



free a
FAMILY

THINGS
HOPED FOR

newsletter
spring 2022

FAMILY to FAMILY newsletter

THINGS HOPED FOR spring 2022

"But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."

— Romans 8: 24, 25



LAOS PAGE 3

Join Kham Ann and his daughters on a walk through the forest and discover his greatest hope.



HONDURAS PAGE 4

Learn what the promise is that has influenced Merlyn Zulema Zambrano's decision to stop sharing her story.



MOZAMBIQUE PAGE 6

Explore the ways gifts like yours are touching lives in Mozambique and around the world.



NIGERIA PAGE 8

Discover Nvou Gyang and her sons' source of hope.



KENYA PAGE 10

Find out the lesson that Kadzo Kenga's children have taught her.

Laos THE LAO SENG FAMILY



A FATHER'S HOPE

AS A CHILD, Kham Ann searched for bamboo shoots for his family's meals in the forest near his home in northern Laos. Today, he takes his daughters Pai, 9, and Pae, 6, into the same forest in search of bamboo shoots. As they walk, Kham Ann shares with them all that he has learned about proper nutrition through World Renew. Thanks to Free A Family® gifts like yours, Kham Ann's children eat healthier meals than Kham Ann did as a child and many of the vegetables they enjoy come from the kitchen garden that World Renew field staff encouraged Kham Ann to start.

The conversation moves to Kham Ann's mother, Kheo, who has recently returned home after spending several weeks at a drug rehabilitation center. She has gained weight and looks well. Pae asks if

it is because Kheo now eats more vegetables. Kham Ann explains that Kheo is also staying away from things that aren't good for her. But he does not mention that Kheo took opium for pain and became addicted.

Kham Ann is proud that Pae and Pai have been doing well at school. His greatest hope is for Pae, Pai and their two younger siblings to complete high school. He is grateful for the training he received in pig rearing, effective agriculture practices, and beekeeping, through Free A Family, that has made it possible for him to increase his income and set aside savings for his children's education. Thank you for your generosity that helps families like Kham Ann's to look to the future with hope.

A MOTHER'S PROMISE

M

ERLYN ZULEMA ZAMBRANO

was 9 years old when she began working as a babysitter to help support her family. The single mother of teenagers, Estefany and Erlin, Merlyn says, "Because of the difficulties I experienced as a child, I made a promise to myself to provide my children with the things they need—food, clothing, healthcare, education—and the opportunity to enjoy their childhood without having to work."

In September 2020, with gratitude to God for opening doors for her through the Free A Family® program, Merlyn began sharing her story with Free A Family supporters. She has shared how training in small business management helped her grow her tortilla business and how the opportunity to work in a community garden helped her earn extra income and made it possible for her to prepare more vegetable-rich meals for her children.

Alongside the blessings, Merlyn has also shared her struggles. She has discussed how the skyrocketing prices and lockdowns that came with the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the sale of her tortillas. And she has asked for our prayers for her son, Erlin, who has been finding school challenging. When Merlyn agreed to share her story—the blessings and the struggles—she planned to do so until September 2023, but has now found it necessary to stop after this issue.

With global food prices higher than ever before, Merlyn's tortilla business is no longer generating sufficient income to meet her family's needs. But this determined mother remains adamant that she will not rob her children of their childhood by asking them to work. Instead, she is putting all her energy into building back up her tortilla business and continuing to work at the community garden.

While we will miss sharing her journey with you, at World Renew we respect the dignity and rights of each and every participant—including Merlyn's right to stop sharing her story. Merlyn will continue to benefit from opportunities that generous gifts like yours make possible through the Free A Family program and we thank you for continuing to keep Merlyn and her children in your prayers.



“

Merlyn will continue to benefit from opportunities that generous gifts like yours make possible.”

THE GIFT OF HOPE

HOPE IS AN AMAZING GIFT. In the face of hardship, it can buoy spirits and give us the courage to move forward. Through your Free A Family® gifts you share Christ's hope with families around the world. Here is a glimpse at some ways your gifts touched lives in 2021 and renewed hope for the future:



Thanks to gifts like yours **13,118 INDIVIDUALS IN NIGERIA** received wheelchairs through a Mobility for the Disabled project facilitated by World Renew's local partner.

Between October 2021 and December 2021, **1,194 WOMEN IN MOZAMBIQUE** were able to join village savings and loan groups, giving them access to low-interest loans to invest in income-generating activities, home improvements, and more.



IN KENYA, 245 PARTICIPANTS in a project focused on improving food security established kitchen gardens, trained in improved food storage techniques, and improved their diets.



592 FAMILIES in 17 COMMUNITIES in Phongsaly, **LAOS** benefited from a health project that included the construction of **70 NEW LATRINES** and providing access to clean and safe drinking water.



Following the August 2021 magnitude 7.2 earthquake **IN HAITI, 2,600 HOUSEHOLDS** in the severely-impacted communities of Nippes and Gran'Anse received emergency food assistance.

SEEING A CHILD STRUGGLE WITH ILLNESS CAN BE heartbreaking for a parent. Ussumane Cachingue and his wife, Muandida Simonje, have seen their four children struggle with bouts of influenza, malaria, and stomach pains. But Free A Family gifts like yours have helped to improve the health of the family, from ensuring they use mosquito nets to protect them from the diseases mosquitoes carry, to building proper toilets in their community to ensure more sanitary living conditions, your gifts have meant Ussumane and Muandida now endure far less heartache about their children's health. Thank you for sharing God's mercy.



"It can only be the love of God that brought help our way, especially from people we never knew. I am determined to serve God as long as I live because he is our hope for tomorrow."

- NVOU GYANG,
FRUIT VENDOR, FREE A FAMILY®



ALTHOUGH THE 2014 ATTACK that led to the murder of her husband and left her struggling to provide for her four sons is a painful memory, Nvou Gyang does not dwell on the pain. Instead she rejoices in a loving God who made it possible for her to join World Renew's Free A Family® program so she and her sons could receive trauma healing. Where her sons once struggled at school, they now confidently read and write in English and discuss their plans to attend university. And where Nvou once felt ashamed because she had to depend on others for survival, she now encourages others to believe in God and their own abilities to overcome challenging times. Thank you for your gifts that help families like the Gyang's look to the future with hope.

NIGERIA



HOLDING ON TO HOPE

IN SEPTEMBER 2021 after drought had ravaged farms and left 2 million Kenyans struggling with food insecurity, the president of Kenya, Uhuru Kenyatta, declared a national disaster. But even before the drought, restrictions put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19 had caused a surge in food prices and slowed markets—leaving vulnerable families unable to meet their basic needs.

For Kadzo Kenga, the pandemic and the ongoing drought have severely impacted her earning potential. The soil is dry and her crops don't grow. Even if she could afford to put in an irrigation system to bring water to the hardened earth, there are few people in the markets buying anything. Although she has shut down the green grocery kiosk where she sold her vegetables, she has not given up.



Kadzo's greatest desire is to ensure her children have a better life than she has had. Looking back on her own childhood, she sees that her parents' strictness was harmful. They did not allow her to go out and make friends; now, with only the company of her family, she often finds herself feeling isolated. So Kadzo encourages her two younger children, Iyana and Patrick, to visit with friends. She tells them the more people they know, the

more opportunities they have to learn. She shared, "I have learned new things from my children. For example...[they] taught me not to overcook the vegetables since they learned from their friends that overcooking vegetables kills all valuable nutrients."

It is Kadzo's willingness to learn that World Renew Kenya field staff admire most about her. So it is not surprising that even in the face of drought

she continues to seek out ways to irrigate her land—working long hours to run pipes to a nearby river. One staff member explained, "...because [she] puts [her] trust in God, Kadzo has now developed a self-reliant spirit and hence she works hard...to provide for her family. She is now hopeful and faces life positively."

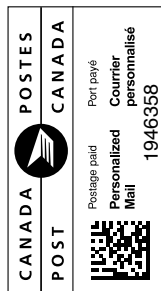
Thank you for sharing God's hope through your gifts and prayers with Kenyan families, like the Kengas.

THE GLOBAL FOOD EMERGENCY

In Honduras, COVID-19 restrictions caused a decline in Merlyn's tortillas sales, drastically reducing her income. In Kenya, drought wiped out Kadzo's crops and her ability to provide for her family. And as the conflict in Ukraine continues to disrupt the supply of commodities like wheat and oil, more families are facing hunger. COVID-19, changing weather patterns, and conflict have created a global food emergency. Please help us to respond.

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