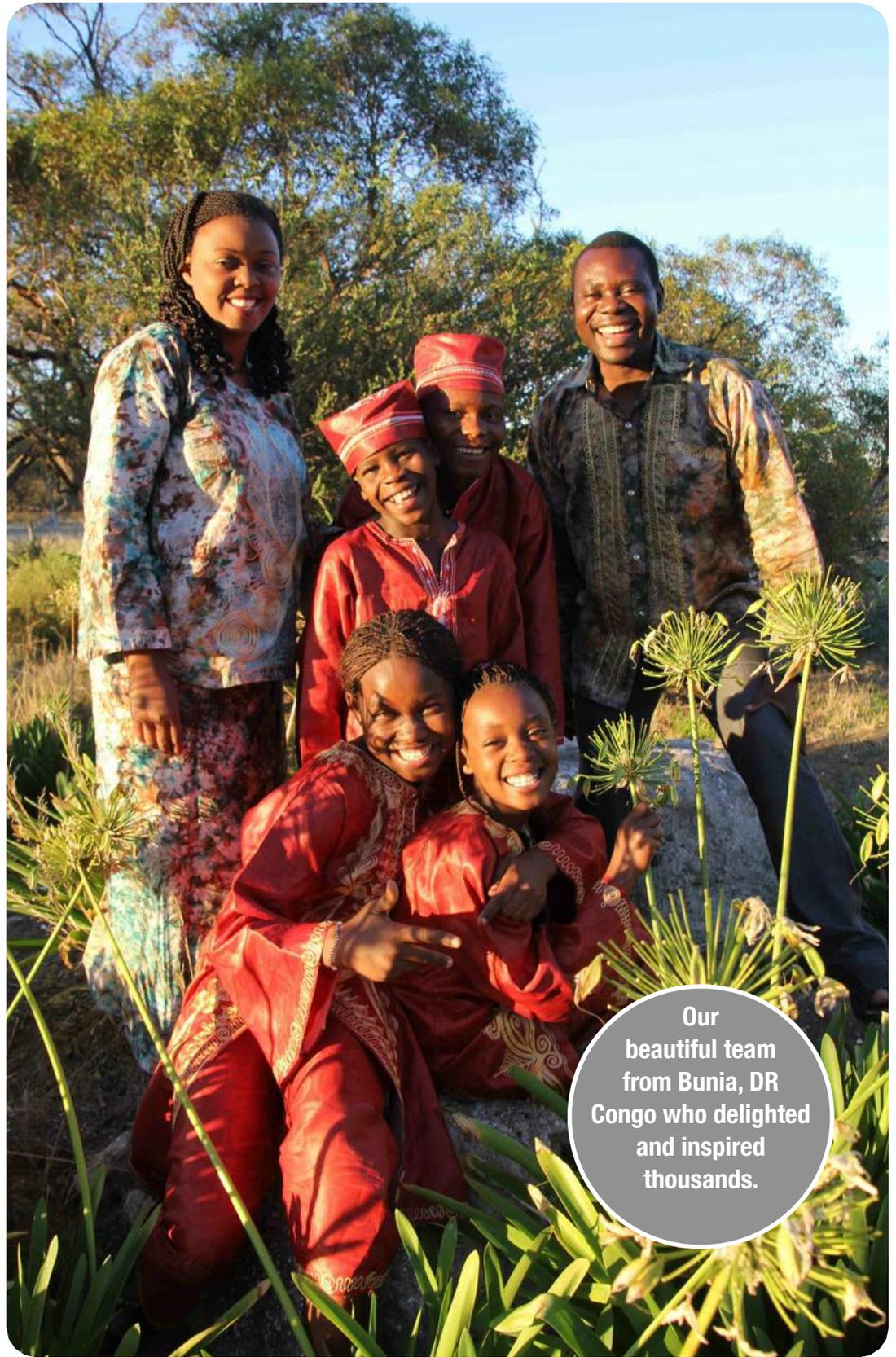


May

2022 REFLECTIONS



Our beautiful team from Bunia, DR Congo who delighted and inspired thousands.

HIGH IMPACT

The 'Congo's Children' Team quickly adapted to this new land of whites and bravely shared their stories with great impact in 12 school and 11 church presentations.

RAISED AWARENESS

Thousands of Aussies were challenged deeply to learn of the recent plight of millions in the Congo. Most heard for the first time of a nation torn by war.

LOVE IN ACTION

Hundreds have commenced active support for the orphans of war and disease who make up the student body at the HCLS HOPE Complex School.

SHOW-TIME



Congo's Children presented their stories, songs and dance 24 times in 3.5 weeks with great impact.

After the 4 day trip from Bunia, DRC, to Adelaide, Australia, the team quickly rose to the challenges of a whole new world with so many things to learn that we Aussies just take for granted.

Everything was a new experience, from swimming in the salty sea (they LOVE salt!), having running water and a shower in the house, hanging clothes on a clothes line not a tree, and being hugged everywhere they went.

During the trip we managed to recover the cost of bringing them here and since then, support for the project in Bunia is coming in also. We have 62 deserving children from the school sponsored while our visitors were here.

The children have settled back in Bunia well and the whole school community is excited that some were chosen to visit Australia and so many new friends have heard about post war Congo and their school project.

Without the amazing house and presentation help from Bron Lang, our mission would never have happened. It was great also to have Jillian Wolf relieve us of filming and photos as well as arranging media interviews.

Thanks so much girls!

Where to from here?

The project in Bunia has received a great boost in sponsorships, new friends and financial gifts. This means we can now build a house for the Kile's, finish the School Hall and build dorms for 150 senior school students at the new HOPE Secondary School, without which, the students could not continue study.



Students captivated by Congolese rhythms

Child Education Sponsorship is empowerment for a brighter future.

When someone sponsors a HOPE School student, an exciting new world opens up for them, and scores of more children also benefit.



Without the HOPE Child Sponsorship Plan, and hundreds of faithful sponsors, our HOPE Schools in Uganda and DR Congo would not be able to function. The funds from sponsorship are used carefully by our partners in Africa to ensure the school projects remain viable, education standards are always

improving, and the child's personal and emergency needs are met.

In the HCLS project, the HOPE Complex School, sponsorship funds enable emergency medical and hospital care for the child, provides them with a treated mozzie net and mattress, and employs a school counselor and social worker for assisting rescued children with their rehabilitation from the trauma of war, loss and abandonment. All students are able to receive a uniform, shoes and some books.

In other HOPE projects in Uganda, sponsored children also receive food at school and emergency support at their homes, especially where parents or guardians are absent, disabled or suffer addictions like home brewed alcohol from sugar cane.

Our partner RWC in Mbarara, Uganda has around 600 children who can be sponsored, and in Bunia, DR Congo, about 240 children are hoping to be sponsored. Mozart Kile trains the children that their sponsor is a very 'special friend' who will stand with them for many years.

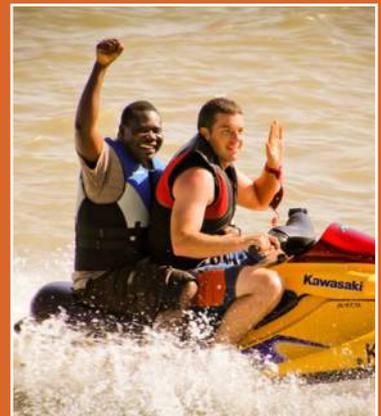
Left Munguriek, 7 years. She has lost both parents and is cared for by her grandparents who are very poor. She is in P1.

97% of sponsorship dollars are used in a HOPE Project with special benefits to the child, and empowerment to the whole project.



The perfect picture: sponsor & child

LOVE RULES



Congo's Children - their stories in brief.



Danni Kuratabo - at the age of two he saw his father after militia had cut off his head, arms and legs - fleeing to Bunia, DR Congo, with his pregnant mother they survived but with no extra income to pay school fees - thanks to the HOPE partner school there he is now at age 10, in school doing really well - and recently has been sponsored, along with his sister - an amazing little guy with a heart wrenching story - but what a hope he now has for his future. Danni wants to be a missionary.



Nadia Baraka - was nine years old when both her parents died of HIV/AIDS within six months of each other, leaving her one of 50 million AIDS orphans in Africa - she has lived in a child-led home with older sisters some of whom have their own children. She lives in a slum area where the trade for girls is in prostitution and if not for being in HOPE Complex School in Bunia, DR Congo, she would, at the age of thirteen, most likely already be in that trade. For her though there is hope for her future; she wants to become a building engineer... who knows? Maybe she will build our first Australia Hope International University!

On returning to Bunia, Nadia is excited as she now lives with Mozart and Sephora's family and other orphans .



Pascal Bahati - lost his parents at the age of 6. When the militia came to his village, he ran one way and his parents ran the other. His parents and many others were killed by a bomb but he escaped to Bunia. A lady took him in but he still had to walk the streets trying to sell milk and water and at the age of eight the principal of the HOPE Complex School in Bunia, DR Congo, took him into his home even though he could not afford to care for him, especially his education. Pascal is one of the first students at our school and has been there four years. At the age of 17, he is in the Congolese equivalent of Year 8. He thanks God for His Grace in remembering him, accepting him into the school and being treated so lovingly and well, even though he is of the tribe that committed the massacre of many of Mozart's relatives and friends. Pascal wants to be a sound technician after his schooling.



Sara Kile - is Mozart and Sephora's daughter, one of their 4 children, and lives with 18 others in their small rented house. This family is spearheading change for bringing hope to a town where the Ituri war pinnacled in 2003.

Sara loves her father and the work he does with rescuing and rehabilitating war and AIDS orphans. She sees them as her friends and says "I love them very very much". She is in P6 at HOPE Complex School and wants to be a doctor one day.



Mozart and Sephora Kile - have 4 children, 3 girls and 1 boy. They have both studied at University in Bunia and in Nairobi Kenya while living in asylum due to the war. Mozart obtained his masters in Missiology specialising in the rehabilitation of war orphans.

Mozart's escape from Bunia was miraculous. After hiding several days with friends, he moved out of the protecting compound and walked to the airport past the militia who simply ignored them. This was despite terrible atrocities happening all around. Late in the day they arrived at the airport where a Samaritans Purse plane had been landing daily to rescue, but no-one could get to it.

The small group was not permitted entry to the airport that night, so they stayed outside all night. Next day they were in, and herded on the seatless plane for a safe place on the Ugandan border.

Mozart and Sephora knew they had been spared for a reason. Hope and Care for Little Souls, their organisation, is the fruit of these special lives now spent in the rescue and rehabilitation of victims of war, being mainly orphaned children and widows.

The Australian boyhood friend of Mozart, **Steve Schoemaker** and family, visited South Australia during the tour and enjoyed catching up and sharing the mission together. Steve is the Australian Contact for HCLS and is based in Queensland.



‘Muzungu House’ well on the way to completion in Kibogo.

A beautiful house for Australian visitors to Kibogo Deep Village in western Uganda is slowly nearing completion. This facility will have many functions that will help in improving the quality of education, health, and horticultural productivity on the school land and village gardens.

We still need to connect a rainwater tank, plumbing and a simple power system; while not bringing up to 5 star standards, we hope to accommodate visitors well, right in the heart of one of our most exciting projects.

The HOPE School in Kibogo has had medical care provided for every child from our spare funds and gift cards.

Good Hope Clinic has been great for providing this care, and we will now utilise the services of Maranatha, a new Australian run Medical Centre.



HOPE School at Nakivale Refugee Camp Needs Urgent Help.

Civil unrest, verging on war, broke out in villages around Goma in Eastern Congo very recently. This resulted in thousands of terrified villagers fleeing their homes and gardens into Southern Uganda refugee camps. The flow of families into Uganda has caused an overnight increase of 280 children in our HOPE School.

Latitia, our HOPE worker in the RWC office in Mbarara, reports the sudden increase has caused great pressure on staff who are struggling to cope. The Baby Class (first class of 3 nursery classes) now has 135 children with one faithful teacher!

Staff rooms are being used as classrooms and teachers have nowhere to sit all day. The faithful tree in the yard is again being used as a classroom to cater for overflow classes.

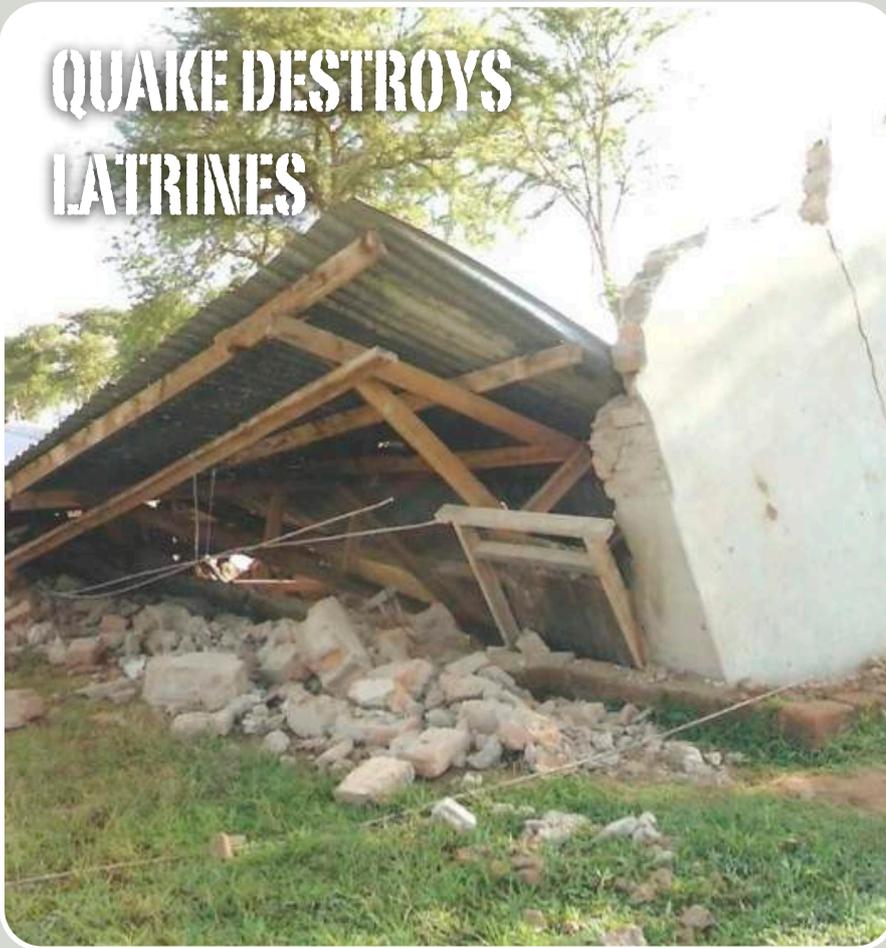
Latitia says there is now a very urgent need for children's desks, teachers desks and chairs, teachers quarters and more classrooms. HOPE has been waiting for support to get 2 more rooms up, but now we aim for at least 4 so growth in children's numbers can be better accommodated.

The teachers at this school have been amazing. They are coping with remote and harsh conditions, and we are determined to lift the quality of schooling here for the children who have fled war and atrocities in their homeland.

What is urgently needed from Australia is teacher training and assistance, funds for construction and furniture, and class sponsorship. Help is welcome by going to the [donate](#) or [class sponsorship](#) page of our website



QUAKE DESTROYS LATRINES



HOPE School Nakivale

An earthquake at our HOPE School in the refugee camp resulted in the collapse of the 6 cell latrines used by over 300 children and staff. With \$6,000 we will rebuild this structure which is necessary for the school to operate.



In several unfinished HOPE Schools our target is to lay cement floors for 2012

The amazing dedication of the HOPE School teachers must not be taken for granted. They receive minimal pay, lack adequate quarters and have large class sizes in harsh conditions.

One way we want to make their work environment better this year is to put cement floors in all classrooms where currently there is only stones and a dolomite type surface. This floor, with wear and tear after some years, produces white bull-dust which makes teacher and child alike cough and it covers everything. [Jiggers are also a problem.](#)

Five rooms have just been laid in Nakivale HOPE School with five remaining to be done. We trust this is the start of support for floor hardening that will take us through to completion of all rooms in all our schools. Each room costs about \$500 and 15 rooms remain to do.

Mission News:

(Donations to HOPE Missions are NOT tax deductible)

Jono Osborne, accompanied by James Packer, has been conducting outreach in southern, western and north western Uganda. They are thrilled at the number of first time commitments, healings including 2 deaf people, and deliverances. Jono plans to spend 4 weeks in the Ituri region of DR Congo conducting major open air outreaches with Mozart Kile and the church in villages and Bunia Town.

Children sit on the dusty floors all day and return home covered in white dust.



Newly hardened floors mean no dust and the new desks sit firmly.



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