

# Chris' Chronicles

No. 19 Nyankunde Summer 2011

## A Gift for Emanuel

The massacre of 5,000 people in 1 hour at Nyankunde Hospital in 2002 meant that many walked the 80 kilometers from Nyankunde to Oicha. Amongst those running from the terror was one small family: Dieu Donné the father, (his name means Gods Gift) his wife and 2 sons Emanuel and Onesime (like Onesimus in the Bible). Initially they settled in the refugee camp at Oicha and then eventually moved to Erengeti village to set up home together.

They were barely settled when the Ugandan Rebel Army (NALU= National Army for the Liberation of Uganda) plundered the village and killed Dieu Donné's wife. This poor man was left looking after the 2 boys by himself. Finally he decided to return to Nyankunde, having heard it was calm here now.

Within a week of coming back, his son, Onesime, had an epileptic fit and fell into the fire. He was burned on his chest and shoulders and both thighs. The family came to the hospital at Nyankunde totally penniless. So instead of asking for payment for the expensive medications and dressings needed to tend Onesime's wounds, the hospital is working cutting the grass around the hospital with a long stick-like scythe. He also has to care for both boys, washing their clothes and bedding, preparing food etc. Emanuel helps too, by caring for his wounded brother, keeping him company all day, helping him go to the toilet etc.

When I walked into their room last week, Dieu Donné was reading with the boys. Repeated displacement from one village to another, means that the boys schooling has been severely disrupted. Onesime will probably never go to school again now, unless he is able to receive some plastic surgery. His face and hands are badly disfigured and the other children are likely to tease him unmercifully, such is the stigma of disfigurement here. And, anyway, the family is penniless, so they cant afford the school fees, having lost everything when displaced 3 times..

But:

The members of **The Church at Jacobs Well** have kindly made a collection which will enable Emanuel to attend school next year. If Onesime is unable to go too, then there will be sufficient funds for him to have private schooling at home if necessary. All their school uniforms and books will be provided as well. Thank you so very much on behalf of this needy family.

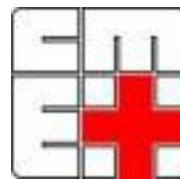


Jonas, Roger, Julie and Michael, our first 4 Physio-Assistant students



Onesime, Dieu Donné and Emanuel

Please pray for **Chris Phillips**  
**Physiotherapist**  
working with CME Nyankunde in DR Congo



## How You can Help:

### Prayer

*"Your prayers were the stick that helped me walk"*

### Thanks:

For answered prayers clearing customs in June

For renewed health and strength for all the family

### Requests:

For continued good health  
For teaching and for the students and patients

### Practical items:

Mobile phones & chargers  
Laptops and chargers  
Single vision glasses  
Wool, knitting needles and crochet hooks – for use in a widows and orphans project  
Knitted baby bonnets and blankets - for premature babies  
Medical, Physio and Dental equipment  
Medical text books  
Elastic Bandages, dressings etc  
*Send any of the above to my home address, Thank you.*

### Financial gifts

Money for any of the above  
Or for the following  
£8 for a Bible for the nursing school  
£100 to feed poor patients in the hospital for 1 month  
£160 for a student's fees for 1 year  
Personal support / Housing costs

Gift Aid can be claimed both through "Friends of CME" and my home church. Please indicate what you would like your gift to be used for. Thank you.



### Contact details:

Chris:

Email : [chr15phlps@gmail.com](mailto:chr15phlps@gmail.com)  
No attachments please

### Home address:

C/o Anne Walsh  
Bethshalom,  
Markenfield Road,  
Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4PF

### Mobile phone

in DRC: +243 to be confirmed  
In UK +44(0)7810 20 20 66

### Communications:

It is always lovely to receive **emails** but **PLEASE** can you start a new message and don't hit the return button, as I have to use a dial-up connection sitting on the top of a hill, and large files cause problems and are expensive! Thank you.

**Post** is virtually impossible in Congo! Please send anything to my UK home address! Thank you .

### Prayer letter

#### **kindly distributed by:**

Robin Lennie,  
82 Hermitage Woods  
Crescent,  
Woking,  
Surrey,  
GU 21 8UF

Email: [Robin.Lennie@stihl.co.uk](mailto:Robin.Lennie@stihl.co.uk)

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or wish to receive it in another format, please contact either Robin, or myself .

If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask, either Robin, Anne or myself

### Useful Web addresses:

[www.friendsofcme.com](http://www.friendsofcme.com)

The charity which supports the work of the 3 CME hospitals., in N.E. Congo

[www.guildfordbaptist.org](http://www.guildfordbaptist.org)

My home church.

### **Illness Abounds!**

I am sorry for the long gap between editions of 'Chronicles'. I returned to DRC in January 2010 after an extended time at home from August 2009 due to family circumstances. Sadly I was suddenly called back to the UK in February 2010 because my younger daughter, Leah, was seriously ill. Slowly she has recovered, and thankfully she is now back to full health.

However last year had a lot more illness to throw our way. First my mother and then my older daughter Jo, and then Jo's new baby Benny were each seriously ill at some point. And finally I became ill with depression after a viral illness.

It has been a long haul getting back up to full fitness again. My recovery was helped considerably by kind friends giving me holidays, in Switzerland in March, and in Israel in May.

These 'Chronicles' were prepared while in Nyankunde, having come to Congo for 3 weeks as a test run, and also to bring the many items donated to the hospital. **Thank you** to each of you who have knitted blankets, or baby hats for the premature babies, and to those who have collected reading glasses, band-aids, and hospital equipment of all kinds, including medical textbooks, some even in French.

Thanks to the kindness of British Airways I was able to bring 10 bags with me at no charge. However, I had to open each of them for the customs at Bunia airport, on arriving in Congo, and explain their contents! But, in answer to the gifts and prayers of many, the import tax was not too high.

I thoroughly enjoyed working in the hospital, and teaching the Physio Assistant students again. I hope to return 'properly' at the end of September for the start of the new school year in October. I hope, before I arrive, one of the the hospital's houses can start to be refurbished for me, as they were badly damaged during the war of 2002. It will be a case of setting up a new home, which is both exciting and challenging!

**Tea and Talk - ALL Welcome  
4pm 11th September 2011  
Millmead Centre, GBC**



*The forest has taken over!*



*View of the inside and outside of one of the houses that could be refurbished for me. With no doors, windows or roof, it gives a whole new meaning to "indoor plants"!*