

CORNERSTONE of HOPE ORPHANAGE

December 10, 2007
Winter 2007 Edition

Sharing Love, Building Hope, Changing Lives

9809 Skyline Circle Johnston, IA 50131
www.thehopeorphans.org Phone number: (515) 270-8200

Eric's Corner

What a trip! I left Des Moines for Nigeria, all excited and pumped up as I thought about the reconstruction of the orphanage - adding the second story and the I will spend with the Also I was very happy for my friend Tim Denner who was visiting Nigeria/Africa for the first time. It would have been my first Christmas in Nigeria in 17 years. Tim and I arrived safely to Lagos, Nigeria October 11 and got to Benin City October 12. We were greeted by the disturbing news - my brother, Dr. Nelson Idehen, the physician for Cornerstone of Hope (COH) Orphanage had been shot by armed robbers and that he was in the hospital. Well as most of you know, he did not make it out of the hospital. He died October 15.



*COH Medical Director,
the Late Dr Nelson Idehen, MD*

Nelson was my best friend and a dear brother whom I will forever miss. But the good news is that he is in Heaven. I was told that faithful morning, he dropped-off my mother at school, went to Church to pray before going to work. While at work, responding to a duty calling, he met the sad incident. What a great way to exit this sinful world. I thank God for Nelson's life and even at the last minute, he did what most Christians would not be opportune to do - visit church before death.

The children at the orphanage are doing very well physically, mentally and emotionally. In the midst of the tragic incidence, I enjoyed my time with the kids. We spent lot of time together praying, playing and grieving the death of Nelson. I visited their school and met with their teachers and the school principal. The kid's school reports are very exciting, encouraging and promising. Praise God!!

While in Benin-City, I had the opportunity to meet with some of our local donors and did express sincere thanks and appreciation on-behalf of Cornerstone of Hope. I also encouraged them to continue to support the organization. Nelson's death brought me closer to the Priest of St. Patrick Catholic Church - Rev father Francis Obiyan. He is the

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*Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!*

Priest that officiated Nelson's funeral mass. I introduced the orphanage to him and gave him a brief overview of the ministry. He is willing to help us source for a manager and has also agreed to talk to his congregation to help support the orphanage. This is a great opportunity and blessing to our organization. St. Patrick Catholic Church has about 6,000 members.

As we look into 2008, I am very confident that the good work that the Lord started through you volunteers, donors, staffs and friends of cornerstone of Hope will grow. We will surely complete the second story by God's grace and power. We shall bring more children into the home. We will also see lots of adoption taking place. I could hear more children singing hallelujah, songs of joy!!!

I trust and believe the verse John 14:27. Thank you all for your efforts and most importantly your prayers. God bless you all.

Eric Idehen.

Board Member Spotlight

Greetings Cornerstone of Hope Partners & Friends!

My name is Alyson Simmons and I am so pleased to have this opportunity to share with you why I am so honored to be part of this organization. I learned about COH through a mutual friend and prayer partner. She shared the mission and vision for the organization, and we just began praying for the children and the staff at the facility. We also prayed about meeting the financial needs of the organization. I had the opportunity to meet with Eric to discuss the work of the Orphanage and it was really pressed upon my heart to
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Please visit us on the web at www.thehopeorphans.org!

Photo Gallery- Sites & Scenes from October 2007 Nigeria Trip



Tim & Eric arriving in Benin City, Nigeria



Tim, COH Nurse Blessing, & the COH Children



Baby Victoria

The children of Cornerstone of Hope Orphanage

Pictured from left to right: COH Nurse, Blessing; Eric & Baby Victoria; fantastic COH donor, Miss Ivie Ogbomwan; and COH Nanny, Onome



Board Member Spotlight cont...

become involved. One of my life's ambitions is to make a difference in the lives of our most precious resource, which are our children. Professionally, I work in an administrative capacity at a healthcare organization. I am also a Business Consultant working primarily with organizations in the areas of strategic planning, process management and visioning, and fund development strategies. I hope to assist Cornerstone of Hope in these areas as we continue to grow and work toward accomplishing our mission.

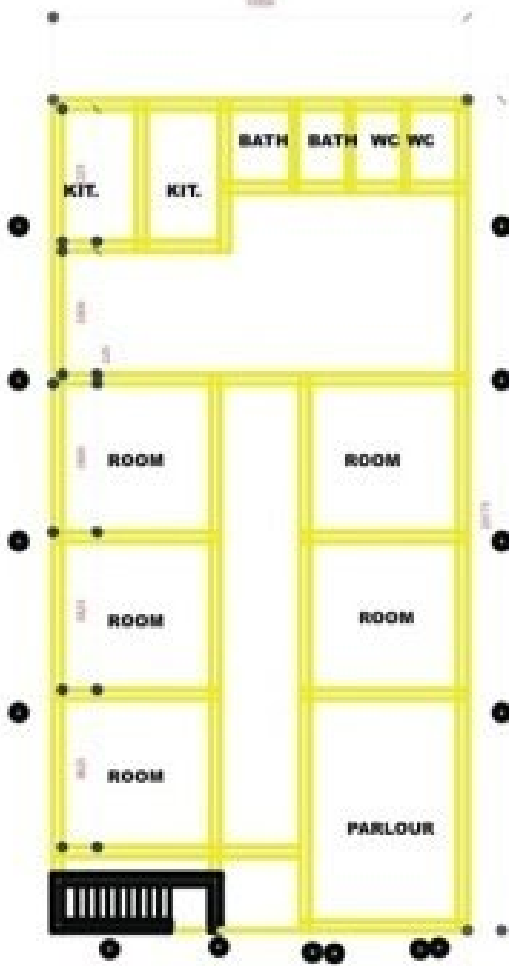
As Board Members, we take seriously our charge to be responsive the needs of the children in our care and yet we are equally excited about the opportunities before us as an organization. When placed in our structured program at the facility the children have thrived in every aspect and that's something to excited about! An improved health status, an improved outlook on their young lives...I could go on and on! As we near 2008 we look forward to another year of establishing successful partnerships to share love, build hope, and change the lives of orphaned children!

COH Expansion & Fundraising Update

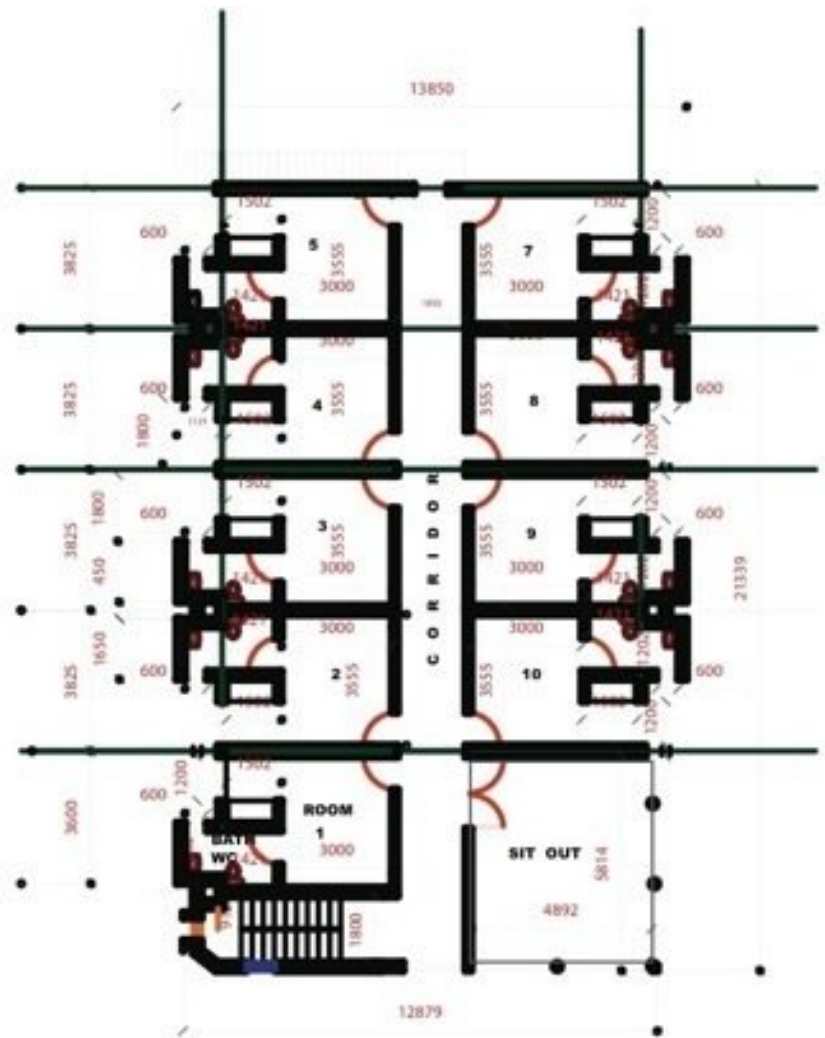
We are still in full swing with our fundraising efforts to expand the existing orphanage facility in Benin City, Nigeria. The expansion of the orphanage is critical to our plans to bring in more children and change their lives! At this point, we continue to turn down placement of additional children because we do not have the facilities to appropriately serve more children. The need is great, so we are actively working to raise the necessary funds to expand the facility.

To date we have raised XXXXX. As most of our partners and friends are aware, it is our goal to raise XXXX to complete the expansion (See page 3 for expansion blueprint) of the facility by June 2008. We have a long way to go that's why we need your help! At this time of the year many of us reflect on how we can be blessing to someone else or just give back in some way. It is our hope that you would consider becoming a partner in this amazing journey to reach more children. For more information please contact: Kevin McGuire, COH President at (515) 270-8200 or Kevin@thehopeorphans.org

COH Expansion Blueprint



EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN



PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Donations can be made to:

Cornerstone of Hope Orphanage, Inc.

*9809 Skyline Circle

Johnston, IA 50131

*Please note that the location of the Orphanage in Benin City, Nigeria

“In the eyes of the children, I saw joy, peace, love and the determination to succeed. I saw a future filled with hope. I see hope for other orphans that are currently on the street.”

Eric Idehen, founder of Cornerstone of Hope