



December 20, 2007

Dear Friends,

A number of you have been asking me recently about Village Care and Africa. Many of you wondering what's going on and if I am still involved. Communication is important, and I have fallen off the radar the last few months for many of you who have so faithfully supported our work in Africa. I apologize for this, but want to let you know what has been keeping us so busy....

The Village Care National Director in Nigeria, Phillips Elisha, recently sent the updated list of Villages that are mobilizing to care for their own widows and orphans. Village Care is active in 13 remote villages in Nigeria: Tungan Migajiya, Amanawa, Sokoto, Gidan Zalla, Billiri, Phoshiya, Kagini, Kaba, Guidna, Tungan Wakili, Bagusa, Kaduna, and Mangu. Nigerian Village Care volunteers working with local churches in the predominantly Muslim areas of Northern Nigeria have mobilized these communities to care for their own folks in need, and are being well received by the Muslim community. Literally hundreds of widows and orphans have been rescued from indescribably difficult situations.

In Kenya, Village Care is active in 16 communities including the village where Village Care was founded, Nyamusi. Nyamusi is in what we refer to "Stage 3" of the program, actively working with an American church partner to build a community resource center for the vulnerable children of the village. The other 15 villages where we are active are Kaplemet, Calumet, Ketbarak, Kieroloniki, Matema, Keteng, Muguga, Kabete, Kanyariri, Ngecha, Munyeki, Manyatta, Mathati, Rurii, Captain, Mwihoko, Mugathika, are in "Stage 1" of Village Care development. During Stage 1, African village members are getting mobilized to create community initiated and driven support programs for their most vulnerable children and their families. Village volunteers, working under VCI Trained Community Leaders, in all 15 villages are quickly moving their communities toward Stage 2. In this stage of development, orphans and widows are visited regularly by both African volunteers and Village Care American volunteer team members. During the visits, African and American volunteers in partnership assist families to implement basic home practices so that all village children can become safe, healthy, educated, and be a respected member of the community. These villages represent hundreds of volunteer leaders and thousands of children orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and living with extended families that have difficult time providing alone the care these vulnerable kids need.

This year, under the leadership of a new staff member from Colorado, Scott Olivett, we began the Orphan Care program. Orphan Care focuses on institutional orphanages in Africa. We are starting in Kenya and have initiated projects in 26 orphanages from Nairobi through the Western region of Kenya along a corridor leading to Lake Victoria.

We have just recently completed our first leadership training in Urusha, Tanzania, and have a meeting in January in Kenya to make plans for advancement with Project Eleos in Sudan. A missionary couple has started a small Village Care work in Zambia, and we have recently made strong contacts in Uganda. Phillips Elisha, (Nigeria) is working on expanding into Togo and Niger.

We have officially changed our name to Village Care International, Inc., and continue as a faith based 501 C-3 tax exempt organization. We have a new website that just recently went live: www.villagecare.com . Please visit our new site for updated organizational information. Here in the U.S. we continue to recruit and train teams to help partner with us across the ocean. Volunteers spend two to three weeks working side by side with volunteers in the villages and orphanages we serve.

We have added staff as well to handle the explosive growth. On our U.S. staff we have Jennifer Clancy, as Executive Director, Scott Olivett, Director of Orphan Care, Sally Lunetta, International Logistics Director, Suzanne Humphrey, Volunteer Coordinator, and Kari Glenwinkel, Research Specialist. My job has transitioned to Board Chair, and we will be having our first full Board of Directors meeting in January, 2008. Our new Board consists of recognized global leaders in our areas of focus. In Africa we have a network of staff working throughout Nigeria and Kenya. Our lead staffers are Phillips Elisha in Nigeria, Julius Bagaka in Kenya, and Joseph Warwari, also in Kenya. These men are responsible not only for all the growth we have seen, but for the management of our teams in Africa as well. They have done a wonderful job developing men and women to lead with us in Africa.

Nothing is easy, and developing a unique, effective, global, cross cultural organization with the goal of meeting the needs of millions of orphans, and partnering thousands of churches and other workers around the world, is especially tricky. I still remain a volunteer, and still have a family and job, and bills to pay just like all of you. I appreciate your prayers, for Village Care, and for me too. I do need your help, and here are a few things you can do.

First, and most important to me, I would like to form an international team of volunteers who are committed to pray alone, and in small groups, for Village Care, our staff, our volunteers, and the folks we serve. If you would like to join the prayer team and receive prayer information for you or your group, please email suzanne@villagecare.com. Across our programs, we are currently touching the lives of nearly 4000 orphans. We have four stages of village and orphanage development. They need your prayers, their families need your prayers, and we need your prayers. (For more about how the Village Care International program serves children and communities in Africa, please visit our website or email any of our staff directly: sally@villagecare.com, jennifer@villagecare.com, or scott@villagecare.com.)

Second, we have committed to send 22 Volunteer short term teams to Africa next year and still need eight more teams. In addition, we have some limited room on a few of the other teams. We can also add more if needed. Our goal overall is to partner a thousand churches with a thousand villages. If you are interested in joining a team, or can help us recruit your church or organization to form a team, please let us know. You can contact suzanne@villagecare.com for more information about being on a team or becoming a church partner.

As we grow our funding needs grow as well. You can consider becoming a VCI support partner, or supporting projects directly in Africa. We are a forward planning organization, and our funding is secure for now, but we can see that the growth will increase funding needs by the end of this year and in the years to come.

God Bless you all, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your work with us in this great adventure!

David Glenwinkel