

# HOPE

*through Education*

COMMUNITY HOPE SCHOOL, NAMIBIA  
a ministry to orphans and vulnerable  
children affected by HIV/AIDS

Dear Friends,

Scraping the ice off the windshield at 5 AM to begin this early morning trip was the start of a day that I will never forget. We headed our 4x4 up the narrow, rocky road to the last cluster of shacks in the settlement. Our rendezvous with the cameraman was scheduled to film a typical morning for three small children who, by their wits and determination, get to school each day in time for breakfast. An ordinary day for Whithney, Presley, and Harold begins with three steps, jump out of bed, pull on their clothes and head out the door for the long trek down the mountain. Today we were meeting them to film this event. Arriving at our destination, the road ended abruptly, with still another mystery, to find the little home amongst an array of shacks strewn along the path in the pre-dawn hour. As we pondered, a glow of reddish light lit the sky announcing the new day. Within seconds, darkness changed into a vivid display of pink, orange and violet light. Then came the people, scrambling to fetch water, starting a fire for tea, brushing teeth behind a bush, pounding grain for the day's beer brewing.

The family was waiting for us. After greetings with shy smiles and warm hugs, I slipped inside the corrugated iron shack to wait. There were two small rooms adjoining one another with just barely enough space for a double and a single bed, a chair and a small shelf for all seven people. Silently sitting on the chair was the mother who held a wheezing child, not well enough for school. There was no evidence of food in this threadbare place. Not knowing what to do, I sat down on the bed, to wait for the movie shoot to begin. This was one of the most humbling moments of my life. The cold cut through my layers of clothing like a knife and the sense of hunger and poverty hung in the air like a demon. My wellbeing was a stark contrast to the needs exposed here. I wanted to run away. I know I can never run away from poverty; it is a part of our world and thus, a part of us.

Community Hope School started with ten children in 2005. This year we serve 73 of the neediest children and families like Whithney's. As well as education, we give individual attention to each child who attends school, hopefully, to help improve the lives and future well being of these little ones. Included with their education is a healthy breakfast, snacks and a hot lunch. We visit the homes of our children to assess their home situation to encourage families to be responsible with their treasures. We give medical assistance, food, Bible studies and counseling to the families in real need. The satisfaction of helping one of these children cannot be measured in this lifetime. Won't you help us bring HOPE to one of these less fortunate?

#### IMMEDIATE NEEDS

The parking lot of Community Hope School, is a dusty rocky patch of ground 120 yards long in front of the church. It serves as our playground and soccer field. Surrounding the lot is a broken patched fence that offers little protection to outside influences. Parking my car there one early morning I watched a group of men sharing bottles of beer while peering through the fence at me, pleading with me for money or food. I took note of how vulnerable our children are to these men. Our fence has large gaps in it that allow the balls to easily roll through and out into the street. The kids are constantly running into the street to retrieve their precious balls. With the present fence, we can't protect the children or keep out the constant influx of danger.

\$3,000 USD will build us a new fence that will protect our children and staff. Your donation would improve the quality of life for our kids in ways that would make a difference!

Where has the time gone? In 2005 we started out with 10 children. In January 2010, Community Hope will have nearly 100 children! God is increasing our efforts and multiplying the gifts and donations that so many of you have given. We are thankful for you, your love and dedication to Jesus Christ and your earnest desire to help.

In His Grace,

Suzanne Hunter  
Director, Community Hope School

#### AN UPDATE ON JOHN

John was diagnosed with Waldenstrom's Macroglobulinemia, a rare cancer that attacks bone marrow, three years ago this month. Presently he is being treated at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. We moved to Boston in January to begin a regimen of eight initial treatments. Monday, May 25th will begin the seventh treatment. John has responded well to the treatments and the doctors are encouraged with his rapid improvement. We return to Namibia in July after the last treatment.

#### AN UPDATE ON COMMUNITY HOPE SCHOOL

During our absence the staff and teachers have rallied to work hard to shoulder new responsibilities of running a school without their leaders and in many ways, "American parents." Our absence has taught them to be more self reliant and dependent on God who has shone through in amazing ways. We look forward to our return with anticipation. Pray for John as he finishes treatment and we gather our forces to return.

