

February 2016 Newsletter from Ken & Melli Johnson

USA ADDRESS

5404 Sharon Trail
Lakeland, FL 33810-5831
Phone/Fax: 863-660-1376
MacManBob@gmail.com

AFRICA ADDRESS

B. P. 122
Bujumbura, Burundi, AFRICA
Phone/Fax: 257-22-22-34-31
jkenmelliing@gmail.com

SUPPORT ADDRESS

Christian Missions In Many Lands
P. O. Box 13
Spring Lake, NJ 07762-0013
www.CMML.com

"Mommy, wake up!"

As a child I learned an old hymn that encourages us to "Count our many blessings, see what God has done!" I ask my children at least twice a day to tell me one thing they're thankful for. They give one word replies, like "Daddy", "trees", "music." However, when it's MY turn it often takes forever, because once I start reciting my blessings, I can't stop. I can't help it—God is so good! This makes for particularly long prayers at family devotions. Some kids, (even me), fall asleep before I say "Amen." And yes, my Mother still thinks I'm a kid, (doesn't yours?) although she's only 26 years older than I am, and I'm somewhere between motherhood and Methusalah. And God assures us we will always be His "kids."

Speaking of kids and motherhood, I have four new mommy stories to share from the Rainbow Centre.

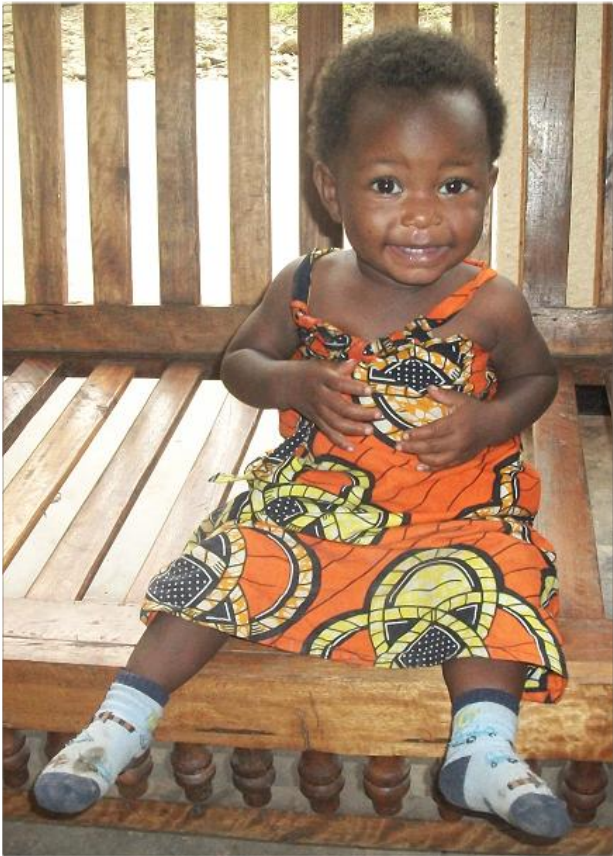
The first is baby IKORIBITANGAZA (sound that one out) Dany Promise. His first name means "God does miracles." This two-month-old was found crying in a bush near a road as a woman walked by. The woman, who also fosters a five-year old, decided to keep this baby, too.

Then there is Mbanzendore Esperance. Her Kirundi name means "Let me see what will happen"—don't you just love these names! This one-year-old baby girl weighs only eleven pounds! Not good. She's malnourished and covered in rash. Her mother can't hold a job right now because of the insecurity in Burundi and she brings her daughter to the Rainbow Centre every day to feed her.



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Baby three is ITERITEKA Audrey, whose name means "God gives blessings." She was abandoned at birth, and her widowed foster mother has been obtaining milk for her from the Rainbow Centre for eight months. This faithful woman has cared for baby Audrey even though she also has her own handicapped baby.



Finally there is baby Moses, whose Kirundi name, SINDAYIHEBURA, means: "I waited for God's blessing." A man going to work discovered a tiny newborn abandoned in the brush along the roadside. He took the infant and hurried home to his wife exclaiming that God had given them a baby! They had been trying without success to get pregnant! They took Moses to the hospital for first aid, and now are overjoyed to be adopting him. The Rainbow Center helps them with formula.



God has certainly challenged these mothers, (and a daddy, too, for baby Moses), to rise up and "look after orphans in their distress." (James 1:27) Somehow, God gives the strength and provision to meet the challenge with love and fortitude. Don't you find that God's unexpected challenges turn out to be uncountable blessings?

Thank you for praying,

Ken and Melli and Kids

To receive a monthly E-mail newsletter contact Bob Cannon at:
macmanbob@gmail.com

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