



The Gweimen Centre Newsletter

A Self Sufficiency Center for Widows and Orphans of HIV/AIDS

Winter 2013

Thank You for Your Generous Giving in 2012!

Total Income **\$33,570.46**
(Including auction proceeds of \$10,750)

Vincent – Then and Now



By Mary Sytsma

This is Vincent when I first met him about 6 years ago. He was malnourished, had malaria and suffered from intestinal worms. He was lethargic. None of these problems are uncommon for the children in Kwoi. Vincent's mother is an HIV positive

widow. That isn't uncommon either. What is uncommon is that she found help at the Gweimen Centre. She is employed as a cook and caretaker for the children. She receives medication and encouragement. Vincent was tested, and he receives medication, good food, lots of love and school uniforms and fees.

All of this love and care from the Gweimen Centre has made a huge difference in both Vincent's and his mother's lives. Vincent goes to school every day. He eats nutritious food. He learns about Jesus. He gets a lot of attention, which sometimes includes discipline for being naughty.

Isn't that wonderful? Here is a picture of Vincent taken much more recently. He is the one with the pink shoelaces, hanging out with his friends, mugging for the camera. He is always getting into



mischief, teasing the girls, and stirring up trouble. I call him Mayhem. Vincent does all the naughty things he does because he feels good. He can run and jump and climb trees. He loves to play soccer. He loves to ride the scooters. He is quick to answer questions during Bible story time. He likes to bother the little girls when they play with their dolls. He is doing well in school. He loves to sing songs about Jesus, even while he pokes the person sitting next to him.

All of that is because he has a place at the Gweimen Centre. His mom has an income and gets the medication she needs. Vincent gets tested regularly, receives the medical care he needs, and sometimes he even gets told to settle down and be quiet. Isn't that just great?

This naughty boy has found a special place in my heart. He loves to sit on my lap. He often pushes the other kids away just so he can be the one holding my hand. He is pretty endearing, especially because he is naughty, just as he should be at his age. The Gweimen Centre makes all of that possible.

Matching Funds Opportunity

The Gweimen Centre Board of Directors invites you to join them in supporting widows and orphans in Nigeria.

Board members and friends have pledged up to \$5,000 to match gifts given in March and April of 2013.

To participate, give online at
www.gweimencentre.org

or mail your check to:
Gweimen Centre
P.O. Box 1517
Wheaton, IL 60187

www.gweimencentre.org
501(c)(3) Non Profit Organization



A Chat with Beatrice Kadangs, the Nigerian founder of Gweimen Centre during her visit to the U.S. in December, 2012.

Describe the recent Christmas party at the Gweimen Centre. The newly

registered widows and their children, plus the current children, prepared a wonderful program. They recited their memory verses and danced. They presented a touching play they had written about life before and after the Gweimen Centre came into their lives.

Who attended the party?

Besides the widows and the children, many important people from the village attended including the Queen, who is a great benefactor of the centre, the Chief, the District Head of Sabzuro, Joshua Maikori who is the Chairman of the Gweimen Board, and the chief of police.

Where was the party held?

Everyone assembled at the permanent site, which is still under construction, but using the site gave everyone a chance to see the progress. Our new building has 20 rooms, and it currently has a roof, but nothing is finished on the inside.

Tell us about the program.

A local pastor gave a devotional. The Queen, the Chairman, and Beatrice spoke. Newly registered widows and their children received gifts including food, a blanket, a mosquito net, and fabric for a dress. The children were given prizes for best position in their classes at school, for knowing their memory verses, for neatness, and a variety of other things. A feast of two roasted goats was provided by His Royal Highness, The Kpop Ham.

How are things going with the work at the centre?

We have received many gifts of food and provisions from people living near the centre. We currently employ 6 women who cook and care for about 70 children, a bookkeeper, a storekeeper, a driver, and a nurse. The funds raised in the US help with the salaries as well as food, medicine, school uniforms, and the building project.

How has the political situation impacted the work of the centre?

Because of the turmoil, armed guards are stationed at the three main entrances to the village of Kwoi. It is their job to keep out truckloads of people who would come in to cause trouble. As a result, the village has been relatively quiet. However, things in our state are not so quiet. Most recently the Governor of the state, who was a Christian died in a plane crash. The deputy governor, who is a Muslim, took his position. This has made things quieter and we are hoping that the quiet will continue.

Because of the violence in the past, much of our work has had to move at a slower pace. It is harder to get things done. It is more difficult to travel. Some of the children have had to stay home on certain days. Often schools have been closed to keep the children out of harm's way.

What is your prayer for the future?

Please pray for peace. Pray that the permanent site will be completed, including improvements to the road and consistent electricity.

We pray for those in the United States who have supported the work. Thank you to everybody who came to the auction and supported us financially in the past year. We are really grateful for you.

We are eager for the political situation to stabilize, especially because the pastor and some others from the Crossroads Community Church in Carol Stream, IL, are hoping to visit the centre soon on a Missions Trip.

The Timothy Botts calligraphy pictured above was one of the items sold at the Gweimen auction.