



# The Gweimen Centre Newsletter

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

March 2015

## NEWS FROM THE GWEIMEN CENTRE

By Dr. Beatrice Kadangs  
Executive Director

The Gweimen calendar has been full of excitement and challenges. The security situation continues to be a concern, but God has been faithful and the Gweimen staff and children are all safe. It is a privilege that our children can go to school and come back without any intimidation, and our staff can come to work and go home each day without fear. God is good! The Centre has been actively engaged in a campaign in and around Kwoi to educate the people of its activities and about the seemingly rising waves of new HIV prevalence. The campaign was tagged *RIGHTFUL LIVING*. As part of this effort, Gweimen hosted a football (soccer) match in April as an outreach and education event. Before the match, the Director of the Gweimen Centre, Dr. Beatrice Kadangs, spoke about HIV/AIDS prevalence in the community and its effect on young people. Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Joshua A. Maikori, talked at halftime about the *Access to Justice for the Poor Project*, funded by the Japanese government and the World Bank, to encourage people to peacefully settle disputes. Over 400 people attended the match!

The staff of Gweimen has been actively visiting the districts surrounding Kwoi to educate people about HIV/AIDS, encourage HIV testing, and to help resolve conflicts. Gweimen staff have managed to visit 10 out of the 15 districts in the province of Jaba, and met with approximately 2000 people. In each district people have been very appreciative of what Gweimen is doing to alleviate their hardships by caring for their women (our widows) and their orphans and vulnerable children.

Although work is continuing at the new permanent site for the Gweimen Centre, progress has been slow because of concerns about security. The Nigeria Board has proposed and agreed that 3 security guards must be employed to patrol the site before there is any possibility of moving children there. The positions are currently being advertised.

Please pray that our village and the surroundings remain at peace.

### Auction Highlights!!!

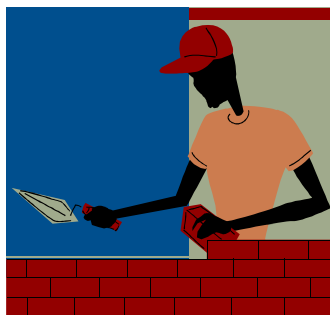
\$12,100 raised  
800 Blocks purchased

## SECURITY ISSUES

By Rachel Vanderhill, PhD  
Gweimen Centre Board Member

The news in April 2014 that over 200 young women were kidnapped by the radical Islamist militant group, Boko Haram, brought global attention to the ongoing conflict in northern Nigeria. Boko Haram, whose name roughly translates into “western education is forbidden” has attacked schools in northern Nigeria and currently holds more than 500 young women as hostages. The conflict between Boko Haram and the Nigerian military has resulted in over 7000 deaths in the last year and over 310,000 refugees and internally displaced people. Although the “Bring Back our Girls” campaign received high level attention this spring, concerns about ISIS, the Ebola epidemic, and the situation in Ukraine have overshadowed this problem in recent months. Unfortunately, Boko Haram is still active in Nigeria and the young women remain captive. The Nigerian government and military are unable to rescue the captive women or provide security for Nigerians.

Thankfully, the majority of the violence associated with Boko Haram occurs in other regions of Nigeria, and for now the children and staff of Gweimen are safe. However, the poor security situation throughout Nigeria has increased the importance of the Gweimen Centre’s peacebuilding and conflict resolution activities. The Gweimen Centre seeks to demonstrate Christ’s love and be an example of peace. As part of this effort, the Gweimen Centre has donated food and clothing to refugees of the violence. Along with bringing hope and peace, the Gweimen Centre wants to ensure the safety of the children and staff at the Gweimen Centre



by replacing the existing wire fence with a cement block wall. The cost is significant as enclosing the Centre requires a wall that is approximately 1600 ft. long. A

solid wall will provide better security for everyone at Gweimen, especially the children, often the target of militant attacks. Please consider donating to help with this important project. A donation of only \$25 will help build 1 foot of the wall.



## EVENTS AT THE CENTRE

By Dr. Beatrice Kadangs  
Executive Director

Gweimen Centre Kwoi, is one of the earliest registered NGO’s in Kaduna State. Since inception in 2003, the Centre has been seeking to address the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS in our society. After a humble beginning, with about 20 orphans, the Centre now cares for 493 orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) as well as 163 registered HIV positive widows through our various programs of feeding, education, medical and vocational training. The

vocational training department was started to help our older OVCs and ever increasing number of widows acquire skills for self-reliance and sustenance.

Every December, Gweimen Centre organizes a Christmas party that brings together all the OVCs, widows, staff, supporters and well-wishers to a fun packed and relaxing occasion where we give God all the glory for His care, bountiful provisions and protection throughout the year.

This past year's Christmas party took place on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, 2014 at the Gweimen Centre permanent site in Kwoi. The special highlight of the event was the first graduation of the vocational training program. Twelve (12) widows and thirteen (13) OVCs will be graduated from the tailoring, knitting and baking programs. A friendly football match was the climax of the day.

To Donate:  
Give online at  
[www.Gweimencentre.org](http://www.Gweimencentre.org)  
or mail your check to:  
**Gweimen Centre**  
PO Box 1517  
Wheaton IL 60187

*The miracle is not that we do this work, but that we are happy to do it.”*  
- Mother Teresa

### Operating Budget

Expense Description	Full Year Estimate	Program Description	Full Year Estimate
Feeding	\$ 3,800	Gweimen Center Kwoi	\$ 24,200
Orphan Education	4,400	Ankung Feeding Center	1,700
Training Materials	1,500	Orphan Education	5,200
Staff Salaries	10,500	Widow Outreach	100
Building Expenses (Rent, etc.)	9,100	Widow Vocational Training	1,600
Transportation	1,300	Grain Milling Program	900
Repairs and Maintenance	1,100		
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,000		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,700</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 33,700</b>

#### The Gweimen Centre, a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Board Members: Greg Bendle, Shari Buma, Kathy Carwell, Rick Johnson (Secretary), Heather Loss, Janna Piersma, Mary Sytsma (President), John Townsend, Joy Townsend, Rachel Vanderhill, and Steve Van Zee (Treasurer)