

God loves kids!



Partnering with Richard and New Eden School Brick by Brick

This year we have been sharing with you the importance of partnering with others in ministry and examples of how we can—and do—accomplish so much more when we work together. In our last two newsletters we have told you about two ministries with which we have partnered to sponsor children. This month we want to reintroduce you to a man you've met before through CCC newsletters.

Richard Ssenyonga was one of the first children in Africa that CCC helped, and now his is one of the ministries with which we have a partnership. Through your faithful support, we are now partnering with the second generation of CCC kids. What an exciting thought!

I pray you are blessed by this testimony to what God is doing through your contributions and prayer. Thank you so much!

Lovie

Founder and Director

Richard Ssenyonga was one of the many children orphaned by the war in Uganda in the 1980s. After his parents were killed his grandfather tried to raise him and his younger brother Moses, but the situation was very difficult. Children like Richard roamed the African bush, scavenging for food. In 1990 the boys' grandfather brought them to Uganda Gospel Rehabilitation Centre. He could no longer take care of them. They needed help.

Richard is an example of the reason for CCC to exist. A young boy with no hope for a future was taken into one of our homes, fed, clothed, educated and taught about the saving love of Jesus Christ. After coming to UGRC Richard accepted Jesus as his Savior. Here he learned God had plans for him, and His plans did not include Richard being just another casualty of war.

After finishing his studies at the children's home, Richard, through CCC support, went on to get a teacher's certificate. He took a position in a very small school and moved out on his own. During this time, CCC Founder and Director Lovie Phillips and her husband Syvelle were visiting the orphanage. Richard

and some other graduates came back to see them. Since they had lost their biological fathers before they had become Christians, Pastor Syvelle told them he wanted to pray a blessing over them as their spiritual father.

When he finished the prayer, all the young people had tears running down their cheeks. Then Richard, at this time still single, made his announcement.

"I have taken ten children into my little home," he said. "When you took me into the orphanage here, I had no hope—no hope of even living, much less for an education. You gave me hope, and I must give these children the same hope."

A few months later, Lovie received a picture from Richard in the mail. It was of him and his "beloved friend" Catherine, to whom he was soon getting married. He added that he had taken seven more children into his home. Can you imagine coming home from your honeymoon to 17 children? Catherine is indeed a special woman! She and Richard married in 1999, and now they have two beautiful children of their own.

Richard
and
Catherine
with
their
children.



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When the owner of the New Eden School where Richard worked died, Richard became the director. At that time, classes were being held in a small rented facility in a dangerous location. Again through CCC support, Richard was able to construct three buildings in a safer area, and they now have water, electricity and toilets. We hope to be able to build another dormitory for the boys and help Richard start a trade school and other projects that might help the ministry become more self-supporting. However, the major needs for the moment are a church building and a boys' dormitory.

Today Richard oversees the total ministry of New Eden. There are some hard workers among the ranks there, not least of whom include the students. Not only do they have a history of excelling in sports and singing, having even performed for the Ugandan

*Communicating
Christ's Compassion
to the Children of
the World*

Minister of Education, they and the teachers are currently making bricks. The bricks are for the new church they want to build.

Richard recently wrote to Lovie about the need for the church. The nearest church is quite a walk from the school, and the younger children have trouble making it there. Because of that, they now meet in the classrooms at New Eden, but Bible study teachers have trouble preparing the rooms for meetings because classes are being held in them all day.

Besides the classrooms not always being available, Richard said, they are just too small. Many people "get much squeezed" into one room. They have almost 400 students at the school, plus the staff. Some adults from the community already participate in their services, and they want to reach more of them.

Richard and the staff, including younger brother Moses who is one of the acting pastors for New Eden Church, have a vision of raising the children to become preachers, pastors and



New Eden students worship in this overcrowded classroom. The children helped build the bricks for all the buildings that have gone up on campus. They are making more bricks in anticipation of a new church building, using dirt from anthills found on New Eden property.

church workers. As the school grows and more people from the community get involved, they estimate a need to seat about 1000 people.

The need for a boys' dormitory is also dire. Currently the boys sleep three to a bed because space is so limited. Illnesses like colds and the flu spread rapidly among the children this way. For \$1,700 Richard could build a space large enough to comfortably sleep 100 children.

Richard said he gives his life to raising needy children because, "I'm saved. If I see someone suffering, I must do something about it. I do this because of what God did for me. If I had the ability, I would help more children."

Can you help Richard help more children? How about helping him help the ones he already has by building this church and dormitory? After all, they are already making bricks.

Expanding Our Results by Networking

Carla Ives of Reach the Children traveled to Africa with Lovie and the CCC team in 2004. Not long after returning, Carla spent a week in the CCC office in Rockwall, Texas, where Lovie shared with her the day-to-day work of child sponsorship.

Carla recently sent Lovie this email:

"I want to thank you so much for teaching me how to do sponsorship for children. We are able to help so many children now. I thank God for you every time we are able to help a child. I just got home from northern Uganda and have some children orphaned by AIDS and [armed conflict] that we are sponsoring. It couldn't have happened without you."

We want to pass these thanks back to you, our sponsors. Your partnership with CCC has allowed us to partner with Carla and Reach the Children. Now even more children are being helped because of this ministry network.

Thank you!