

RISHAMA INTERNATIONAL



A Ministry for African Children
News Letter No. 3.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP
WITH OUR KIDS

DATE: SAT. JULY 11, 2015,
TIME: 2:00PM
ECWA GOODNEWS KEFFI

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.
(2 Cor. 1:3-4).

Motto: "So that we may be able to comfort those in any affliction"

July 11, 2015 was a wonderful day to experience God through prayer and worship with the orphans. Part of what we do is to just spend time with the orphans to experience God through prayer and worship. That was a wonderful day. They loved it and we enjoyed it together. Praise God!

This ministry is designed to provide opportunities for God's people to come alongside Nigerian orphans and bring their resources and hearts together to find holistic and Christ centered hope, sympathy and love, for thousands of orphans and vulnerable children in Nigeria. Boko Haram has contributed to the high population of orphans in Nigeria.

About the proposed land.

It is difficult now to get such a big piece of land in a good and safe area in Nigeria, but we believe that the place we found is God's provision. We love this environment because it is near the Nigerian Army barracks, 177 Keffi Division. Getting this land will be a great blessing security wise. We believe our God is big, and he will show up in a miraculous way.

An Interesting story:

Rishama (there is God) International is making positive impacts in the lives of many orphans and youth in Nigeria. An interesting story of one of our orphans and how Rishama International has helped is one of the stories that you need to read. Those who watch Nigeria movies such as Nollywood will see the drama of how a brother can kill his brother or a sister killing her brother and his wife for the sake of their wealth. This is still happening in Nigeria. One of our orphans is a victim of this. There will be no name mentioned in this story for security reasons. She narrated her story to me in my house July 24, 2015 as follows:

"Sir I grew up in a very wealthy Muslim family. My father lost his Mom and Dad before I was born. My father died in a mysterious motor accident when I was 4 years old. I am the only child of my parents. I grew up hearing that my father died as a result of a demonic attack by his sister who wanted to inherit his wealth, true or false I do not know. But what I know for sure is that when I was 5 years, on Salah day, immediately when my mother finished cooking Sallah foods, my father's sister came into our house. This was the same woman who was accused of killing my Father. My mother was very hungry and wanted to eat. As soon as she went out to get my Sallah clothe, I saw my father's sister spread some powder on my mother's food. After that she started beating me and forced me to the bathroom, that it was time for me to take my shower and prepare for Salah celebration. My mother never knew what was happening and thought my father's sister was doing that with good intentions. I wept not because I did not want to take the shower but I wanted to stay and stop my mother from eating the food. But unfortunately I was forced to the bathroom and before I came out from the bathroom my mother had eaten the food that had been poisoned. When my father's sister saw my mother eating the poisoned food, she went out of the house without saying goodbye and never came back. My mother had a sharp stomach pain after she had eaten the food. Then I told her what had happened. Then she was rushed to the hospital and the Doctor confirmed that she had eaten poisoned food. She suffered for 3 years. That led to her death. Leaving me orphaned at the age of 5. My father's sister inherited all my father's wealth afterward. I was not cared for by her. She never took me to school. Sir, I thank God for you. You took me without knowing my story. You only saw me ugly, dirty, rejected and in need of help and graciously took me to your house as your daughter. You bathed me, schooled me, clothed me and led me to Christ. I cannot thank God enough for you. By his grace I am the only Christian in our family. Now I am 18 years old. You told me not to take vengeance; I am leaving the judgment to God who has used you to make me what I am today. Thank you sir.

Praise God now I have new clothes. I have new shoes. I am now a final year science student in a high school. I now have a laptop. You connected me to stay with Mrs. Ruth Ibrahim, the founder of Hope for Survival Orphanage Gishiri, in Abuja, the Capital city of Nigeria. I am now enjoying a new and a wonderful relationship with my new mother, Mrs. Ruth Ibrahim, the founder of Hope for Survival Orphanage. I found her a wonderful woman, God's fearing and a lover of orphans. Sir you are really a father to me. You want to build an orphanage but do not have the money. I pray that God will open doors for you. I know that your ministry, Rishama International will transform the lives of many orphans and youth in Nigeria. Thank you sir for listening to my story." Believe me or not, God is good!



Thomas Maijamaa is the Founder and Executive Director of the organization. The Executive Director will be responsible for the overall management and activity of the organization.

Rev. Thomas Maijamaa graduated from ECWA Bible College in 1993, and promptly went to work with ECWA as a field missionary, a church planter and a pastor. He was a great church planter and experience pastor for 20 years including caring for orphans and vulnerable children and was ordained under the Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) based on his faithfulness and good Christian testimony.

Rev. Thomas Maijamaa obtained more theological training in ECWA Theological Seminary Jos, Nigeria in 2003, after which he became a senior pastor for Ten years and cared for six orphans. In May 29, 2014 he graduated with a master degree in urban ministry at Westminster Theological Seminary Philadelphia. He is presently a student at the Billy Graham school of Missions and Evangelism Southern Seminary Louisville, KY, USA and hopes to get a PhD in Evangelism and Church Growth in a few years. He hopes to go back to Nigeria after his studies to continue with his pastoral ministry with the Evangelical Church Winning All and to run Rishama International. He is presently the senior pastor of 1st ECWA church Kentucky and the newly elected vice chairman, ECWA USA District Church Council (DCC), and a member of ECWA USA Church Planting Committee.



MRS. HANNAH THOMAS

Thomas and Hannah are happily married for about 26 years now. They are blessed with 2 biological children and a nephew. Hannah has faithfully supported Thomas' vision for ministry and his passion for the orphanage. She has been faithfully praying that everything works well for Rishama International. She says,

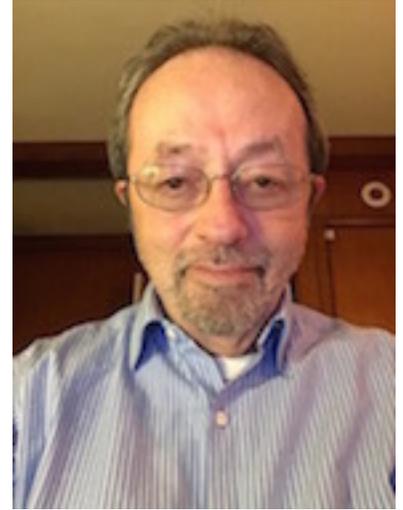
I lacked words to express my profound gratitude to God for what He is doing through Rishama International. It is amazing! We started by faith, and God has been faithful. Though there are challenges but the grace of God has been sufficient.

The challenges are much, but the grace of God is much more. The battle is the Lord's. We fight from Christ's victory. We will work till he comes.

My husband and I have been praying fervently for the smooth running of this ministry. We have seen God working through Annie, Steve, Cinda, Crews, Done Jones, Kathy, and Fiona and may others that we do not know. This is God's thing. Let his name be praised.

Would you not support this wonderful God given vision? Orphans are under God's special care.

You do not need to ask God for his will to support orphans; it is God's will for you to do so. We will appreciate your support.



MR. DONALD JONES

Donald Jones is the Secretary and Director of the organization. He is in charge of the overall administrative functions of the organization and will work approximately 10 hours per month. Mr. Donald Jones graduated from Philadelphia College of Pharmacy at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia in 1967 and completed his Masters degree in 1969.

His first work was a 5-year assignment with the SIM as Managing Director of their Headquarters Pharmacy in Jos, Nigeria servicing dispensaries and hospitals. Upon his return to the United States he began a 38 year career which included positions as Director of Pharmacy at both hospital and health system levels. Retiring from full time practice in 2014 he currently owns and operates a home-based business specializing in sports nutrition. He is semi-retired and looking forward to dedicating available time to charity work.

He Nigeria with Steve Modricker, the chairman board of Directors, this year December for the groundbreaking ceremony for the building of our orphanage.

Words of encouragement:

"It is such a faith stretching experience to see the Lord raise the funds for the Ministry." Kathy.

"What a privilege to be a small part of God's kingdom work!" Cinda

"All sounds good, it looks like the Lord is going on before, praise to Almighty God!" Keith Crews

"For the Lord comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her; thanksgiving and the voice of song" Isaiah 51:3

FUNDING— Funds for this Ministry are raised through the generosity of men and women who believe that God has called them to bring their hearts and resources together to provide hope for thousands of orphans and vulnerable children where ever they may be found. We would love to dialogue with you or your church about ways to be involved. Here are some suggestions:

Prayer – Recognizing that all we do is in the name and power of Jesus, we depend on the Lord for daily provision for the ministry. We ask for the prayers of God's people for the staff, volunteers, children, foster parents and all those receiving care through the ministry.

Volunteers – This ministry could not

continue without the assistance of many who volunteer their time and skills. We appreciate our volunteers and challenge others to get involved in this exciting ministry.

Supporting Partners—A church or an individual can be part of this ministry by becoming a supporting partner. This could be for a short-term or a long-term relationship. We invite you to consider being one of our supporting partners.

One Time Gift—We appreciate those who stepped in and gave their One Time financial assistance. We challenge you to consider giving a One Time gift.



Thomas Maijamaa, right and Mr. Kadiri left few persons at the site during the road construction work, July 6, 2015.



Steve Modricker, his wife Fiona right, and his daughter Faith, middle.

Steve Modricker, Computer Systems Analyst for LTK Engineering, while speaking at the inauguration service said, “We had the privilege to meet Rev. Thomas and Hanna Maijamaa while they went to our church Glenside Bible Church. We did not get to know them very well at the church until circumstances had it that they needed a place to stay for part of the summer. We really got to know them when this past summer they came to live with us.

I want you to know how blessed we were to have had them in our home. They are definitely a Godly couple, very hard working, very devoted to God and very passionate about their goals and vision. So, along with all that, we also started to catch a glimpse of ministry of Rishama and the passion on the heart of Thomas and Hanna. After helping with the rishama.org website I volunteered to be a USA board member. So that’s some of our connection to you. I want to encourage you that we will stand with you and support you in this ministry. We will both pray for you and support you financially. We will work on your behalf to get other churches in the USA to back this ministry.

I believe that God is behind this ministry. That He approves and commands us to do this. Eph. 2: 10 shows us that it is God himself who has made us what we are and given us new lives from Christ Jesus; and long ages ago He planned that we should spend these lives in helping others. So, my hope and prayer is that Rishama International Ministry for African Ministry will be a place of refuge. It will be a place where those who may have otherwise been in turmoil will now find a place of rest and refreshing. It won’t be easy.

With our endeavors for God, there needs to be discipline or a strengthening to maintain such a place of refuge. You have to stay rooted in God’s word.”

Land Acquisition in Northern/Middle part of Nigeria.

Recalling the words of our Lord Jesus in Luke 16:8 “the children of the world are wiser than the children of the kingdom” I see the principle of land acquisition as one of the Muslim agendas to Islamize Nigeria. In their plans they do not allow Christians to own lands especially in the northern and middle part of Nigeria, they buy every available piece of land. Because of this, only few Christians own lands in this part of the country.

But in God’s providence, we met a Christian who owns a vast piece of land. He bought it many years ago from the Muslims and is willing to sell it to us. The land is in a very safe area, near an army base. Please pray with us we are right now raising funds to purchase it. This land will be used to build Christian Academy mainly for orphans and vulnerable youth. It will also be a center for our Vacation Bible School and other Christian activities for the purpose of gospel proclamation.

Praise/Prayer Needs

1. Praise God for a wonderful and successful worship and prayer with orphans last month July 11th in Keffi Nigeria.
3. Praise God for the wonderful provision of funds that helped us to make a reasonable deposit for the land.
4. Praise God for those who gave generously, especially the board members. Pray to God for more blessings upon their lives.
5. Pray for our forth-coming Groundbreaking ceremony and a fund raising event in Nigeria on December 19th, 2015. Pray for the provision of funds to purchase air ticket to attend.
7. Pray for the provision of a vehicle for this ministry in Nigeria.

Road Construction!

It is amazing how God works. A famous song goes thus:

“God will make a way, were there seems to be no way. He works in ways we cannot see, He is our God.”

Psalms 40: 5 says,

“ O Lord my God, you have performed many wonders for us. Your plans for us are too numerous to list. You have no equal. If I tried to recite all your wonderful deeds, I would never come to the end of them.”

Though we are satisfied with the position of the land we got, the biggest challenge when we bought the land was the lack of road. We wondered, how could we operate an orphanage in this place without road? But God in his infinite love and care for orphans showed up strong in such a way we never expected as you can see—a wonderful road is under construction! We are so thrilled for this wonderful thing the Lord is doing. This is a clear indication that this is God’s thing and not ours. We will only do what He wants us to do. We are just vessels in His hands. He uses us as He pleases. This confirms to us God’s promise in Isaiah 45:2 that

“I will go before you and will level the mountains; I will break down the gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron.”
Halleluiah!



Ground breaking ceremony /fundraising: Saturday December 19, 2015 in Nigeria.

By the grace of God we hope to start building our orphanage soon. We need your financial support to do this. In view of this we have set up a planning committee for a fund raising event on our permanent site December 19, 2015. We invite you to support this God. Remember, we are doing this for the purpose of gospel proclamation.

Remember we are His workmanship.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NIGERIA



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
USA

For support:

USA: Make out checks to “Rishama International” and mail them to our headquarters at 204 Station Ave Glenside PA 19038 or go to our website www.rishama.org to use PayPal. (501c3 EIN: 47-3590144).

Nigeria, pay to: Rishama Int’l ministry for African children. A/c no: 0015348930. Stanbic IBTC Bank.

(Rishama will not share your personal information)

Contact us at rishama.international@gmail.com or (+1) 267-421-8360, 08055038392. Website: www.rishama.org.