

Beloved Co-Missionaries,

It is my fervent hope that each of you has had a beautiful and safe summer. By now I believe all of you have received the news of our new nonprofit celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Our Lady of Fatima

Rehab. Dedicating this new non-profit to Jerry, my nephew, I am sure will help to spread the aid that is so desperately needed by the disabled in Liberia.

There will be few changes in regards to the Rehab residents and the SA handicapped in the outer villages. My family and Kevin's now have full control over the nonprofit and the fundraising. Kindly make all new donations out to JCADF or the Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation and mail to Kevin Rockensies at 47 Harford Avenue, Shavertown, PA 18708. I just know that by honoring the memory of Jerry in this way that we will be able to help so many more in Africa.

My deepest appreciation to all for your continued support. Because of you God's least are being fed, clothed and learning how to read and write. This is a country where there is no running water, little food and very high



prices, few clothes, little or no medical care and few jobs for the disabled.

Many have expressed concern over Maude my 16 year old who has a large maxillo-facial tumor and who is showing advanced stages of malignancy. Kevin and his family have accepted many suggestions from donors who are trying to find a hospital here in America who would take her. Unfortunately, they have not been able to find any institution that will accept her. At this point we are turning to prayer and asking for a healing. I would deeply appreciate your prayers through Our Divine Savior and His chaplet of Divine Mercy. We will keep you posted on her condition. As of now she is still attending classes and assisting her peers who are confined to wheelchairs. She complains of abdominal pains and she returns to the hospital next week for another checkup.

We take so much for granted here in the U.S. In Liberia, they open up clinics and don't even have medical personnel. About the only thing they can diagnose is malaria and they can start an I.V. Years ago they had a few wonderful experienced doctors who were able to help so many of my children with corrective surgeries which have allowed them to walk with the use of crutches. Unfortunately this is not true today. Pray that we are able to get qualified physicians to visit and help many more.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your abundant generosity. Please pray for me too as I continue to keep each of you and your families in my constant prayers.

God Bless you for sharing and caring.

Sister & ponsa Beltran, OSF

Sister Sponsa Beltran OSF



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



Summer 2013



Dear Co-Missionaries,

Welcome to the continuation of the work of God, the missionary work begun by Sister Sponsa Beltran, OSF twenty-five years ago in Cape Palmas, Liberia. This is the work of caring for the disabled, "the poorest of God's poor." So much has happened since that first young child was brought to Sister, begging her for help in learning to walk. In 1970, when Sister was assigned to Liberia she ran a medical clinic for the poor, cared for lepers at a local leprosarium, helped the government quell cholera epidemics, and taught in the Bernardine school. She helped save many people's lives but not once had she ever seen a disabled person. The handicapped were hidden

from public view as they were considered "witched" and were shunned by Liberian society. Eliza, a girl who was paralyzed from the waist down, was the first disabled child Sister met and through the years, so many more came seeking her assistance and God's love, mercy and healing.

As we have listened to Pope Francis, we cannot help but think of the service both He and Sister Sponsa have given God in their lifetimes. He repeatedly has asked us to look around at the downtrodden and marginalized in our society. "We live in a culture of waste and materialism...only when we share do we become truly rich for our gifts are always multiplied." Well dear co-missionaries, each of you has heard the voice of God through our new Pope and in the works and words of Sister Sponsa. Today it is not difficult to see the poor who struggle here in the United States, but after Kevin having just returned from Liberia, we can tell you that there is great suffering





around the globe. At the very least, the poor here have some agency or organization to reach out to. But in Liberia, there truly is nowhere to turn. There is poverty beyond what we see in the States and with you, we are trying our best to help. It was wonderful to deliver food and new clothes to Our Lady's Rehab and bring "care" packages to the families of the disabled in the villages. All of this was possible because of your generosity. There just never seems to be enough so our team always makes "extra" packages of rice and beans to distribute to those in need that we meet along the

way. This trip, our team was introduced to eight new handicapped individuals and two more have been discovered since Kevin returned to the States. After evaluating their individual needs, those who are capable of attending school will be enrolled in September and will have uniforms because of your donations. We hope each of you can feel the gratitude expressed in the smiles of these poor and their families. A huge "thank you" on behalf of Sister Sponsa and our African team who are trying so hard to reach out and share with their brothers and sisters.

This was not an easy trip for when Kevin was changing planes, he received word that Martha, one of our beloved staff members, had passed away. This was one of the most loving, giving women we have ever known and she would work from dawn to dusk trying to alleviate the suffering around her. We knew that she was ill but it was Kevin's hope that she would still be alive by the time he reached Roberts Field in Monrovia. We spoke with her numerous times and she always expressed a



deep appreciation for what we had been able to do for her. She said she wanted just two things when God called---she wanted a mass and she wanted to be buried the day after passing. We were able to speak with her pastor on the phone and he gave her the sacraments of the sick, but her family brought her body to an undertaker for a three week wake before we were able to intervene. We never realized they even had undertakers in this corner of the world. Unfortunately, Kevin was not able to stay for the funeral as he was scheduled to return to the states. But we were told that the church was packed with friends and relatives. There was a large group of disabled from the Rehab, from the villages and from another mission in the area where Martha had previously worked. So, we have another saint in heaven to pray to for the continuation of Sister's work in Liberia and the surrounding areas. Martha lived the Beatitudes and always greeted all with love, hugs and joy. Pope Francis has said, "Christians must be people of action and truth." Martha most certainly was a true Christian and she will be dearly missed.



On this trip, we were able to have another dozen beds built with wonderful mattresses but finding wheelchairs are still a problem. Many have seen the red rehab wheelchairs that were donated to Sister eleven years ago. About three years ago we were able to get 25 wheelchairs onto someone's sea container and they were quickly distributed. On this trip we examined many of the chairs we sent over and they are already falling apart. We will not and cannot spend your donations on chairs that appear strong but cannot withstand the rugged terrain. We have researched the foundation that makes the red chairs which now have all terrain tires and powdered steel frames. However, they no longer make donations and they will only send a fully packed sea container

which will contain 260 chairs. They are strong and serviceable and yes, we most certainly could use 260. However, they want \$48,000 for the chairs, the cost of shipping a sea container and delivery. We are still trying to set aside the money for this need. However, tuitions are due this month and we have been hit extremely hard with medical and surgical bills this year and of course clean water and food must come first. We know you will laugh when we tell you that one of the younger children you support suggested that we play the lottery! Here in a country that is so dirty, has no electricity or running water, and so few people with roofs over their heads, they know about the American lottery!

Victoria, one of Sister's original children is graduating from college on August 30th with a degree in business administration. If you remember, we accepted Vicky as a team member late last year and she has turned out to be a tremendous asset. She is wonderful with the disabled as she is a polio victim and has heavy braces on her legs and walks with forearm crutches. She lives in one room off campus as she takes care of her aging mother who originally abandoned her. Although she often is out in the villages working with the adults and children, she will now be using her computer skills in her responsibilities. She collects all the receipts from purchases and forwards everything to us for our records and



she just found two additional small children who cannot even sit up or roll over. They are 18 months old and two years old and as usual, we presently have no idea what is wrong with them. The photos will arrive soon and we will add these children to the SA program. Victoria is another of Sister's very special children who is a real credit to the upbringing that Sister provided.



Many of you have made wonderful suggestions with regard to Maude, our 16 year old who suffers from a malignant maxillafacial tumor. We have followed through on every suggestion but unfortunately, no program here in the states or in the surrounding areas are willing to accept her. We even had one donor suggest a hospital in Rome, Italy but to no avail. Foundations are extremely specific in their guidelines. Some will not treat anyone from outside their own country. Many organizations do not want to fund potentially several years of treatment when the patient suffers from a potentially fatal disease. They do some wonderful work, but they place restrictions on what they can help with because the demand for

their services is so overwhelming. We have been researching every lead. As of today, Maude has taken a turn for the worse and we have had a priest visit and give her the Sacrament of the Sick. Please keep the prayers going.

A while back we told you about a "model village" that was set up as a memorial for a gentleman's wife who died suddenly. Living in this village with their parents are three of our SA children who we send to school, feed and clothe. John, one of our team members, was instrumental in helping the village elders set up chicken coops and plant a plethora of vegetables. The eggs from the chickens and the chickens themselves along with the vegetables are feeding many in the village. Just like when Sister Sponsa attempted a similar program, their initial introduction to chicken raising resulted in the chicks dying. Through trial and error they learned that there was something in the soil that was killing the birds. After laying a cement floor in



the coops and spreading sawdust and corn, they found that they no longer were losing any birds. While visiting the rehab, Kevin found that there was a number of cement structures already built on the land. So we had a discussion about the possibility of setting up a chicken project on the campus. Victor seemed extremely enthusiastic and we will see that the coops will all be wheelchair accessible. The eggs will provide wonderful protein as well as the chickens themselves. What is left could supplement the income for the Rehab residents if all works out well. John emailed a breakdown of the cost and we think it is an extremely reasonable project to fund. It will cost only \$600 USD to construct the coops but the chicks will then be an additional cost along with the roosters. Please keep this project in your prayers as we need to choose really responsible young people to take charge of the program. We will keep you posted on this new venture and how it is progressing. From what we understand, the gentleman who began the "model village project" is no longer able to finance it. With soil supplements, repairs, new baby chicks and vegetable seedlings, their project will take \$2000 a year to keep it running. We are hoping to keep this project going as it is another way for these people to be selfsufficient and it is helping to feed the disabled and their families in this area. It would be a travesty just to see this project disappear and once again have more starving people.



Kevin is presently working on a new web site for the final transition to the new non-profit (www.africandisabilityfoundation.org). All of the services we offer to the disabled will be explained and we are trying hard to keep each of you informed as to how your generous donations are being used. Very little will change for the disabled and hopefully we will only improve on the services we offer them. As we explained in our initial letter, the JCADF or the Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation is no longer under Teach Peace and has returned

to the Cebulski/Beltran/Rockensies families. Anyone who has made automatic donations through banks, credit cards and recurring monthly donations will find that the new system will soon be in place and you will be notified. All future donations should be made out to JCADF or the Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation and mailed to Kevin Rockensies, 47 Harford Avenue, Shavertown, PA 18708.

Anyone with questions, please feel free to call or email at any time (krock@epix.net ; 570-406-4533). We will travel almost anywhere to give a presentation after January 1st, 2014 if you are able to get a group of possible donors together. Any suggestions for future fundraisers will be deeply appreciated. Once again we would like to thank all of you who have lost loved ones and have asked family and friends to please make donations out to JCADF. Brochures will be made up in the near future that can be distributed at events to those who wish to support the continuation of Sister's vision for the disabled of Liberia. Finally, we wish to thank the Teach Peace Foundation for their aid in the last four and a half years. They have helped us continue caring for the poor and disabled of Liberia and helped us reach this stage where we can have our own non-profit organization. We are excited to continue this journey that Sister Sponsa began so long ago and we hope you are too! Thank you for your continued support and for caring and sharing with His least! May God continue to bless all of you abundantly.

In His Name,

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Angie Cebulski

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Kevin J. Rockensies

All contributions should be made out to: JCADF and sent to: Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation 47 Harford Avenue Shavertown, PA 18708 Donations are tax deductible

Jerry Cebulski African Disability Foundation (JCADF) Cell: 570-406-4533 Email: <u>krock@epix.net</u> Web: <u>www.africandisabilityfoundation.org</u>