



TenTalents INTERNATIONAL



September 2009

David & Benjamin

Serena & Tony adopted their son Obed from Rwanda several years ago. Serena & Obed (now 17 years old) recently went to Rwanda & I would like to let Serena tell you their story: **"We went to Rwanda because Obed's [younger] brothers had disappeared. They had run away several times before, but this time they had been missing for months.** We felt frustrated trying to find David & Benjamin from a distance, so we went to Rwanda to find them ourselves. We didn't know what we would do with them once we found them. God had been prompting me not to go with answers in mind, but to just wait on Him for direction once we arrived.

On our second day there we decided to look for Benjamin, who had been missing for six months. We had a clue that he'd been hanging out on the streets near a center [for street children] where the other brother was possibly being held, so we drove in that direction. We arrived at the center and found no sign of Benjamin or any other kids in the vicinity. Obed and Tanaz (our driver) talked to the guards, who told us that no one could visit the center that day. But unexpectedly, the people at the center suddenly changed their minds and quickly brought David out. I was astounded to see him so soon after we arrived. Tears of joy flowed, because it was only our second day in Rwanda, and we really didn't know for sure where he was. Then David told us the location of Benjamin, who was being held in a different center about 30 minutes away. We immediately drove there. This place was more difficult. I waited in the car for about an hour while Obed and Tanaz negotiated with the people at the center. Finally they came out the front gates with Benjamin. I was overjoyed- but also shocked! **Benjamin looked weak, limp and frail. His face was downcast and he shuffled his feet as he walked. He looked so sick and demoralized!**

We got Benjamin in the car and rushed away. I looked at both boys and could see that they hadn't bathed for months. They had no shoes, and few clothes. David wore only a tattered jacket, and no shirt. Obed and I had no clue what we were going to do with these boys, but we just took it step by step. We first stopped at a market to buy them clothes, shoes, a bathing towel and a snack. Then we took them to our hotel to give them long showers! They took such long showers that they flooded our hotel room with water! Then we took them to their mother's house. We knew we couldn't leave them there permanently, because that home is very negative and unstable. Their mother has advanced AIDS, and struggles greatly to care for her 6 children. For the next few days we prayed a lot and Obed hung out all day each day with his family at home. God gave us one strong idea, and that was the boys needed to be far away from the troubles and temptations of their home. We also knew the boys needed to be in a place where Obed could frequently communicate with them.

Praise God for the Home of Innocence! After looking at all of our options, and talking to many people, we realized that the Home of Innocence was our best option for these boys. We talked to Ngoga [TTI Regional Director] at length about the philosophy of ministry there, and **we became convinced that this home is the most stable, loving environment available for David and Benjamin.** We visited the home, met the other kids and we felt very good about the environment where the boys would live.

The day came when Ngoga came to visit David and Benjamin in the village. When he arrived, noticeable joy filled that dark mud house. I had never seen Agnes (their mother) look so genuinely joyful! Even the boys, who are normally downcast and sullen, looked excited. **I thank God for Michael and Lisa McColm, Simon Peter Ngoga and all of the faithful donors who have raised up this safe haven in Rwanda** for boys like David and Benjamin. I also speak on behalf of Agnes (the mother) and Obed (their brother), who have struggled enormously in their lives, thank you for being there in time for our great need.

You Can Go!

In 2010 there are opportunities for you to see & experience first hand what God is doing for the children of Rwanda. We would love to have you join one of our teams!

In **July** a team will be focused on building a home for a single mother who has two very young children and two school aged children. The two school aged children are sponsored through TTI. The family's current home they rent for the equivalent of \$8 per month. This tiny home has mud walls, a dirt floor, and a tin roof full of holes. They have no private area for bathing. The only "toilet" they have is a hole in the ground with no walls or privacy- and you have to step over it to get to their house. We would like to build a very modest but decent home for them to live in. In addition to the blessing of having a good safe home to live in, it would also free up their rent money to be used for other needs. If you would like to be on the team or help with the funds to build the home (the home will cost approximately \$10,000 US to build) please contact TTI.



In **August** we are partnering with Courts for Kids. They are coming to Rwanda to put in a basketball court for use by the community. The area we are going to put the court in, has historically been very poor, and during the genocide, was a place of overwhelming despair. The court will be built at one of the schools TTI has been working with and the Head Master is very excited. There are no other basketball courts anywhere near this area so it will be much appreciated! Team members are still being added for this trip, so get on board.

He Went!

Daniel, a college student, recently returned from spending a month in Rwanda. This was his first time there. He went to build a cover for the water storage tank on the Home of Innocence site, as well as to just be there & do whatever was needed. God enabled him to get the cover down very quickly (especially for Rwandan time lines - where everything takes longer just because gathering the materials is no easy matter!) He was able to spend time with the street children at the feeding program, as well as with the boys at the Home of Innocence (there are now 10 of them there with the addition of David & Benjamin just last month). He also was able to help with a water project through Youth With a Mission. God kept his body healthy and used his time there. It was quite an experience for him. One of the things he wrote home about was this: "Before I didn't really know what sponsoring a kid would do but now I really see what a difference it makes in the life of a kid. It has the potential to bring an orphan off the streets and into a home where a meal is served daily and then they can go to school and learn so they may have a better chance getting a job, however if they aren't sponsored they stay on the streets without much hope of going to school and getting a good job..." We have more details about Daniel's experience in Rwanda in the blog on our website. Thanks Daniel for being a blessing!

McColm Family

We would like to share with you where our family is at in terms of our personal support. In order for us to be able to travel, as a family, to Rwanda, along with the added expenses of living for periods of time in Rwanda, we would need to double the amount of support that is currently coming in for our family. We continue to exercise our faith, trust, and pray for God to provide. We would welcome your prayers for us as well, as we wait on God's provision. And if you feel like God would have you be part of the answer to our prayers, you may designate your contributions on-line or directly to our office. If you would like to read personal updates from our family you can visit our blog at - www.McColms.blogspot.com.

Annual Banquet

Ten Talents International's annual banquet is Saturday, October 24th, at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay (Vancouver, WA). Our special guest will be Enric Sifa, former Rwandan street child, then sponsored child, now a recording artist and young man pursuing his education in the US. Please pray with us for this to be a great night of sharing vision and of growth. We need event sponsors, table hosts, and, of course, people to attend! If you are interested in being a part of this, or have a friend that you would like to introduce to the ministry of TTI (we do not charge attendees for the event!), please contact Lisa at LisaM@TenTalentsInt.org

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