



DISPLACED
CHILDREN FOUNDATION

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lives in Africa.*

DCF Newsletter

December 2024

DCF NEW VOLUNTEERS

Two months ago, precisely in September of 2024, the Lord brought a few amazing people to do volunteering work for the Displaced Children Foundation (DCF) in Calgary and Nigeria .

How it all began:

GLAUCOMA AND SURGERY

In August of 2024, I lost my ability to use my left eye , and my right eye was barely functional to be able to read. I was diagnosed with glaucoma which required urgent surgery. I had laser surgeries on both eyes in November, 2024. There was a slow run in the progress of the work as a result of this ailment. Therefore, our family accountant advised that I placed a volunteer request on the Next Door app. Interestingly , the next morning , Ruth, an amazing woman, responded . Karen and I met her at Tim Horton . God is good.

Ruth is an exceptional person, totally dedicated and loves DCF. She has practically taken over most of my work . In this Newsletter, I have Ruth's profile here which shows her photo and her past work in Ethiopia and Sweden. I want to thank Ruth for helping us.

PROFILE: RUTH ASFAW

Ruth Asfaw is married and a mother of 2 children. She envisions to see a society where no child dies from hunger, epidemics and water born disease, to also see a society where no child is left uneducated. She did her master's degree in public health and has more than 8 years of experience leading different projects on education, health and economic empowerment. She is passionate about young women and girl's empowerment and giving back to the community in ways she can. She is volunteering with Displaced Children Foundation Canada and The Mustard Seed.



NIGERIA:

Gabriel *Almond* *Kubua* needs no introduction.

This is a remarkable brother with a deep passion for youth. He's currently in Jos to supervise our relocation to Ghana. He will also support DCF staff training and connect us with a child trauma counselor who will help our post - trauma children and women to get healing. Gabriel is recently concluding with his PhD Thesis in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University. He has a Masters degree also in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

DENNIS APOLLOS



Dennis (on the far right) is our Taraba State DCF Coordinator and Journalist in Nigeria.



Jos Plateau State DCF - Women Staff and Child Welfare Coordinators

Susan, Patience, Joy and Gift. - These women are doing a great job for our DCF children.

:: PERSONAL STORY

Elder Dr. Virginia from Atlanta Georgia, suggested in March, 2024 that we go beyond sharing transformational stories of our orphaned and displaced children. She continued, "Tell us a story of some personal struggles and triumphs." As such, I decided to align our experience with the Good Samaritan story from the Bible.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY WISH - THE PHONE CALL THAT CHALLENGED OUR THEOLOGY OF LOVE, SACRIFICE AND GIVING

June 16th, 2024 was an opportunity to celebrate the special men who have played a role in our lives. I sent messages of appreciation to some of the amazing people I know, including my father-in-law, Mr. Menno Dueck.

Uncustomarily, I decided to call, not text, one of our family church friends, William. He picked my call but the words were muffled and vague. He was in a state of mental confusion and I couldn't quite understand what he was saying, but in the end, it was a panic response I received. "Joseph, I am not doing good. I am homeless. I have been sleeping in my car for three weeks. My wife put me out of our house."

The conversation continued, "My brother, I can't make it; it's over." I realized William was suicidal. I suggested he text me his address so I could find his whereabouts. He gave me directions and within ten minutes I was there. I put a call to my wife, Karen and we agreed that I should, as a matter of urgency, meet with him.

At 4: 23 PM, I made it to 2913 Richmond road SW, Calgary. "Ahh, this is the location of his favorite restaurant, The Lemon Garden." I thought to myself.

I drove into the parking lot like a maniac. I couldn't miss William's intimidating height even if I were half blind. He was standing in the lot, leaning on a heavyweight walking stick, traditionally styled for men. I almost didn't recognize our family church friend...unkempt, wearing unwashed clothes.

We often celebrated Christmas and family birthdays at their house. What a shock to see him in such poor condition. My friend has been battling heart problems and other life-threatening health challenges.

— -- Flood of Tears & My Back is hurting!

I got out of my car, eager to see him. I quickly rushed to shake hands,

but to my surprise, he unhesitatingly pulled me to himself for a hug. Poor me! My small frame body just couldn't bear the weight of this large former high school football player.

At six feet two inches and about 350 pounds, William is a big man. His body was totally leaning on me. I managed to hold my ground. I was breathing heavily and trying to hold a conversation, praying and talking. My body was labouring to get enough oxygen. I maintained my good posture which I learned from my emergency training in security and mental health education.

I suddenly saw two men in their thirties circling us as if we were caged. The older one was panicking trying to ask if we were ok. He wanted to call the police since he wasn't sure what was going on. He thought William was drunk or experiencing a panic attack. I said, "He is fine, just going through a marital matter," I exhaled. I asked William to loosen his hold on me and I insisted we go to his van and talk. "OK brother" he did. I was relieved.

———LET ME COLLECT MY FOOD

He had ordered some food from the Chinese restaurant, so I slowly walked with him. When we got there, one of the two younger men had gone in to pay for the food. What a wonderful soul. I was told they were Ukrainians and had been in Calgary for about two years.

IN HIS VAN WAS A SUICIDE———/KNIFE:

We sat in his 2020 Dodge Grand . I gave him my listening ears as he shared his painful heartbreaking relationship problem. Then, he stopped , took a deep breath, reached out to his glove compartment . He pulled out a 15' Sawback Bowie Knife..." Brother Joseph , I wanted to end my life tonight". " Heaven is the only hope I have now". I had no idea what his mental state was . I had to maintain calmness . Now I had two choices; Perhaps I should call the suicidal hotline 9-8-8: Suicide Crisis Helpline. Or just get the police involved and let them help him. I chose to collect the knife from him.

LETS GO TO MY HOUSE

———Back at our home

Our journey to the world of human suffering and pain had just begun.

We have two bedrooms, one is occupied by a christian brother, an international student from Brazil. Karen and I thought William could sleep on the big couch in the living room.

— The Nightmare

nerves constantly strained of what might happen to William if...

It was an arduous task to move his legs and walk the ten metres to our door and down the steps. With my support, he made it to the living room, sat down and fell asleep until the next morning. He told Karen the next day that he had been sleeping in his car and moving around to take a shower at truck stops.

He worked 40 - 60 hours a week and is often exhausted. With the loss of his family, chronic health problems, his mental health was deeply affected.

— The Couch is too Small

We noticed the second day after work that he couldn't sleep on the couch. Karen pointed out that William needed a bed to stretch his legs and keep the blood flowing otherwise he would soon face more health crises. We didn't know what to do.

— Vacating our cherished room and bed.

Are we going to go that extra mile to vacate our room and bed for William? Karen with her golden Christian heart expressed that we must. "Let's give up our room so William can stretch his legs, recover somewhat and have the opportunity to make decisions," she stated. We did so.

— Karen and back pain

We took our personal items out of our bedroom and brought them into the living room. After a month of sleeping on sofa cushions on the living room floor, we started to experience back discomfort and Karen could not find her clothes easily so I rigged a makeshift closet with bungee cords.

William is having heart attack at work. "Joseph, I am having breathing problems. I am at work." I picked the call and asked him to call off right away from work. He did. I wanted to know if he could drive and meet me at home. A five minutes drive. We met at home and I took him to Rockyview General Hospital in Calgary. He was admitted and a two month treatment had begun. The doctor told him he would have died of a massive heart attack had he waited four more hours.

— A CAREGIVER, SPIRITUAL CARE & RUNNING ERRANDS

Another stage of Samaritan work started with hospital visits, providing spiritual care, running errands, doing laundry and picking and delivering William's mail. We had to find a social worker who could provide him with resources for financial assistance and so on.

—-Discharged after 60 DAYS AT THE HOSPITAL.

William is from the United States and as such, he decided to return and live with his brother. How he made it home is a divine miracle. William's three days journey to Chicago was nothing but a miracle . He made it!

.We praise God!

Since then , he has been receiving special medical care at Glenwood Health Care & Rehab in Illinois , Chicago.

:: WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10: 31 a priest happened to be passing by the same road, saw him and passed by the other side"

I have often thought, "Didn't this pastor have his moral compass on alert? Multiple answers. He may have had a lot of responsibilities awaiting him at the place of religious service. What if he might be heading to preside over an important Jewish wedding and might not want to be late. Perhaps a huge crown was waiting for him at temple and those people must hear the word of God? What if he was worried about consulting his board members before a decision is reached to help the poor man? Or, he might have shut down his moral conscience to avoid the pain of taking care of a suffering man. He probably didn't even dare to look because if he looked, his conscience would crush him for years to come.

It's funny that Jesus chose a religious person to highlight his message of love and compassion. Could it be that we as religious leaders, volunteer and even Christians are too busy with our Sunday sermons, Bible studies, winning souls and other rituals that we have less time for the needy? What are we missing here?

Then a Levite when he came to the place, saw him and passed to the other side" (Luke 10:32) It's interesting how Jesus brought the Priesthood of Aaron, those who performed services with public worship, musicians, gatekeepers, guardians and temple officials and judges into the story. He failed to see a man covered with blood. Blunt force trauma to the abdomen, ruptured organs.

Both men could not look to help a demoralised man who was experiencing mental and physical anguish. None of them dared glance his way.

The Samaritan won the compassionate medal in Heaven ---- LOVE
What he did was a total demonstration of what love is.

He took Pity
Went to him
Bandaged his wounds
Poured oil and wine
Put him on his donkey
Took him to a clinic
Took care of him
Returned the next day and put some treatment money down
Asked them to look after him
When I return I will reimburse you
for whatever expense that comes after.
Luke 10:37

Jesus Dismissed whatever excuses and said, "Go and do likewise"

:: WHY WE SOMETIMES AVOID HELPING OTHERS

----Probable outcome:

Four months later, this man may return to look for this good samaritan. He may say, "Sir, please don't be tired of helping me. You see, I lost everything to the bandits. They took all my goods. I have three children to feed. Can you loan me \$50 to start my life?" What if the man returns nine months later to complain of trauma, feelings he couldn't understand such as feeling isolated from the community and his family? Perhaps this is why most of us don't feel like getting involved with the suffering of another person. It can be too much?

FIND/FOLLOW US...

OUR IMPACT

DCF is focused to do more, for God, and Humanity.

Since May, 2023, Displaced Children Foundation has been providing shelter, food and psychological support to some of these victims.

This year, 2024 we have fed more than 100 vulnerable children and families.

If the Lord has touched you today, please consider donating.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN MAKE A DONATION:

1. Our website is fully secured and you can click thedcf.ca and make a donation
2. Donate through E-transfer: dcfoundation2023@gmail.com OR 403-968-0064
3. Mail a check to: DCF 11235 27 ST SW, Calgary, AB T2W 4V3

Mr Menno Due Menno Dueck Box 790 Rosthern, SK S0K 3R0

Charitable #780906871RR001

www.DisplacedChildrenFoundation.ca



DCF Reaching Out And Rescuing Girl Victims from Boko Haram

Jummai Bako was 13 years old in 2014 when she was taken captive by the insurgents from Damboa. Damboa is a Local Government Area of Borno State, Northeast Nigeria. According to her, after spending some days in the Boko Haram camp, they were given the option of either to accept the Boko Haram ideology or be forced to do so. The lady said without wasting time they were left with no option but to forsake Jesus and accept Islam. They were forced into marriage . Their dowries were collected by them shortly after their conversion. Recounting her experience, she had lost her parents only to be exposed to the dehumanizing and traumatic conditions in the forest . All the girls were constantly raped. She gave birth to three of her children in the bush while in the captivity of the insurgents.

**2022* , *The* *Nigerian* *Soldiers* *came* *to* *their* *rescue* .
Back in the village , Churches and Christians abandoned Jummai.*

The Social Stigma :: Victims of Boko Haram, especially, their wives and children often relate how stigma is deeply rooted in cultural beliefs, stereotypes, and poverty.

Fear :: People often fear being in close contact with these victims . They also fear being labeled or associated with people who are considered "undesirable."

We must therefore be intentional in our approach to support these rescued victims.

Jummai's children enjoying a meal (November 2024)



Jummai and her neighbours.