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Deus Meus et Omnia
(My Lord and My All)

Easter 2015



Dearly Beloved and Friends of the Disabled of Liberia,
Fond and Most Blessed Easter Greetings in the Lord Jesus Our Savior. Now I know how heaven rejoiced on that first Easter as my heart bursts with profound joy. You never forget my children whether I am physically with them or here in the states in retirement.

Christ from a supreme love of us resurrected from the dead and your tremendous love and support once again has carried us through another crisis. Never in a million years did I ever think that this virus called Ebola would affect Liberia and all of those children God sent my way through the years. Your caring and sharing once again and mostly your prayers spared every one of them from a death from a disease with absolutely no cure.

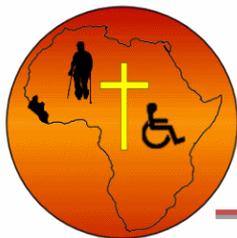
My heart soars as I approach my 90th Easter when I review the life I have been gifted to lead with all of you and Christ at my side. This Easter, as always, know that all of you are in my prayers and sacrifices and I thank you over and over again for your support, love, generosity and assistance in helping so many of His Least resurrect and move and walk again.

Love you all from the bottom of my heart. You are SUPER!

Sister Sponsa Beltran, OSF

Sister M. Sponsa





Jerry Cebulski
African Disability Foundation Inc.
"Disability does not mean inability"



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JMJ

Easter 2015



"Like a shepherd He feeds His flock: in His arms, He gathers the lambs, carrying them in His bosom, And leading the ewes with care." - Isaiah: 40:11

Beloved Co-Missionaries,

May the Peace of the Risen Lord be always with you for your generosity towards all of His Least. When we sent that emergency letter to you last year explaining about the thousands starving in Liberia during an unprecedented outbreak of Ebola we prayed that you would hear our call. You did and for that we are eternally grateful. You are so special and when working with all of you I know He is right here with us and you are personally caring for His Least. Thank you!

Since last September when Ebola was raging in Liberia and Sister's children approached us asking if they might distribute family food bags to those who were starving to death, I must admit that I was frightened. We were able to distribute food to those at the Rehab and all those in our program out in the "bush", but to feed all of those who would approach our disabled adults - I just didn't know. We were always great believers in the Power of Prayer but this seemed different. There were so many dying of starvation and very little food to be found. We began to think about God's great miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes and the power of the words of Our Divine Master - Jesus I Trust in You! There was no longer a doubt. God Never Fails!

We asked the adult children of Sister Sponsa to let us know food price estimates and give suggestions as to what they wanted to include in their family bags. Ideas ranged from rice (basic staple), magi cubes, pasta, canned tomatoes, eggs, canned sardines, beans, collards, oil, gari (dried cassava) cream of wheat, cream of rice, corn meal, baby concentrated milk, coal and a



plethora of other suggestions. They discovered that prices soared one day and fell the next. Finally they opted to fill the bags with a smaller variety of foods so they could provide more bags and reach more people. Each bag could feed a family of six for about one week and those with infants and small children could receive additional cans of concentrated milk formula. Of course bath soap, washing soap and chlorine had to be provided to encourage all to continue taking precautions in preventing the spread of Ebola.

We chose two major areas to distribute - Paynesville where the Rehab is situated and Sinkor, a slum area where the need was very great. Then of course, we provided food for the rehab and all of the villages where we had children in our program. We were delighted to see these young people's organizational skills which were developed after the war when there were many refugee camps and Sister Sponsa would allow all to distribute any extra food they could spare. They wore gloves while packing and handing out the bags and were the happiest we have seen them in ages. You see, they have not forgotten what Sister taught them. "There is faith, hope and charity and the greatest of these is charity." The day before food giveaways, they canvassed neighborhoods, searching for the most needy. They also made numbered tickets which they passed out to ensure that those who presented a ticket would receive a bag. Usually four lines were created—one for pregnant women, one for seniors who were too weak to stand, one for women who carried children on their backs and a fourth line for anyone else who happened to show up. It was not an easy job in the noon day sun of Africa but by the second give away, they learned much about crowd control. If they were set to begin giving out bags at 10am, crowds would line up at 7am. Once again they learned the joy of giving and all from YOU, because without your generosity, none of this would have taken place and so many more would have died.



In total we estimate that 40,000+ bags were distributed but we cannot be sure how many were actually fed, as some families only had two persons and others had up to fifteen. Regardless of how many bags were prepared, there were never enough, but the servers were sensitive enough to take names and make notes as to where people lived, just in case some additional funds



became available for more food. Once more funds were secured, additional bags were hand delivered to all on the list. We discovered that those families that had a little extra would always share with their neighbors who were short or who had large families. And we discovered the joy and gratefulness of the African families who sang and even danced when they were handed that precious bag. They praised each of you, praised America, praised the disabled (this was a new and deeply appreciated one), and before all, they praised Almighty God for remembering them in the midst of such horrible turmoil.

Tonight we heard that the last Ebola patient in Liberia was discharged from the hospital. This may well be true, but two days ago, an entire family right near the Rehab were found dead from Ebola. There may still be flare-ups since the borders between Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea remain open and both Sierra Leone and Guinea continue to have a number of active cases. A vaccine still has not been discovered and the hospital situation in Liberia continues to be very bad, so please continue those prayers.

Schools have remained closed and the starting date of many continue to be postponed. We have registered all the village children in schools nearby since so many must be carried in wheelchairs or have a difficult time using crutches on rocky terrain. The tuitions and registration fees have tripled in most schools as no one has funds to pay the staff. Teachers have not been working for almost a year now and parents have little to pay for backpacks, writing tablets or even pencils. All have to pay for their own uniforms and with all of these costs, many will not be attending classes. The government has given strict guidelines that little ones are not to touch one another or run around the classes for fear of any future Ebola outbreaks. Any of you with grandchildren or children know how difficult it is to keep children from having contact with each other, wrestling and playing in close quarters.



We have about 65 disabled attending classes in over 35 different schools. Without your assistance none of these would ever have been given a chance to read or learn at all. The remaining children are unable to attend class because they are blind, mentally challenged or the parents do not want



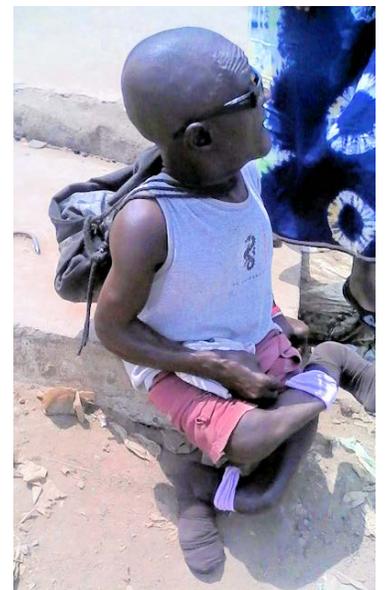
them enrolled in school because they do not feel they have any worth. There is still so much to be done as far as educating the people about the value of all human life, including the handicapped. It is just too sad.

We now have five students in college. Two will be graduating within the next six months, two are just beginning and one is attending a technical computer school. They are all so excited to be returning to college or to be starting a new life. They are bright and anxious to get started. They are so grateful to all of you. We will keep you all posted about their progress.

During the Ebola crisis we were hit heavily with medical bills and emergencies. Since March 2014, we made 74 clinic and hospital visits and this was during the Ebola crisis when we rarely could find a doctor or nurse who would even check on a patient. Today there are 25 medical doctors surviving in Liberia for 4.3 million people. Many doctors from the U.S., Germany, England, France and other European countries visited to help control the epidemic. They had to be careful in their treatment of any new patient since anyone could have carried the Ebola virus. Along with begging medical personnel to test for malaria, typhoid or other diseases, we had to make sure they were available for the disabled to return for five days of I.V. therapy. Most hospitals were closed down completely or would only see Ebola patients. In the middle of all of this we had five people who needed emergency surgeries. It was only the grace of God that made volunteer doctors agree to perform these surgeries. Each case was unique and when there is no CT scan machine, x-ray equipment or simple laboratory equipment available—you know you are in big trouble, when someone needs surgery.

We have spoken previously about Omo (above), our young man who needs an amputation. By tomorrow we should be able to schedule his surgery and we pray for his survival. He has suffered so much but his guardian in the four years that we have known him would not allow an amputation. Now his leg is so bad that he is in extreme pain. The guardian has finally agreed to the surgery. Please keep him in your prayers.

At right is John who was discovered in the marketplace begging for a few scraps of food for his family while crawling on the ground. He





says he is old and so tired of begging. JCADF, along with our friend Chris's help, just bought him a new wheelchair and a huge bag of food. He claims that this is the first time in his life he has ever been given a gift. He no longer has to sit in the dirt all day asking for a few pennies when most of the time none are given to him.

We have accepted a group of 45 blind people into our food program. They all live in the same community and many are married with families. The sad thing is there are no blind schools in the country and none are able to get jobs. But they are so appreciative of anything that is given to them. They are a welcome addition to the JCADF family.

During this Holy Season of Lent, through the outpouring of your love and sacrifices, you have shown that you have sincerely seen the Face of Christ in each person in our program, regardless of their age. You have heard their cries and have answered. Without a doubt, we know that God will bless you all abundantly for your caring and sharing with His poor. May His Resurrection on Easter allow His light to shine most brightly in your hearts and in the hearts of all you love. God Bless You for all eternity.

God Bless You All,

Angie Cebulski

Eileen Rockensies

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All contributions should be made out to:

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and sent to:

***Jerry Cebulski African Disability
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