



Special Thank you: to all who voted for Seeds of Hope on the Eximus contest on Facebook. We won the first prize of \$7000 which will be used to buy a new team van in Zambia.

All team members who have travelled with us are familiar with our beloved 14 seater team van. Yes, the 14 seater that somehow managed to always squeeze in about 24 people. Our all-time record is 32 people. It has taken us to market places, team outings, helped us bring children to the hospital. It has been loaded down with bags of cement and other construction supplies. It has served as an ambulance and hearse, and has helped bring family members to burials - I think that is where we broke our record with 32 people. It has brought team members into shanty towns and townships delivering food and encouragement. Many times it was swallowed up by swimming pool sized pot holes, many times it was stuck in mud during the rainy season. Still other times it just broke down and had to be pushed by team members... but always having a sentimental spot in team member's hearts (well, maybe not at the time). Our team van has finally broken down beyond repair. We will be purchasing a new van with the Eximus prize money. However, it is not quite enough to purchase a safe and reliable team van. We are looking into buying a 4X4 diesel vehicle and need your help to double the Eximus prize - please mark your gift "Team Van."

Call for books

We are collecting new and nearly new books for the high school library. Book donations can be dropped off at our office in Abbotsford:
 #204 - 2316 McCallum Road
 Abbotsford, BC V2S 3P4
 or mailed in:
 PO Box 3474
 Mission, BC V2V 4L1

In order to cover shipping costs we would like to ask for a suggested donation of \$1.00 per book.

Up Coming 2011 events

April 25th - Spring Brunch with Seeds of Hope
 Location: Cedar Valley Church, 32840 Janzen Ave Mission, BC

Our special guests will be our principals from Grace Academy sharing how your help has impacted lives in Zambia. Please invite your friends.
 July- Cross country speaking tour with John and Susan Chalkias - please check our web site and facebook for dates they will be in your area

Please phone our office for information on up-coming teams and events.

Our current needs:

- ✓ On going funding needs for Buseko Children's Home and Grace Academy in Zambia.
- ✓ We have numerous children needing sponsors in Zambia and in Myanmar.
- ✓ Grace 2 Grace - school support in local shanty.
- ✓ "Widow's Jar Fund".
- ✓ Please visit our web site at: www.seedsofhopecm.com to view our urgent needs.

Your prayers and financial support are greatly appreciated.

In Canada please make cheques out to:

Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry

PO Box 3474

Mission, BC V2V 4L1

Or in the USA

Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry USA

PO Box 897

Chico, CA 95927



Spending of funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated gifts will be used in a similar project.

Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry is a certified member of the Canadian Council of Christian Charities and abides by all its strict ethical and financial standards, including annual audits by an independent accounting firm.



Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry is on Facebook. Please join our group and invite your friends to learn about this ministry.

Please go to:
[Http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5744759567](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5744759567)



NEWSLETTER

Sowing Life, Love & Laughter

Spring 2011 Edition



And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. 2 COR 8:1 -3

Are you willing to be a blessing? by John Chalkias, Executive Director

In January I flew to Myanmar to visit our projects on my way to Zambia - I have to do this once a year to do my reporting on the projects and to bring in funding. Some of the guys on my Zambian building team joined me to see the other



projects that Seeds of Hope runs and from there we would fly to Zambia. One of the things I was supposed to do was follow up on my wife Susan's previous trip.

During that trip Pastor Min had asked her to meet and pray with one of the women in his congregation. This woman, named Myint Myint was a widow and raising a young daughter. However, she had lost her job because of a lingering illness. As Susan was introduced to her, she asked her questions about her health and how she was doing. Pastor Min was the interpreter for Susan. As the conversation progressed, Susan thought that Myint Myint's ailments were symptomatic of HIV/AIDS. Susan asked the pastor if she had been tested for the virus to which he reacted with shock saying there was no way this woman could have HIV. She was a pillar of his congregation, a strong Christian woman, how was it possible for her to have it?

However, after Susan returned home the pastor emailed us explaining that Myint Myint's health continued to worsen until finally the pastor suggested she get tested. The test results confirmed that she was HIV positive. Susan wrote back saying that I would be coming in a few months and I would look at how we could support her so that she could start ARV therapy and begin to get healthy again. She would have to wait until I got there as we cannot send in funds to Myanmar because of the political situation there. She needed money for blood work to determine her CD4 count, viral load, etc as well as money for the drugs. However during this time, another woman in the church found out about Myint Myint's need and wanted to help. She too was very poor. As she prayed and asked God how she might be able to help, she felt God tell her to fast. When we were in church in Myanmar on our first Sunday, they had a time of sharing. The pastor's wife stood up and told the story without naming names, of how one of their women fasted for two weeks to help Myint Myint get the help she needed to get well. This woman did not eat so that she could save everything she would otherwise buy food with. She walked she did not take a bus. She did not buy anything, she did not spend a single Khat but gave all her money to her friend.

When I heard this story, I was so humbled and challenged in my faith and my life. Do you feel the same way?

How much are you willing to give up to save a life? Would you give up a cup of coffee a day to sponsor a child? Please go through our Newsletter and ask God where he would have you give.

General Inquiries

P.O. Box 3474
 Mission, BC V2V 4L1
 Canada
 Tel: (604) 870-4810
 Fax: (604) 870-4823
 1-877-236-HOPE (4673)
 admin@seedsofhopecm.com
www.seedsofhopecm.com
 or in the USA:
 Seeds of Hope USA
 PO Box 897
 Chico, CA, USA 95927
www.seedsofhopecm.com

Contacts

John Chalkias - Executive Director
 Susan Chalkias - Dir. of Operations
 Cindy Wade - Office Manager
 Mieke Wishart - Child Sponsorship

Board of Directors

Luann Funk - Director
 Steve Heppell - Chairperson
 Hans Martens - Director
 Mollie Morton - Director
 Dr. Andy Mtambo - Director
 Jim Schroeder - Director
 Angela Visser BSCN - Director

Mission Statement

Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry is committed to serving Jesus Christ. Our mission is to help orphans and the less fortunate around the world by sharing God's love and what He has blessed us with. We have a particular call in the area of caring for children who are either infected or affected with HIV/AIDS



Teams making a difference

We found Joseph (left) sitting on the steps of another orphanage. That evening we brought our two physicians who were part of our team in February to see how we can help Joseph. You can see in the photo that they were feeding him with a syringe as well as trying to hydrate him. Unfortunately, Joseph passed away that evening. Life is extremely difficult for orphaned children. The younger they are the more vulnerable because they cannot fend for themselves. The needs are great. We are expanding Grace Academy to allow us to admit more children. Your help is needed. Please look through this newsletter and see how working together we can make a huge and sustainable difference.



(left) Drs Bill and Gloria Tyler and their staff treated all of our children at Grace Academy Home. (below left) some of the children standing in front of our clinic (Shuswap Clinic)



(right) Dr. DeVynck and Dr. Hsu treated over a hundred people in the community with de-worming medicine (*worms kill thousands of children every year in Africa*)



(bottom right) the heros of Africa - Mbuyes! (grandmothers) This is one of the grandmothers living near Grace Academy. She is caring for eleven grandchildren. Our "**Widows Jar Fund**" helps us meet some of the most urgent and pressing needs of widows caring for children in the community around Grace Academy.

Construction update



Construction is going full steam ahead as the high school is nearing completion. The high school will include a chemistry and biology lab, a computer lab, a library, home economics class and a music room. Phase three of the project has started and will add eight more children's homes at Grace Academy. More orphaned children will have a home with a dorm mom and live in a family atmosphere. They will be loved and nurtured and given an excellent education.

Seeds of Hope Children's Ministry has been saving the lives of hundreds of children since 1995. – BUT this is not enough! If all we did was save the lives of children only to have them grow up and return to a life of extreme poverty in the shanty slums then WE FAILED!

We feel with a loving home, proper food and medication and a good education, children can have a bright future - escaping a vicious cycle of poverty. More importantly, we want to teach children that God created them, that God loves them and they have great worth! We want to see these children grow up to be healthy, productive Godly people.

Your gift in any amount designated to Zambia construction will be of great help to us!

In January we had a building team in Zambia which worked with our Zambian crew in putting up ceiling boards in the high school as well as plumbing repairs. The team also built forty cabinets for the school. One of the builders, Gux Albriecht, a long time trades college instructor took the opportunity to teach our older boys woodworking. This was a special event for these boys who never had father figure in their lives to teach them anything. Gux took the time to teach them the math involved in estimating, measuring and planning their project and the woodworking skills to complete it.



By Mieke Wishart, Child Sponsorship Co-ordinator

Respect, responsibility, empathy. These 3 words painted on the walls of Hillside Elementary School Gym are 3 values that the teachers want to inspire in their students. I glanced at these words as Susan and I entered the gym for the Wednesday morning assembly in January. Susan shared stories of school life in Zambia. She displayed a photo of four Zambian siblings and she asked the students, "Who knows who these children are?" Immediately, 300 hands shot up into the air. The entire school recognized their sponsored kids in Zambia. They are *Stephanie, Helen, Davis and David*.

I met Susan Chalkias at Hillside School 15 years ago when our daughters were in the same class. We joined a small group of moms that prayed regularly for the school. The Hillside teachers enthusiastically invited us to share about the work Seeds of



Hope started in Zambia. In 2005 the school signed up to sponsor a family of four siblings. In 2009 a team of Hillside teachers travelled to Zambia to visit their sponsored children and to encourage Zambian teachers. Recently I filled my van full of 1000 books donated by

the school for the library in Zambia. This spring our two principals from Grace Academy in Zambia will spend a week at Hillside and the relationship will continue to deepen. The Hillside teachers have done a fantastic job of passing along the 3 values of respect, empathy and responsibility as they model helping needy children in a third world country. The teachers have successfully developed a relationship between the students at Hillside School and the children they sponsor in Zambia. The value of this teaching will reach beyond the walls of the elementary school. It has the potential of a global impact as every year 300 students learn the names of four Zambian children and the meaning of three important words on a wall.

Child sponsors are needed.



We have admitted twelve more children into Buseko Home and Grace Academy. We also need more sponsors for our Myanmar projects. For less than a dollar a day you can make a huge difference in the life of a child. Please call our office or visit our web site and become a child sponsor today.



Widows Jar Fund - provides widows with emergency care for their sick children and allows us to respond to other immediate urgent needs in the community.

A few weeks ago, Susan Chalkias was leading a team from Canada through the children's hospital in Ndola, Zambia. One of the team members was a nurse trained in a burn unit who had brought many supplies for the burn unit in Ndola. While receiving the supplies one of the nurses of the hospital told the team of a little eight year old girl who was recently taken home by her family. She had been severely



burned in the face and this nurse was concerned for her. The hospital had no supplies to treat her, but as she received this large gift of medicines she told the team of about this little girl. The team



immediately went to look for her in her village and found her bathing in a wash basin full of muddy water. This little girl screamed in excruciating pain while Susan talked to the parents about releasing her to our care. They did not have any running

water, bandages or any way to keep the wounds clean nor any medication for the pain.

Serving at our clinic at the time were two dentists and three nurses (one being the burn unit nurse) from Canada. They were able to wash the wounds and control the pain as much as possible. The doctors were concerned about the rate of infection and they were also worried that she might lose her vision. Immediate proper care in a modern hospital was urgent and we explored moving her out of the country either to South Africa or even Canada. However, her critical condition meant that she might not be able to survive the travel. It was decided to move her to a hospital in Lusaka, the capital until the infection was dealt with. She would then come back and stay at Grace Academy. We will explore what future treatments she will need. Your donation to the "**Widows Jar**" helps us be able to assist many children like Maureen. Please mark your gift "**Widows Jar**"

Special Thank- You to Orphan Aid Thrift Store whose monthly donations helped pay for the air fare to fly Maureen and a caregiver to Lusaka.