

ICCM Burundi's New Way

ICCM has been sponsoring children in Burundi for more than 50 years. Our mode of operation there has always been to support children of impoverished pastors and church leaders with funds to pay for school-related expenses. Last year, however, our team in Burundi created a whole new approach, incorporating principles of Holistic Child Development (HCD). HCD recognizes four areas of a child's being — spiritual, physical, cognitive and social — and



works to develop all four areas. Our Burundi program is now designed to do this.

Spiritual

Curriculum for Christian Religious Education was written, producing a 30 lesson book. Then 226

teachers came together for training and fanned out to teach in Free Methodist schools all over the country. One teacher commented, "The workshop increased in me the heart of ministering to students; I would like to expand my service to nearby public schools using this material." This first phase includes children in "Fundamental" education, Grades 1-9. Phase 2 will develop materials for secondary students.

Physical

In addition to providing sponsored children with a nutritious porridge called Busoma, a major investment in sustainable development is underway. The



aim is to provide food security, economic empowerment and job opportunities for the families of sponsored children. Training programs for animal husbandry and farming are being offered; pilot projects offer families the choice of breeding animals, increased crop yields in their gardens, or starting a small business. This approach has the potential to bring about holistic transformation in whole rural communities. Sponsored children are proud to share in their family's new economic ventures.



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Social

Holistic Child Development also recognizes children's context — family, church and community. In August, youth camps in 44 areas of the countries brought teens together for three days of fun and games, talent competitions, worship and small group interaction — and they loved it! For younger children, 56,270 kids in 258 Free Methodist parishes attended exciting VBS programs in July. The social and spiritual benefits for sponsored children are being multiplied as their friends

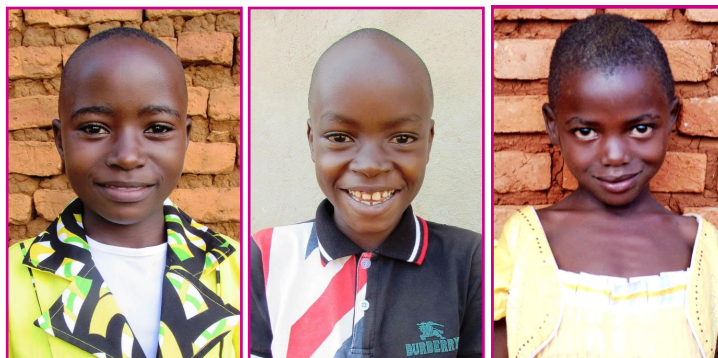
and relatives join them in these activities, magnifying the good that is done as the benefits spill over to others in the child's world. Many children experienced new life spiritually and socially through these innovations.

Our team in Burundi is excited to see the results of this new way of implementing sponsorship to benefit children in such tangible ways. We are, too!

Cognitive

ICCM aims to supplement locally available resources to benefit children. Fundamental education is now provided by the government in Burundi, so for young children, the money once designated for school fees can be repurposed. Now we are providing backpacks filled with a year's worth of school materials — notebooks, pens, ruler, etc. ICCM-sponsored children also receive their required uniforms for the year; for secondary students, school fees are paid from sponsors' support. Families rejoice at this tremendous help from their sponsors.

These three children from Burundi are available on our website, waiting for a sponsor!



Electronic Giving Reminder

As you have been reading in our publications, we now have a new website and database. They are connected to a new credit card and EFT provider. If you want to keep giving recurring gifts, it is **essential** that you visit our new site (childcareministries.org) and give us your payment information again. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but excited for the potential of the new system. Once you have set up your new pledge, please send an email to iccmsocial@fmcusa.org so we can cancel your previous recurring donations. In your new account, you will be able to see more information about your children and your donations than you've ever seen before.