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NAHIMANAS NEWS

Dear Friends,

This is slightly different from the usual Nahimana's News, because for the first time we are doing a specific Christmas Appeal. Many of you have asked what are the needs that we have and, as usual, the needs are many – the need for a newer vehicle, the need for ongoing support for school fees for our large Restoration of Hope family of 153 etc... But this appeal is not about us and our needs.

This appeal concentrates on Kangenza Via, a simple village woman in her mid 50's. Via is a single lady, who has lived with her Mum since her Father passed away when she was only 2 years old. Via has always had a tough life - with no father to provide any income, her mother struggled to get by – the fathers family refused to help with providing land or any support, which culturally they should do. This could have made Via and her mother bitter... but they chose to respond very differently...



Since 1983, Via has been taking in babies and children. These are children who have been abandoned, babies whose mothers died in childbirth and children from families who couldn't support so many offspring (in a country where family planning is considered to be ungodly, having 6-8 kids is the norm). This picture shows Via with some of the children in her care. Via doesn't

have a job or income – in the past she has tried to run a small business, but with no support or help with the children, it was impossible to continue.

Via lives with her Mum, who is in her late 70's. At present she cares for 9 children, from twins aged 4.5, up to teenagers of 14 years. She also cares for a man who is deaf-mute and was born with no legs. The man has been with Via since he was aged 13 and is now in his late 20's. Via tries her best to feed them with vegetables grown on their small plot, and with a small amount of money that the man with no legs can gather, by begging on the streets.

After hearing a bit about her situation, RoH has been supporting the family since April, but last week was the first time Honda was able to travel to Kirundo to visit them. Kirundo is on the Burundi/Rwanda border, an 8-hour round trip. Honda was shocked by the poverty he saw. Via lives in a small, 4-bedroom, mud house



(each bedroom is 2m square). The house was built in 1975 and has had no real upkeep since then. The house has wooden doors but no locks on them, as locks are too expensive to buy (simple locks are £3.50/\$4.50 but proper locks that would be needed on the external doors are £25/£31). At night Via put stones against the door on the inside, in order to try to deter thieves.



Inside the house there are 7 wooden chairs and 1 table – that is all the furniture this family of 12 have! They sleep on grass mats, using old blankets with holes in to cover themselves. There is an outside toilet, but the hole is so big that the small children could fall into it, so they defecate on the floor outside and scoop it into the hole afterwards!

Honda has not seen poverty like this in a long while – Via literally has nothing, but is willing to take in children and give them a home. They have nothing of earthly value, but the children call her 'Mamma' because of her heart of love towards them.

This Christmas, as well as the usual expense of £2700/\$3375, needed to celebrate Christmas with the 153 children and young people in our care (buying them all new clothes and providing a Christmas meal), we would like to help Via celebrate Christmas with her large family.

If you would like to give towards buying bunk beds for the children and a bed for Via and her Mum to share, bunks with mattresses cost £150/\$190 each (5 are needed) and a double bed with mattress costs £115/\$144.

If our dreams for this family could come true, ideally, we would like to knock down their house and rebuild them a home that is strong, big enough, has a toilet that is safe to use and especially has doors with locks! Via owns the land her house is on, so we would not have to purchase land. To build them a new home would cost £8000/\$10,000. We know we serve a God who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask for or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

If God puts this family on your heart, and you or people you know, would like to help out, our Restoration of Hope bank details are given below. For anyone wanting to do tax-effective giving, money can be given through "Hope in Burundi", our UK Registered Charity No. 1151062. Any gift is a blessing, no matter how large or small. Please state how you would like the money to be used – for building, for beds or for food at Christmas.

This Christmas, as we remember our Saviour who had no bed and was laid in a manger, let us consider how we can help this family have a safe place to lay their heads.

May God richly bless you in every way and may His peace and joy fill your homes this Christmastime.

Much love

Honda, Libby, Bethany, Abigail, Josiah

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