



V I S I O N L E D D

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September 12th, 2005

Canadian Charitable Organization
No. 88173 9924 RR0001

Last year donors like you sent more than 300 encouragement cards to African caregivers... pastors were so grateful. They have requested more – it was a gift of encouragement they never expected.

As I write this letter, I think of an elderly woman I met in Zambia. From what I could see, she was unremarkable in every way. Her tiny body was bent and scared from too much work, too many years, too many worries. Her eyes were tired. Her hands wrinkled.

A pastor friend explained to me that this woman had experienced countless heart-aches. And now, in her last years, she had become a mother again. Her own children had died, leaving her in the care of several young grandchildren. **Extreme poverty made it very difficult for her. All she had was her faith – the faith that Jesus was with her and that He would care for her.**

How I wish that I had an easy answer for the struggles that this elderly woman faces.

Today thousands of grandmothers face the reality of dying children and the necessity to care for their grandchildren. Already poor, the grandmother struggles to feed and clothe her orphaned grandchildren.

We know that HIV/AIDS robs children of food, shelter and education. Increased poverty forces young children, especially young girls, to seek employment. They take whatever job they can find, even if it only pays a few meagre pennies. They take it because, if they don't the rest of their family will starve. They don't even dream about going to school, they just dream about going to bed with a full stomach.

Churches in many communities face the incredible challenge of caring for the sick, the orphaned and the dying. It is not an easy task.

I have enclosed a simple encouragement card. I would like to ask you to join us in prayer for those who are sacrificing their time and their energy to care for the sick and dying, the poor and the orphan. Please, let them know that you are praying for them.

If you would write a simple greeting or favourite Scripture, then send it back to us with your gift, we will make sure that those who care for widows and orphans receive it.

continued...

Yes, I would like to partner with Visionledd...

Here is my gift of \$30, \$50, \$150, Other \$_____

I would like to become a monthly partner with Visionledd.
Here is my first monthly gift of \$_____.

*Please remember to write and return the enclosed encouragement card.
It will be delivered to a caregiver on your behalf.*

<Donor First Name> <Donor Last Name>
<Address 1>
<Address 2>
<City>, <Province/State> <Postal>

I would like to give my gift by:

Cheque made payable to Visionledd

Direct Debit (please enclose a cheque marked VOID)

Card #: _____

Expiry: _____

Signature: _____

Tel: () _____

E-mail: _____

I do not wish to have my name exchanged with other fundraising organizations



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Your gifts and partnership with Visionledd empowers churches to lead the fight against HIV/AIDS in four significant ways:

- 1 In building an awareness of HIV/AIDS. This applies to our work in Africa, but also to our work in Canada. The church cannot close its eyes to the most terrifying epidemic ever – we must respond.
- 2 Teaching pastors, leadership and lay workers. There is still much confusion about HIV – we need to be aware of the real causes and real solutions.
- 3 Providing shelter and care for widows and orphans.
- 4 Assisting churches to provide care in the homes of those who are sick and suffering.

I am grateful for your prayers and your encouragement. I cannot continue without your support. Please pray for Visionledd. We are stepping forward, boldly anticipating God's leadership. But we need funds.

Your gift of \$50, \$150 or whatever God lays on your heart is critical.

Thank you for your support. We are walking in very interesting times. I pray for God's guidance.

In Christ's love,



Jim

P.S. Please return the encouragement card with your gift as soon as possible – we will deliver the cards personally.