



January 21, 2008

Dear Friends and Supporters of FAMA Ministries,

We wanted to wish you a Blessed New Year and to thank you for your generous support. We also wanted to update you with some of the 2007 highlights of FAMA's work in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa.

Pygmy Project in Muyinga, Burundi

The Pygmies are one of the most marginalized groups in the entire world. In Burundi, reportedly the eighth poorest nation in the world, they are the poorest of the poor.

In September, FAMA supported the enrollment of 74 Pygmy children in school for the first time ever. With the support of a lady Pygmy senator, FAMA motivated families to enroll children in school by providing school supplies, clothing and words of encouragement. The children remain in school because, with your generous support, FAMA is providing monthly food rations to each Pygmy family with a child in school.

This summer FAMA plans to begin construction of basic dwelling places for each of these families. The families will participate in building their own homes by providing the bricks. FAMA has received donations of doors, windows, roofing and other building materials for the construction and is raising funds to send these materials to Burundi.

It is almost impossible to describe the impact that your contributions continue to have on this forgotten people group. A spokesperson for the Pygmies recently stated: "We don't know how to thank FAMA for thinking about us when others don't have the time. It has become possible for a Pygmy child to sit with Tutsi and Hutu children. It has even become possible for a Pygmy child to sit between the two."

Education

In addition to facilitating the education of Pygmy children, FAMA has also supported three other schools this past year. A generous contribution from a Portland Maine church enabled us to rebuild the roof and walls of a school in Nyangezi, D.R. Congo, repair desks and toilets in a school in Kanombe, Rwanda and enable refugee children in Bujumbura to take their final exams. We also paid rent for the school in Bujumbura and provided a small gift of encouragement to the teachers who donate all their time.

Christmas for Rape Victims

For the past few years, FAMA has been partnering with Pastor Ruben Muchumu, President of a non-profit called Help for Vulnerable People, in Bukavu, D.R. Congo to assist and support 50 women whose lives have been ravaged by rape. Pastor Muchumu has provided lodging as well as spiritual and social support to these women. Despite this assistance, these women and girls live in abject poverty and as outcasts of society.

Shortly before Christmas, Pastor Muchumu contacted the FAMA team in the U.S. and asked if we might provide a small Christmas gift of food rations for each of the women. Again, with your generous support, we were able to let these women know that God has not forgotten them. According to Pastor Muchumu, the women literally exploded with joy as they danced and sang for Christmas.

Training for Men and Boys Leaving the Military

FAMA is currently working with 101 young men and boys in Minembwe, D.R. Congo who have been forced out of the military. This past year, FAMA conducted two training sessions to teach these youths how to adjust to civilian life and to support themselves other than by their weapons. Each man and boy was given a few cows and goats to get them started on a new path.

Seminars

Finally, FAMA conducted numerous seminars in 2007. In March, FAMA conducted two women's seminars on the restoration of the family with a visitor from Morninglight Ministries in Maine. Later in the spring, FAMA conducted a youth seminar on how to create one's own business and a women's seminar on family communication. This fall, in conjunction with Sunrise Ministries of Colorado, FAMA conducted seminars on the fight against addiction and how to overcome trauma.

Without your support and prayers in 2007, FAMA's task would have been impossible. We cannot thank you enough for partnering with us to restore, rehabilitate, and protect the family in the war ravaged Great Lakes Region of Central Africa. Together, God is enabling us to truly change lives.

We wish you and yours God's richest blessing in 2008.

Pastor Ruben N. Ruganza
President and Founder, FAMA Ministries

Barbara A Appleby
U.S. Representative, FAMA Ministries