

From the desk of Dorothy Ardill

Dear Supporter,

Thank you so much for your gift towards the AIDS Widow/Orphan bucket project in Nigeria. As I was looking through the list of donors for this project, I realized there were many of you that we don't know. I also realized that this letter



Dorothy, David, Anna, Marie, Heather, Bill

of thanks is very late. Please forgive me for not thanking you sooner. Our family has been through a very tough 2005. On January 3, 2005, armed robbers shot my husband, Bill, as they were fleeing our neighbors' house. He was shot in the arm at close range by a shotgun. He needed to leave Nigeria by air ambulance to London and then a week later we went on to the US for further surgery and physical therapy. We were separated from our four children for almost two weeks. Our entire family was traumatized and we

decided to get some family counseling before we tried to return to Nigeria. We returned to Nigeria at the end of April. Almost immediately, I developed back pain that progressed so that I needed surgery in the US. This time the children stayed with friends in Nigeria while Bill and I went for the surgery. Bill returned after two weeks and I remained with my parents for four more weeks. It has taken a long time to settle back into our life here. The trauma has affected each of us a little differently. Bill's arm has healed well. He still has pain at times but he has been able to resume doing surgery at the Evangel Hospital in Jos, Nigeria.

The Bucket Project in 2005 went on without me. My Nigerian colleagues did very well at the various conferences. I recently spoke with the women leaders from the Districts that had received the buckets in 2005. Their reports were so encouraging. One leader said, "This project has opened my eyes to the needs of widows and orphans in our church." Another said, "We used to give to the widows once a year, now we are able to give food every month to our widows." Many women have used the books on HIV/AIDS to talk to their children about AIDS.



So far we have distributed 50,000 buckets to 10 different districts. I have ordered another 25,000 buckets for the next 4 districts for 2006 conferences in February and March. This will total almost 800 churches that are currently collecting grains monthly or quarterly. Each of these 50,000 women has also received literature on HIV/AIDS and booklets to help them talk to their children about HIV/AIDS and God's plan for sex within marriage only. One mother recently visited me at my house with her 20 year old daughter. In our conversation, the mother said, "I have talked to my daughter about HIV/AIDS several times." By helping mothers talk to their children about sex we are trying to protect the next generation from this terrible disease.



One survey we conducted showed that each booklet we distributed to the women was read by six other people. The majority were children and young adults in the household. Literature is valued in this society and things in print are seen as "truth." I feel it is so important to give good information to mothers so they can educate their own children.

The feedback from the women's leaders has encouraged me to continue this worthwhile project. There are over 5,000 ECWA churches so I still have far to go to get to them all! For this year we still need \$20,000 for the February and March 2006 women's fellowship church conferences. The cost of the buckets with the AIDS literature is \$2.00 each.

Would you or your church consider another gift towards this project? If you would like to help, please send your gift designated for Nigeria Project #96703 to SIM, Box 7900, Charlotte, NC 28241, USA. If you would like more information about our ministry, you can contact us through the SIM address or by email at bill.ardill@sim.org or visit our web page at www.ardillfamily.com. Thank you again for your prayer and financial support.

In Christ,

Dorothy Ardill

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