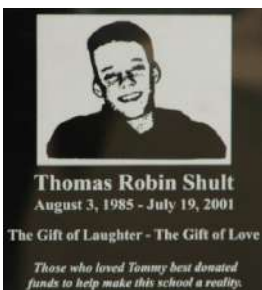




WE ARE VERY PLEASED to be sending you our very first Bridges of Hope Newsletter. Herein are real-life stories from board members, volunteers, and Hope Village staff and residents. It is our desire to stay in touch with you about what God is doing with this ministry He has entrusted to us.

HOPE VILLAGE'S BEGINNING



Thomas Robin Shult passed away suddenly at the age of 15 when he developed a mysterious liver disease. A \$10,000 memorial was received from his family at the same time Engineering Ministries International was visiting the land

which was to become Hope Village. That gift allowed construction on the first six classrooms to begin immediately and soon the first 120 students were attending school. Tommy was a special young man loved by both family and friends. The inscription says it all: The Gift of Laughter - The Gift of Love. Those who loved Tommy donated funds to help make this school a reality.

Dalaina's Testimony

Our first trip to Liberia was in 2000. That trip we spent most of our time at Phebe Hospital compound. We (Russ, Dalaina and Josh) found

we had a love for the Liberian people that felt as though it had always been there. We had never been to Liberia and really didn't know much about it, but as soon as we were there it seemed like going to relatives that you love to visit. Sometimes I think God puts people in our hearts before we even meet them. There was a mutual love as soon as we arrived. One day, sitting on the porch with Marie Padmore, she said to me "Your family really loves Liberians!", and it was true. We felt a love for them that we couldn't explain in any other way...they were family. As we left to go home we were asked when we would come back. We said we didn't know, but that we would be back. In 2008 we made a return trip... we found the same love... not all the same people, but the same family feeling.

Dalaina Salamun




EVENT UPDATE

LOOKING BACK AT 2012 by Connie Diedrich

God continues to move through the hearts and generosity of Hope Village supporters. In 2012, our Board and many volunteers joined in three primary fund raising events.

Our Community celebrated hope and love at the **Lend a Hand Love a Child** concert at Main Street Square. Uplifting praise and worship

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER

-  Pray for two more orphan homes to be provided. Each home is \$2000.
-  Pray for the provision of Hope Village's teacher's monthly salary.
-  Pray that God's will be fleshed out for each of the precious children of Hope Village and that sponsors will be provided for each of them.

COMING EVENTS

-  Mark your calendars for this year's fundraising event in Main Street Square. It will be held Saturday, August 31. Check Facebook and our website for updated information.
-  This winter we'll also be doing another online raffle with more amazing prizes. If you would like to donate funds or even prizes for the event, please contact us.
-  "Home for the Holidays" event will be happening again this year. Stay tuned for more information.

joined the music of Tom Haggerty and Friends, ISI singers Yanga and Juliana, and the beautiful children's chorus led by Kendra Chiolis. Donations and child sponsorships funded education programs, food, two orphan homes, and several pigs and chickens for the farm.

In November, Cory Church provided the leadership for a successful fund-raising raffle of an iPad, iPod, and Kindle. A special thank you to the prize sponsors. The combination of these events and individual donations provided the resources to maintain the Hope Village School program, care for orphans, and, distribution of rice to the families and workers living in Hope Village.

Two sponsorship programs were initiated in 2012. The child sponsorship program was launched at the **Lend a Hand Love a Child** concert. The Goat Sponsorship program partnered with Bridges of Hope to help establish a self-sustaining Hope Village economy. The Goat Program funds veterinarian assistance and placement of goats with women to help them produce viable economic products and grow the herd. Thank you to Karen Lantz and her organization.

Christian fellowship, beautiful music, and generous hearts culminated in the "A Home for the Holidays" blessing. The resources received during this Christmas gathering funded the construction of a new orphan home in Hope Village. The home will provide shelter for one family and up to five orphans. What a blessing!

Orphan care

by Kendra Chiolis

I am the mother of four amazing children of God; the youngest of which was once an orphan. What does it mean to be orphaned? It simply means that a child is without parents. An orphan may have other living relatives, but they may not be able to bring another child into their immediate family. Sometimes we even refer to a child who does have one or both parents living, as an orphan, because that child may be struggling and needing assistance from an outside source. This is possible by providing necessities, fostering, sponsorship, and sometimes, as a very last resort...adoption.

Our family chose to adopt our daughter, Aregash Dejene from Wolayta, Ethiopia in Africa. I won't share the details of how she

"There are approximately 150 MILLION orphans in this world we live in; over 50 million orphans reside on the continent of Africa."

became an orphan as that is her story to tell, but I will say that through our adoption process and what we've learned, we are eager to love on the orphans of the world through other means as well. Bridges of Hope is one way our family is involved in reaching the children across the world, children who otherwise may not have opportunities. Proper nutrition, shelter, medications, and most importantly, education, will ensure a higher survival rate in children who are not expected to live a long life. People in Africa, generally speaking, understand how valuable an education is for a successful future. They know that an education, ANY education will separate them from others. Bridges of Hope is working to help provide this for the children of Hope Village. They are providing a chance for an orphan to have a family through their fostering program and orphan homes. We have a significant goal to educate and love and provide for the children in Liberia, West Africa by teaching them how to survive by their own means. Scripture reads...

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."
John 14:18

"Father to the fatherless, defender of widows — this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families." Psalms 68:5-6

"And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me." Matthew 18:5.

There are approximately 150 MILLION orphans in this world we live in; over 50 million orphans reside on the continent of Africa. We are ALL called to have a passion for the orphans of the world because...

"In you, the orphan finds mercy". Hosea 14:3

// Challenge //

I send a challenge to you, our readers, to see what it takes to throw 33 cents into a can once a day for a week. I challenge you to see if this 33 cents less in your pocket hinders you in any way. Is the only inconvenience taking the time to throw it in a can? The point here is really obvious - something so small to us and so truly easy to do without, will actually allow a very eager learner to go to school. This small sacrifice is a truly amazing way to **change another human being's life for the better.** Please let Bridges of Hope be entrusted with your 33 cents a day for just one year to **sponsor a child**, and let us show you that your sacrifice will become a blessing to a child and their family. It is a humbling thing for our children or grandchildren to be involved in and it makes great gifts for them too (sponsor a child in your loved one's name!). Let's show our children what it looks like to unify and care for the children of the word... God's children.

Brad Thompson

These children need your help.



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If you would like to donate to the needs of Hope Village, you can donate on our website at bridgesofhopewestafrica.com or send your donation to

PO Box 8265
Rapid City, SD 57709.

