



Project Kik2

NEWSLETTER



Vol.1, #3



Winter, 2012

"LIBERIA" BEHIND THE IVORY CURTAIN

My worldly travels including thirty-three countries, among five continents and my work around the globe serving as Family Advocate and Army Community Officer for the NATO Forces did not prepare me for what I was about to experience. Upon the day of our arrival, the country began to implode three days before Christmas. We selected this time because we knew it would be peaceful, people would be celebrating. Especially having completed the national election process in November with all of its drama and danger. Man, we were gravely mistaken.

The government hired several thousand orphaned and disadvantaged young people throughout the Capitol City of Monrovia. Children performed community service tasks and were to be paid a stipend by Christmas Eve. For whatever reason too many were not paid as promised. The kids and many others, including some rebels, oppositional forces, and basic haters had a free-for-all, just as we arrived in Monrovia. I saw fire bombs, rocks and boulders thrown, tires set-a-fire, burning vehicles, property destroyed, as we were stuck in traffic. The most scary thing is seeing a crowd of hundreds and hundreds of angry people coming your way and no way out. Everywhere we went for the next three days flash riots broke out around us. The taxis we had to ride were broken down and very old, ran hot, smoked and almost got us killed. Marshall Law was called and a curfew set and we spent Christmas Eve, Christmas evening and the evening after on lock down inside our compound with almost no food and little drinking water, primitive conditions.

MISSION COMPLETED! (see photos on other side)

Our mission was to deliver 600 pounds of athletic shoes, socks, educational supplies, hygiene kits, and Christmas goodies to our orphaned children at the Trinity Center. Despite the adverse conditions on the ground, we were able to conduct our shoe distribution program, celebrate and feast. During a special ceremony the Tribe presented me with the honor of becoming a Chief. My Tribal Name is: Chief Na-na Zwa-nah (member of the) KRU Tribe. They bestowed the welfare of the orphaned children upon my shoulders. I promise to do everything humanly possible to improve the quality-of-life for our orphaned and refugee children, youth and young adults of Liberia.

REVELATION

I felt a profound sense of shock and dismay when I discovered to what extent our children in Liberia are being systematically abused and neglected. No food to eat, hungry and half-starving most of the time. No clean water to drink or bathe. The water is contaminated and contains many disease agents which children must play in, bathe and drink. On my three week stay, I was among thousands of orphaned children looking for food, clothing and shelter. Half-dressed with no shoes to prevent sickness and disease. Our children are wrought with trials and

tribulations, their circumstances are beyond belief. Most suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from the fifteen year war which ended in 2005. The stressors are great which create distress and suffering from oppression and persecution. You can see them perish before your very eyes.

The children are singing "Lady-bug, lady-bug, fly-away, the house is on fire and the children are burning up. Lady-bug, lady-bug, fly-away, the house is on fire and the children are burning up."

This is unconscionable and must end. Failure to provide the basic needs for our children, food, clean water, and shelter constitutes Institutional and Societal Child Abuse and Neglect which is a crime and punishable.

By: Chief Na-na Zwa-nah (Kru Men)

PLEASE SAVE OUR LIBERIAN CHILDREN

Declare a "STATE OF EMERGENCY" in order to save our children. The WAR is over, mobilize the Armed Forces, open the military bases, start in the Capital City of Monrovia. We know where the orphaned and homeless children are located. We must gather and salvage them beginning with the most vulnerable. The children are our present and future.

My two young security men drove me into the Capitol City Monrovia on Christmas Eve. Lovely city. As I stepped from the car, I notice two creatures, orphaned, dirty, barefoot, half-clothed with malnutrition playing on the sidewalk, as kids do. Totally unaware they were among the most poor on earth. I saw people step over these kids hurriedly to get to the shops. Not a pat on the head, a coin, a gesture of acknowledgement, something. No, it was as though the poor children did not exist. They suffer from a profound sense of denial about what is really going on around them and appear to feel no sense of compassion.

Join us in declaring War-Against-Hunger & Poverty for the children of Liberia.

BRIEF HISTORY OF LIBERIA, A WAR-TORN COUNTRY

Liberia was founded and colonized by freed American Slaves in 1822, with the assistance of the American Colonization Society founded in 1816. The Liberian Flag is designed after the American Flag. The first five Presidents of the Country were American. The US Dollar was and is still used as currency. The Constitution was almost a carbon copy of ours.

It looks to me as if Liberia should have been the 25th State of America. Monrovia the Capital City, was named after President James Monroe. Liberia is located in West Africa. The people are among the most beautiful and friendly on earth. They fully realize the history between America and Liberia and love the relationship. Most say they can't understand why "America" treats them like a step-child. Liberia is defiantly on the way back. It will be slow, sure and arduous.

JOIN OUR RICE BRIGADE

Liberian children are very resilient and have the ability of body to regain original size. Rice and clean water will sustain them. Therefore we are engaging in a massive relief effort to supply rice and clean water to the children. We are asking for donations of rice, any size or amount. Rice will be put on container ships and follow the process we use to send Project KIKS athletic shoes and socks. Our next Mission at Liberia is May, 2012.

For additional information, please call Paul Cheatham II, 707-307-8687. Rice will be picked up upon request. All donations are tax-deductible and may be sent to:

Project KIKS

AMVETS Post 101, P.O. Box 1111 Yountville, CA 94590 (USA)

Attention: Mr. Paul Cheatham II, Founder

email: paulskiks@yahoo.com phone: (001) 707-307-8687

DONATIONS ARE ALSO NEEDED FOR:

Project KIKS, Love Foundation

1500 El Camino Ave, P.O. Box 182, Sacramento, CA 95833

Attention: Mr. Ron Carson, Founder

email: dr.lovefoundation@gmail.com phone: 707-655-6855

Project KIKS, Trinity Childrens Center, Liberia

5320 Jimmy Carter Blvd., Norcross, GA 30093

Attention: Ms. Masa Kennedy Gueh, Founder

email: trinity_liberia@yahoo.com phone: 678-598-0089



We would like to thank: Kawinas Club, Yountville, CA; Carroll Erickson, "Socks for Soles" Post 34, San Francisco, CA; The Staff & Cooks, Dining Facility, Yountville Veterans Home; Bingo Buddies, Dick Hum Memorial Bingo Activity, Yountville Veterans Home

Masa Gueh & Paul Cheatham supplying food and shoes at the Trinity Children's Center in Liberia.

