

A LOVE PROFOUND

By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you have love one for another. John 13:35.

There is nothing more painful, than to helplessly watch a loved one, succumbing to an incurable disease. Watching their bodies waste to lifelessness, the grief is profound and the helplessness heart wrenching.

As an African, I came from a country where HIV/AIDS has been declared a national disaster. This is an almost daily occurrence in millions of homes that constantly battle with the effects of HIV/AIDS. About one-in-eight people is HIV positive. Worse, the children who barely understand the impact of losing parents face a future with abrupt loss of family and future as an orphan. Statistics show that Sub-Saharan Africa has more than 12 million children orphaned by this disease.

Various efforts by the African governments have been carried out to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS by revamping health resources by introducing free anti-retroviral drugs to affected families. However, the constant strife and unstable governments undermine these efforts. There are organizations (many faith-based) that are trying to improve the quality of life for its citizens. HIV/AIDS has not only been elevated by irresponsible sexual behavior, but also by poverty and poor nutrition.

Sadly, a vast majority of Africans who live beneath the poverty level die of AIDS-related complications. Their chances of survival will double if proper nutrition and education become available.

With tears of gratitude, I'm so thankful for our fellow brethren in America who are spreading God's Word, health education and food to provide for this population. The kind donations made through our church to provide for these African families are an inestimable expression of the message that Christ preached about loving our neighbor.

These donations will not only be a practical message of Christ's everlasting love for them, but also will indeed sustain lives by providing spiritual, physical and mental nourishment. I am ever so grateful for every one of you who support/supported these African families, both financially and spiritually.

Jesus, I thank you for my fellow Christian friends who give to alleviate the suffering of those in my homeland.

Submitted by: Claudia N. Bosibori