



Dear Friends
of the
Children of Bukati

July 2007

385 children
are fed
2 days
a week



I am excited to update you on the school's progress. In June 2006 we first met with the school council to offer assistance from Canada. At that time, there were 150 AIDS orphans attending the school and at least as many staying at home. The goal was to encourage orphans to come to school.

In July, the children stood before us, bedraggled in ripped and torn clothes that were falling off their little bodies. The dedicated teachers were intent on helping their pupils but there was an atmosphere of hopelessness. So much need, so much hunger and so many orphans without a means to get ahead. The vice principal showed us the list of orphaned and destitute children. Imagine what the child's life must be to be called destitute in a community where most people live on less than a dollar a day. The need was overwhelming!

In June, the school council said children needed food. The guardians could not feed them properly. Hungry children cannot learn. We set our financial goals higher and promised to start a lunch program if we could raise the money. The hope of a lunch program attracted more children. In February we had 109 new orphans in the school for a total of 321 in the school population of 700. If half of the community's children are orphaned, we were getting close to attracting them all. Now, the project is supporting 385 pupils who are orphaned or destitute out of a total school population of 724 pupils. We must be educating most of the orphans – and they are coming to school regularly.

In July 2006, only a few children brought the handful of corn to school requested by their teacher. This meagre bit of corn was shared amongst 90 pupils. Each child received a cup of warm water made cloudy by a little corn flour. The children could not pay attention in the afternoon. Many went home at lunch and did not return. Now, with your money, each child receives a cup of thick maize (corn) porridge. All of the children stay at school until 3:30 pm. Your donations are enhancing learning, growth and health of these young growing children.

Two days a week, the AIDS orphans and destitute children in grades 1 to 8 are given beans and corn (maize) for lunch. The grades 7 and 8 pupils in the program take responsibility for the lunch. They deliver pails of food to the classrooms, serve the lunches, and supervise the younger children until the afternoon classes begin. The lunch will be provided 3 days a week as more money is raised.

Just one year after the Children of Bukati project was launched, the school is hardly recognizable as the same place. Its energy, hope and enthusiasm are infectious.

Thank you for your support

Visit www.childrenofbukati.com for more details.

Donations are accepted by cheque made out to Stone United Church with Kenya Outreach on the memo line. Please send to Cate Dewey, RR 1, Rockwood, Ontario, Canada N0B 2K0