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50th Year of Cheer

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV).

God loves a cheerful giver! What an honor it is for us, the ICCM Central team in Indianapolis, to facilitate all your joyful giving to benefit children around the world!

We are privileged to hear your stories — the ways God inspires you to bless your children with extra gifts, personal letters and family photos. We learn about devoted sponsors who give sacrificially by faith. Some sponsors are children themselves; some are in their 90s; some have already gone to be with the Lord and are sponsoring through their estates. Many find great joy in the act of giving. Our work is filled with cheer.

As Director, I get to interact with our global leaders and see the happiness that comes when your generous act is complete. I just experienced the sheer delight of 1,200 Kenyan children singing, dancing, laughing, reciting Bible verses and poems, and expressing their thanks to God for your faithful gifts. What fun!



Of course, our work involves sadness and heartache, too. The reality of our world is that millions still live in poverty; children starve or die of preventable illnesses far too often. Some of our sponsored children leave our schools or after-school programs and are lost to us, disappointing us and their sponsors. Living in environments where medical care may be minimal, some children suffer from sickness or injuries, and some even die. Our hearts break.

Yet above all, we are filled with joy. We know we're doing God's work, partnering with God's people, and lifting the lives of God's children. We believe God's promises when He says of those who give to meet the needs of the poor, "You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11, NIV).

**Merry Christmas and
a Cheerful New Year!**



Clockwise from Top Left: Alicia Wilson with cute girls; Linda Adams with three ICCM alumni and National Coordinator Daniel Shanzuh (right); A royal welcome to Umoja Academy, Mautuma; Checking out the Boys School plans on site; Jim and Laurel Fife with sponsored girl Constance; Kibera FM Academy; Emerging Leader Lillian Nyangasi & Regional Coordinator Vickie Reynen.