesus into their hearts. What joy on their little faces. Then we handed out the gifts donated in memory of Brooke. All the children were very excited.

These gifts were probably the best these children had ever received. They appreciated them and will use them, but one day they will wear out. The greatest gift these children received that day was the Lord Jesus Christ into their hearts, which is eternal and will last forever!



*Jeff handed out the gifts from Colebrook Elementary School in memory of his daughter, Brooke.*



*The children joined the team in singing, by signing, Jesus Loves Me.*



*Betsy Botts blessed everyone with her skills in sign language as she communicated a message of love and encouragement to the children.*





# Mexico *Dedication of the Boys' Dormitory Addition & Renovation - April 30, 2005*

## *A Gift From The Children*

*By Mollie and Marshall Numark  
Shelter Island, New York*

The invitation arrived from Hearts of the Father Outreach for the dedication of the new boys' dormitory and water tank at Casa Hogar. We were excited because many people from our town of Shelter



*Boys' dorm with new second floor*

Island had donated to help. My husband Marshall and I looked at each other, and said, yes!

It had been two and a half years since we had visited our sponsored children. We wondered what changes we would find. On arrival in Cuernavaca we quickly unpacked and were anxious to go to the orphanage with John Moritz. Walking into the courtyard of the home, the sunshine had to compete with the warmth

of the greeting we received from about 37 children. Smiles, laughter, and lots of hugs warmed our hearts. Our sponsored children were a joy to see. Luis had grown into a handsome boy, and Mariana a beautiful young lady of 19.

We quickly emptied our duffel bag of gifts, with a little something for everyone. The politeness from every child was amazing. Our Spanish is non-existent so we asked those who could, to interpret for us. We were taken by the hand to see the new dormitory. Luis beamed when he showed us his top bunk in the new room, which he shared with another boy. Finally these boys had a decent bathroom, thanks to the kind hearts of this organization.

The following afternoon, we were privileged to hear the children's rehearsal for the next day's dedication. From a platform in the courtyard rose the voices of children, which sounded like a well trained choir. Some of them sang solos, and some little girls' personalities were good enough to perform on a professional stage.

The rest of the group had arrived from the United States for the main event. We

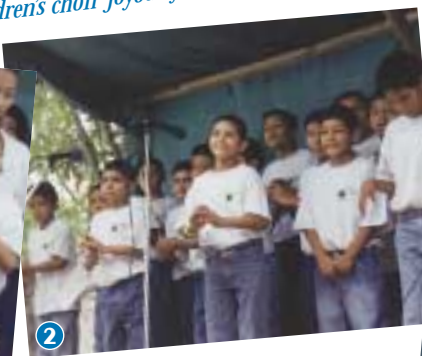
arrived the next morning at the orphanage where Libby Moritz and the rest of us were greeted by more hugs and kisses. To our amazement, all the children were dressed in matching Casa Hogar tee-shirts, created and paid for by two other Hearts Of The Father team members.

One little girl took me to the girls' dormitory to find Mariana. There, in this old, sparsely furnished place, the older girls had set up a beauty parlor. Every little girl had been groomed by the older girls. They were glowing with pride in their new clothes and hair styles, and hoping that one day they too, would also have a new dormitory and a bathroom.

Under a white tent in the courtyard the ceremony began with the history of Casa Hogar, and how John and Libby became involved with the orphanage. The children's concert began. Their voices warmed our hearts to overflowing. Then it was time to dedicate the new building. All the children crowded around as the ribbon was cut, and everyone cheered.

Lunch was served on picnic tables. The older boys and girls seated us, and brought the food. Sadly, it was soon time for Marshall and I to say "adios." It was the hardest thing for us to do. We have 10 grandchildren, and we feel that our sponsored children are a part of our loving family. With tears in our eyes and lots of hugs, we realized that the children had

*1 and 2 Corazones del Padre children's choir joyously celebrating.*



*3 Marshall & Mollie thanking friends and neighbors in Shelter Island for their part in helping home.*





given us a gift of their love, and so we say, "until we meet again, you remain in our hearts. Gracias." – M&M

## ***I Can't Wait To Go Back***

*By Rev. Louis Zinnanti  
Boston, MA*

*"I wish I could take the kids home with me."*

*"I can't wait to go back."*

*"Pastor Lou just give me the dates- I'm there!"*

These were just some of the comments I received from the men who went with me to the Casa Hogar orphanage in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Our trip started on April 26, when 3 of us flew out of Boston and met two others from Miami in Mexico City. We went to Cuernavaca with two specific goals – to minister to the children with a Kids Crusade and to prepare for the dedication ceremony of the newly renovated boys' dormitory. Our team worked incredibly hard that week.

The highlight for us, though, was the "Playing on God's Team" Kids Crusade. We spent three nights teaching the kids what it takes to play on God's team. Through the theme of baseball we were able to stress the importance of Bible reading, prayer, and wearing the right uniform (living like Christ).

The greatest blessing for us was to see the teens in the orphanage, who helped us in the program each night, actually run the entire service on the final night. To see the older youth praying with, and ministering to, the younger kids, let us know that our investment of time and prayer had not been in vain. Many of the children, teens and young ones, wept in each other's arms as they were being prayed for.

Only those who know what these children have been through in their lives can fully appreciate the dimension of healing and restoration that was taking place.

Like the others on my team I must also say, "I can't wait to go back."

*Muchos Gracias from Hearts of the Father Outreach to Lou and teammates Angel Figuero and Eddie Cardona (Boston), and Jeremy Randolph and Pedro Leon (Miami)*

## ***My Eyes Have Seen and Now My Heart Has Been Touched***

*By Rabbi Barry & Toni Feinman  
Albany, NY*

As we entered the gates of this unassuming oasis, many little smiling faces greeted us. Surprisingly tears came to our eyes as they wrapped their little arms around us. "Ola! Ola!" (Hello) They greeted us. What a joy! We truly felt bathed in God's love. His peace was almost tangible.

As we sat listening to the children's praise and worship, I (Barry) realized that

a little boy had snuggled up to my side. As the minutes went by, I found myself in a gentle bear hug by my new little friend. Then things developed into a bit of tickling and giggling.

"What's your name?" I asked.

"Fernando," he answered. With that, another round of tickling and giggling commenced. We were fast becoming buddies. Then he looked up into my eyes and quietly spoke, "You are my papa." Four simple words. I was forever altered. Though he said it in Spanish, the Lord made sure I understood. Needless to say, little Fernando is now one of the children we sponsor.

We were blessed to see how well behaved, patient, and respectful the children were. They were so caring for one another. I'm sure they have their moments as all children do, but their love for each other was evident. Each of the girls had their own special hairstyle, painstakingly braided. When we found out that the water supply to the girl's dorm only comes through a 3/4" pipe, we were amazed. Washing clothes, bathing, etc., has to take hours!

How precious to God are these wonderful children. God has truly graced their beloved houseparents, Israel and Yasmine. The Lord's fathering and mothering heart for these little ones is clearly revealed in John and Libby's beautiful ministry.

*O'Brien family and team.*



**5** *Israel Lerma, housefather, John Moritz, HFO, Wyman Pilant, Douglas Foundation representative who first sent the Lermas to serve the home in 1977.* **6** *Rabbi Barry Feinman and John Moritz and excited boys at the moment of ribbon cutting.*

**7** *Jayne Fairchild and her new sponsored children.*





# Mexico *Another legacy continues...*

*Don and Rhonda Massad also contributed to this project but could not attend the dedication. They made possible the inclusion of a recreation room for the boys. In this article, The Nicolas Project, Don shares the story behind their participation.*

## **The Nicolas Project**

*Pastor Don G. Massad, Jr.  
Higher Ground Bible College*

As the pastor of both a church and a prison ministry, I never expected to be involved building recreation rooms for orphanages. Neither did my wife or I ever dream that we would help an inmate raise his children. Surprisingly, that is exactly what happened and both are connected.

One day Rhonda and I found ourselves helping a prisoner here in the USA raise his five children. They came to live with us while their father was in prison. In a short time we came to love those children as our own and they regarded us as a second set of parents. Since there was no "mom" in the picture my wife Rhonda was it! As for me, I became the "second dad" with their father Nick. Birthdays, holidays, family vacations, school events and the like ... for eight years we had five children.

Then suddenly, without any warning, the five became four. It was Friday September 6, 2002. Nicolas, a beautiful, energetic, ten year old boy who LOVED to play, died.

While we were all still in shock I began to realize that healing would not come easily. "Lord," I prayed, "I need your wisdom." I found myself reflecting on how much Nicolas just LOVED to play. The Lord showed me that we should build recreation rooms at orphanages in Nicolas' name, and call them all NICOLAS HALL. In this way his memory would be preserved as a blessing.

Since John and Libby Moritz had come to teach at our bible college, we knew first hand of their high level of ministerial integrity. We asked them if we could locate our first NICOLAS HALL in their orphanage in Mexico. They agreed.

With its completion and dedication as part of the dorm project, this recreation room is not only a place for children to play, but



it is a place for others to heal. In time, Nicolas' siblings will be blessed to go there and "love on" children in Nicolas' name!

They will also be blessed in many additional ways as they speak around the nation promoting THE NICOLAS PROJECT and raising additional support to build more NICOLAS HALLS to help more hurting children. For now though, we are pleased to have joined with John and Libby in this first installment of Nicolas' legacy of joy and love.

*Thank you to Don and Rhonda and the Nicolas Project for gifting Corazones del Padre with Nicolas Hall. Don will travel to Cuernavaca early this summer to place a memorial plaque in the Hall.*

## **Special Thanks**

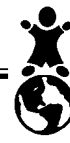


***from Hearts of the Father Outreach and Corazones del Padre, to:***

- Bruce and Nancy O'Brien and family members
- Rev. Lou and Christine Zinnanti and Christ Metro Church Team
- The Robisons and Life Outreach International
- Rabbi Barry and Toni Feinman
- Seed of Abraham Congregation
- Steve and Monica Kowalsky
- Marshall and Mollie Numark
- Bob "Roberto" LaCosta
- Mr. and Mrs. Wyman Pilant

***Planning for renovation of the girls' dormitory has begun.***





# Plant a Seed

By John Moritz

This past winter I traveled again to Africa. The first ten days were spent in Uganda and Kenya. One February evening, HFO Advisory Board member Mike Carey and I gathered in the Grace Children's Home, in Bungoma, Kenya, with Pastors Peter and Hannah Murunga. There, Peter and Hannah care for 26 orphaned and abandoned children.

After sharing a wonderful meal together, Peter introduced us to the children. He proceeded to tell the children and us the story of how this home came to be: "About nine years ago, Hannah and I were praying and fasting on behalf of four malnourished children who were orphaned, living with their impoverished grandmother. We were asking God to provide the resources to help these children."

"After 2 weeks," Peter recounted, "God answered our prayer. Two men from another country unexpectedly arrived at our door. We knew them but had not seen them or heard from them for years. As part of their visit, I took them to see the four children huddled around their grandmother's cooking fire. They realized that these children, without strength to stand, would soon die. They decided to entrust me with \$200 for their support, not sure how long that would last or what the future would hold. They also prayed and asked God to watch over these children and send more help in the months ahead."

Peter told the children how that seed money, those words and prayers, encouraged Hannah and him to start what would become the Grace Children's Home. Two of those children who



were huddled around their Grandmother's fire nine years ago, were right there to testify how their lives had been saved. Over time, Peter and Hannah took in other children. "Now," Peter said, "nine years later, 26 young ones are thriving here because of the Love of God revealed through those two faithful servants."

I was humbled and awed by the words, testimonies and thanks that I received that night. You see, those two men from another country were myself and board member Gene Graf. However, I didn't feel that we deserved any accolades. After all we had only planted a seed. Peter and Hannah had done all the hard work and sacrifice.

Sometime later, I remembered the words I believe God spoke to me when Libby and I were in Israel three weeks after 9/11. As I looked out over the heights around Jerusalem, I questioned God about how we could help change a world of strife and violence. He answered with these words: "Plant a seed of love in the life of a child and it will grow!"

We had planted a seed to meet a need and what a harvest! We want to thank you, our faithful friends and supporters for your seeds of love. They are growing, they are flourishing, in the lives of children around the world.

***The children in the Grace Children's Home are now being supported monthly by HFO. Would you please help?***

## **UGANDA** News from the program in Tororo

- The program is going very well. Many of the "foster" parents said that though they can't legally adopt their "foster" children, they have adopted them in their hearts. The children are welcome to stay as long as they want and the parents even plan to include them with their natural children in the traditional legacy of land.
- The goat project is successful beyond expectation. The goats are producing milk for the families, supplementing their diets, and even producing a surplus, which in some cases is being shared with neighbors and friends.
- 22 acres of land has been leased for a HFO community farm project. It has been plowed and readied for planting. A farm manager is in place. The families have access to plots to raise crops for themselves and for market.

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413-229-2922

241 MAIN STREET  
SHEFFIELD, MA 01257  
P.O. Box 491

HEARTS OF THE FATHER OUTREACH



## Ezekiel by Mike Carey

I traveled to East Africa this winter with John Moritz knowing that God sent me to evaluate several recommended ministries that were helping orphans.

We spent some time with Bishop Peter Murunga and his wife Hannah who care for orphans through their church, Grace Fellowship in Bungoma, Uganda.

While I was there, Bishop Murunga asked me to speak at one of their church services. I spoke on pure religion and about caring for orphans on a regular basis. I shared on the scripture, James 1:27 and how that scripture does not say if you are rich, help the orphans, but that all should care for orphans in their affliction. The congregation was very poor yet they generously gave of the little they had. I was told that the offering was the largest offering ever taken.



The following day while in Kitale, Kenya visiting another orphanage, I was told they had no food. This orphanage cared for 150 children. I was led to give the money given to me the day before to this needy home. A few years earlier on a previous trip to the same area, I had helped rescue a boy named Ezekiel off the streets. I never knew what happened to him. To my surprise I saw him there at the home. He was doing wonderfully.

Sometimes, one will never know until eternity, what one has done on earth to affect other lives. In some cases, God orchestrates some remarkable circumstances to bless us with that knowledge now.

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