



*Empowering Children to Help Themselves*

# Outstretched Arms

ccikids.org

## Dear Friends of Chosen Children International:

The years since CCI was founded have seen many changes in the ministry as we have sought to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are currently in another season of change as our U.S office moves to Raleigh, North Carolina, and our Founder and President moves to Malta and Kenya.

## Our President Moving to Malta and Kenya

In 2014 the Lord began to impress upon CCI Founder and President, Marilyn Cohn, the need for her to be spending much more of her time in Kenya. At the same time He began to show her that she would also have a base in Europe from which to go back and forth to Kenya. So on March 17<sup>th</sup> Marilyn is going to the small island country of Malta to set up a home there for herself. She will be dividing her time between Malta and Kenya.

From Malta, Marilyn will be able to fly to Kenya in a third of the time it has taken her to travel from Colorado Springs to Kenya. Communicating with our board members and staff in Kenya will also be much easier since it is only a one hour time difference as opposed to a 10 hour time difference from Colorado.



Malta is strategically located between Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East

After Marilyn has settled in her home in Malta, she hopes to explore the possibility of registering CCI as a non-profit organization in that country, which is strategically located on the map.

Marilyn will be arriving in Kenya from Malta on April 13<sup>th</sup> and staying till May 28<sup>th</sup>. She will be returning to Colorado Springs on May 29<sup>th</sup> and then selling her home and possessions in Colorado to move back to Malta and Kenya after the house sells.

We have lots of new plans for our work in Kenya. While Marilyn is there in April and May she plans to set up a home for herself at our second location on Lake Victoria.

## Expanding our Ministry at Lake Victoria



Fishing nets on the shores of Lake Victoria

Scenic Lake Victoria is the location of our second CCI church plant which is called Jehovah Jireh Church. This is where we also have our second Saturday Child Development Program. Our church is in a small fishing village on Rusinga Island which is very close to the town of Mbita.

The Lord put this location on Marilyn's heart several years ago and then He opened a door for her to go there and plant a church in 2013.

One of the first things that Marilyn plans on doing when she gets to Kenya in April is to purchase land around the Lake. This land will serve as a home base for Marilyn while she is in Kenya and it will also serve as a new home for our church there.

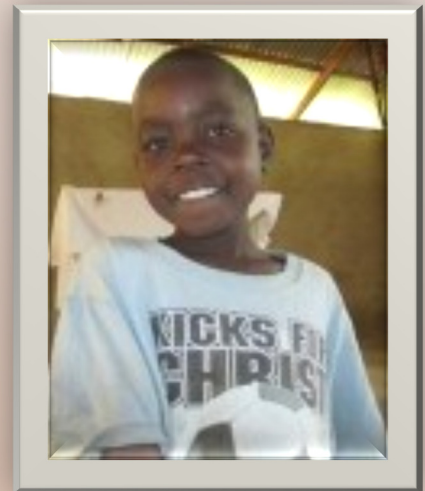
In the last 15 years our President Marilyn Cohn has made twice yearly visits to Kenya. Each time she has stayed mostly with Kenyan families and sometimes in small motels. It is time for our President to have her own home in Kenya, and Mbita is the location where she will be residing. She plans on travelling back and forth between Mbita and our Children's Village in Bungoma.

### A Base From Which to do Evangelism

Mbita is a strategic location for evangelism. The reason we planted a church on Rusinga Island is because there was not even a single protestant church there. When Karen and Marilyn were there in early September to do an evangelistic outreach, they saw many people come to the Lord in a short time. The need for evangelism is great not only on Rusinga Island and Mbitu, but also there are many small islands completely unreached all around Lake Victoria. For this we will need a speed boat in order to reach these islands.

Our church on Rusinga Island is currently located in a small rented iron sheet building. Our church has really outgrown this small building and is in need of its own building. Once we buy land around the Lake we will be able to build our own church building. The church members have been diligently saving for a tent. So even before the funds come in for a building we should be able to put up a tent on our property to meet in.

## Hope Shines in the Darkness



Our CCI team visited 8 year old Dan Sikuku in his corrugated steel home one evening. They were astonished to find him struggling to complete his homework in the dim glow of a tiny paraffin lamp.

Amazed by his determination, the team asked what motivated him to keep studying after dark. Dan replied that the teachers of our Saturday Child Development Program had taught the kids that academic success would improve their lives regardless of the challenges they face.

Dan has really taken this advice to heart and has put more effort into his school work as a result. He was also impacted by the CCI Social Worker's advice to interact with his school teachers as much as possible.

**Dan is one of many children needing a sponsor. \$38 a month will pay for his school fees and uniform, as well as other clothing and necessities. Visit [ccikids.org](http://ccikids.org) to find out more.**



## Train Up A Child



Children of Bungoma, Kenya

The Bible teaches us that God considers instructing the next generation in His ways a top priority:

You shall impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul ...You shall teach them to your sons, talking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up (Deut. 11:19).

It is estimated that **153 million** children worldwide, ranging from infants to teenagers, have lost one or both parents (UNICEF). Who will instruct these 153 million? Jesus said, "It is not the will of your Father ... that one of these little ones should perish" (Matt. 18:14).

When we consider research showing that 85% of Christians become believers between the ages of 4 and 14, focusing our giving and prayers on making disciples among children is a wise investment by any standard.

The population of Mbita and the islands on Lake Victoria is estimated around 50,000 and a majority of the people are under the age of 18. This is one of the reasons for our excitement for the opportunity to expand our outreach in that area.

**Rest assured that your gifts toward CCI are sown into some of the most fruitful ground in the Kingdom of God.**

## CCI U.S. Moves to Raleigh, NC

We covet your prayers, and your continued support, as our U.S. office transitions to Raleigh, North Carolina. Chairman of our Board of Directors Karen Hunt will take over many of the administrative duties currently performed by Founder Marilyn Cohn.

We are changing our mailing address but our phone number will remain the same: (719) 634-KIDS [5437].

A vital component of CCI's success is intercessory prayer. We would like to invite you to join our 1-hour CCI Prayer Call Tuesday evenings at 4 PM PST / 5 PM MST / 6 PM CST / 7 PM EST. The number to call is (417) 800-2250; conference code 258-654. For more information, email Karen at [karen.hunt@ccikids.org](mailto:karen.hunt@ccikids.org).

Volunteers are another important part of CCI's success. Karen hopes to build a team of volunteers to move CCI into our next phase of ministry. In this digital age, we are blessed to be able to partner with volunteers from multiple regions. **If you would like to serve the Lord with your skills in the area of bookkeeping, fundraising, graphic arts, or administration, please email Karen at the above address, or contact our office at (719) 634-KIDS [5437].**

### ***Wheels, Land, and a Boat***

By the writing of our next newsletter, we hope to be able to report that CCI is the proud owner of a 4 wheel drive vehicle. We have been without a vehicle in Kenya since 2003. Having "wheels" will greatly facilitate travel between Bungoma and Mbita. Rather than spending the better part of a day crammed inside a *matatu* – a public van – our staff will be able to make the drive in 2 to 3 hours. We are looking at buying a good second hand vehicle for around \$14,000. As we already mentioned we also need to purchase land around the Lake. The cost of buying 3 acres of land should be approximately \$9000. Lastly we want to buy a speed boat in order to evangelize and plant more churches on the surrounding Lake Victoria islands. The cost of the boat is \$1500. **If you can help with either the vehicle, the land or the boat, please designate your gift accordingly.**

# *Get Involved!*

## **Prayer Requests:**

- Pray for Marilyn as she puts her house up for sale and transitions to Malta and Kenya. Marilyn departs the U.S. on March 17. She will be in Malta March 18 to April 11, and in Kenya April 13 to May 28. Marilyn also covets your prayers for her health. She has had an intense battle of poor health and has had to change her travel plans to allow her body time to heal.
- Pray for the Lord's perfect will and timing regarding registering CCI as a non-profit in Malta.
- Pray for our outreach in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya and for the successful purchase of land, a boat, and a 4 wheel drive vehicle.
- Pray for the orphans living in our Children's Village in Bungoma, and for their house mother.
- Pray for sponsors for the under-privileged kids in our Saturday Child Development Programs, and for the programs as a whole to impact youth for the Kingdom of God.
- Pray for the smooth transition of our U.S. office to Raleigh, NC and for an increase in our intercessory prayer team and volunteer staff.
- Pray for our Kenyan Boards of Directors to be raised up as strong indigenous leaders and to work together as a strong team.
- Pray for our U S. Board of Directors and for more people willing to serve on our Board. (Let us know if you might be interested in this important role).
- Pray for the students and staff of our High School in Bungoma, Kenya.

## **Giving Opportunities:**

- Make a monthly pledge or one time gift of whatever amount you desire. To make a monthly pledge, simply call us at (719) 634-5437 or e-mail us at [info@ccikids.org](mailto:info@ccikids.org) with your credit or debit card information. A pledge of even \$20 a month can help make a difference in the lives of these children.
- Sponsor one of our children: \$38 a month can change a child's life. Visit [ccikids.org](http://ccikids.org) to view the children waiting for sponsors. Make your selection, and you will be mailed your child's profile.
- We want to buy land for our church near Lake Victoria as currently we are renting a very small building. The congregation is outgrowing this space so we need to build our own church. The cost for buying land is approximately \$9,000.
- We need to buy a 4 wheel vehicle. We currently have no vehicle at all. This hinders our operations. The cost for buying a vehicle is approximately \$14,000.
- Help us facilitate evangelism by buying us a boat. This can be done for as little as \$1500.

*Thank you very much!*