

Light Shines Bright in Congo!

March 2018

In the January newsletter, we shared the need for solar power for Congo for Christ Center (CCC). Often we are surprised by God, and this was one of those moments. Shortly after the newsletter went out, we received an email from a generous donor offering to pay the entire amount! CCC acted quickly and by the end of February the entire campus has been outfitted with solar power equipment. Just imagine what a blessing this is to the orphans, the staff, Mango Tree School and the Bible School! Pastor Jeremiah reports that the solar equipment is working well and even on a cloudy day, they are still able to have light at night. They can also run computers, musical instruments and sound equipment for the community feeding program and worship services held each weekend. We rejoice with our Congo friends over this huge quality of life improvement!



In addition to the need for electricity, we became aware of much needed improvements in the children's dormitory rooms. The children have been living in these rooms for six years and renovations are desperately needed. We shared the need for new sheets and pillows and thankfully, they have been pur-



New solar power means no more stumbling around in the darkness at night...what a blessing!

chased. When we saw the state of the rooms and also heard they have bed bugs, we asked them to not use the new sheets and pillows until we are able to get the rooms cleaned and painted. They agreed this would be the best plan and we are happy to say the work has already begun. Many of the windows also need replacing. Any gifts for this renovation project will be greatly appreciated.

In addition to the solar light, we are also excited to tell you **the light of Christ is shining brightly** through the weekly community feeding program. A worship service is followed by lunch for the children and most weeks over 1,300 children are attending. In 2017 nearly 28,000 meals were served and **624 children accepted Jesus as their Savior!** In addition, the monthly ministry to the teenagers in the area is having a positive impact. Daniel sent this note of thanks:

In conclusion, we would like to thank our entire donors for the support they are providing for the community kids. It's not all about feeding these kids but we see a brighter future in them and a brighter country full of responsible leaders who spearhead the gospel of Jesus to all places in our nation. All the effort you are making is not in vain but it is building a torn nation and it will bear fruits one day. (unedited)

Blind, but now she sees!

A few months ago we introduced you to *Pastor Samuel and his ministry we are calling *"Caring for Children." Since we began supporting Pastor Samuel and two other pastors we have received many reports of precious people who had never heard the name of Jesus now accepting Christ as Savior. Please enjoy the picture and testimony we received from *Kaya as told to Pastor Samuel: (unedited)



*My name is *Kaya. I am 12 years old. I am helping my parents at the Jhum cultivation. (slash-and-burn hillside farming) My parents are still alive. I have two brothers and two sisters. My parents are now Christians, but they were Buddhist before. My parents did not*

want to believe in Jesus. They used to hate pastors and Jesus. Once my mom lost her sight. Then my parents went to shaman for healing. The shaman told them, you have displeased the spirits that is why you have been cursed. You now have to give animal sacrifice. My parents took chicken to the shaman and gave sacrifice many times, but my mom still could not see. One day a pastor who was staying in our village brought some other preachers to our village. My mom thought if they pray for her, she might get her sight back. But my father was strongly against my mom's decision and he warned my mom that if she goes to the preachers, he will divorce her. But my mom was so much desperate to get her sight back and determined to go to the preachers. So she went to the preachers and they prayed for her. I was with my mom. After they prayed, nothing happened to my mom. When she went back home, my father told her, I told you not to go to the preachers, the spirits will be angrier with us and we will also be blind like you. But after one week, my mom said, it seems I am getting

my sight back little by little. After one month, my mom's eyesight got much better than before. She could work and go anywhere by herself. Then my mom decided to become a Christian and to be baptized. My father is also a Christian now.

I also strongly believe in Jesus. I learnt so many things about Jesus after I go to Sunday School and attend the church. My Sunday School teacher loves me so much. I did not like to come to Sunday School and attend church before because I thought the Sunday School teacher will yell at me and other students will mistreat me. But everyone in this Sunday School is so good to me and our teacher loves me very much. We play every Sunday School and sing songs in the school. I love to play and sing a lot. I want to become a health worker in the future because people often get sick in my village and no one knows how to treat the sick.



Children learn about Jesus who loves them in Sunday School

Dear Partners, your gifts help spread the Gospel message to children like Kaya who had never heard the name of Jesus. Pastor Samuel and his team rely on our support to help them share the love of Christ.

*names have been changed to protect identity

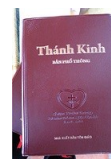
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Pat Gesin



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