

ALIVE!

THE NEWSLETTER OF KIDS ALIVE® INTERNATIONAL
SUMMER 2020

Our God is in the restoration business!



When Zambian officials in Mongu handed us a tiny, helpless boy in the summer of 2017, it was hard to imagine a hopeful future for him. Having no idea who he was or where he came from, we called him “Baby John,”

though we soon learned that despite his size, he was three years old. He was severely malnourished, suffering from boils and a hernia, and too weak to walk on his own. Even necessary medical procedures had to wait because he was not strong enough.

While we began giving him nutritional care and medical attention, authorities began searching for his family or anyone who had information about him. A distant relative was located, filling us in on where Baby John came from. His mother had drifted between towns, searching for any way to make money and living in total desperation. She often left John at home alone for extended periods of time, her hopelessness eventually leading her to abandon him completely. Because of her transient lifestyle, there was no way to know who John’s father was.

This precious boy was totally alone, barely clinging to life, and in need of rescue.

Kids Alive is deeply committed to the belief that the best place for a child is with their family. And as we continued searching for John’s relatives, we maintained hope that someone who loved him would be willing to take him in. But when all avenues were exhausted, we willingly gave him a home at Lilato. Our dedicated staff lovingly cared for him, providing for his physical needs while also showing him that he was accepted and that he belonged.

Within just a few months, we saw major improvements in John’s health. He began to look more like the children his age and started to play with others. And his emotional health also improved as he came to trust and love his caregivers. In the months that followed, he stayed on a highly specialized diet designed to reverse malnutrition, while we also monitored his other health conditions.

It is a joy to report that John is now in excellent health!

His hernia was resolved and all his organs are functioning normally. And now that his nutrition status is “normal” he can eat the same diet as the other children at Lilato.

He is no longer “Baby John,” but we still affectionately refer to him as “Little John.” We know how close he came to death and how hopeless his situation seemed three years ago when we met him. And yet we also know that nothing is impossible with our great God. It is because of Him, and our generous ministry partners, that we were able to rescue this precious boy, help restore his health, and give him hope for the future.



Your faithful gifts are serving as the hands and

Your favorite restaurant, hairdresser, and gym have probably begun their cautious re-openings, and you may have attended your church's services in person for the first time in months. But for millions, maybe billions, the nightmare of a global pandemic is just beginning... The devastation in developing countries continues to mount as the coronavirus is being layered on top of the existing tragedies of severe poverty, food scarcity, malnutrition, and other life-threatening diseases.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Up to 90% of our families remain unemployed; inflation is making it more difficult for the poor to purchase essentials. Our staff are working hard to identify needy families and connect them with life-saving basics.



ROMANIA — Access is limited. The public health system is overwhelmed by COVID infection, but people are now crowding into cleaner, are now crowded. The country is opening up, increasing daily.



HAITI — Staff delivering food to community families are using the opportunity to sing, pray, and share the Gospel as they distribute packages; children are learning how to garden to increase availability of fresh vegetables.



SUDAN — All states are under lockdown; borders and airports are closed, and medical personnel, health care facilities, and medications are making a COVID-19 outbreak even more dangerous; our boys are receiving intensive training in disease prevention.



GUATEMALA — The country is experimenting with public transportation and greater flexibility in re-openings. In the town of Zapote, Kids Alive is providing homework for 209 students and distributing food and other essentials to 115 families.



SOUTH SUDAN — Staff are receiving regular updates and policy from the government, but the instructions are always clear in terms of quarantine and health services. We have not lost a boy or staff member, so we don't know how it would work.



PERU — In Pucallpa the health system is completely overwhelmed and steadily worsening. Our teaching staff, in addition to helping deliver food, are helping kids with their at-home school assignments as most parents have a very low level of education.

"I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" Psalm 91

feet of Jesus to hurting children and families

Our neighbors in many countries are hurting, and we are praying for creative, compassionate ways to help alleviate the suffering of children and families around the world. Take a look, as we've updated our map with current conditions and how we're working to bring hope!

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led and very expensive.
up, but cases are still



LEBANON — Economic situation is deteriorating and the government is encouraging people to grow their own food. As funding is available, we continue providing students with devices and data plans so they can continue their education from home.



MYANMAR — Shops, markets, restaurants, and hotels have reopened, but churches and schools are still closed by government order. Our staff are providing rice, noodles, oil, onions, garlic, soap, detergent, and face masks to needy families and teaching lessons to students.

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TAIWAN — Our homes are in one of the hardest-hit regions of the world, but thanks to early mitigation and diligent precautions in Taiwan and in our facilities, none of our children or staff have been infected by COVID-19.

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KENYA — There is lack of testing reagents and this has led to slow testing, but positive cases are still rising daily. There is a nationwide curfew, limited travel allowed, and a desperate need for food and counseling for families already in poverty.



ZAMBIA — Chikondi Village has been under lockdown for over three months. Our kids in the Examination School class are being driven to and from school in an effort to keep them on track. Zoom and other means of communication have been enhanced at all sites.

After months of isolation, give gifts that open hearts and lift spirits!

For the children we serve, the gifts you send aren't just fun or "extra." These gifts offer hope, protection, and good health. And as the summer of 2020 is still clouded in the uncertainty and fear brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, it's even more critical to lift spirits and reach into a child's life in a tangible way. Here are just a few options you'll see in our most recent Gift Catalog:



■ Goat + chicken combo

Providing a goat and chickens offers children the protein-packed milk and eggs they need to be strong, learn well, and fight off illness.

\$140 for one goat and two chickens



■ Art therapy

For kids who have experienced abuse, neglect, and exploitation, art therapy helps them to work through their pain and begin the healing process. As quarantine and isolation take a toll, your gift is even more important right now!

\$35 for one child



■ Safe water

Something as simple as clean water is a critical component of healthy living. Give safe, clean water to families who desperately need it.

\$50 for a water filter for one family



■ Vaccinations and medical exams

Even as new virus threats emerge, you can still help prevent the spread of many diseases through a gift of vaccinations and medical exams for a vulnerable child.

\$25 for one child



■ Personal care kits

When a child has their own toothbrush, drinking cup, and other personal items, they feel more independent while also reducing the risk of sharing germs that can cause illness. Your gift will encourage good habits and promote health!

\$15 for one kit

How about honoring a friend or family member by sending your gift in their name? All you have to do is let us know and we'll send your loved one a greeting card to tell them about your gift.

And we'd love for you to give the KAI Spring Gift Catalog to everyone you know! Please call us at 1-800-KIDS-330 if you'd like us to send you extra copies. Join us in our mission to bring hope to precious kids this summer and beyond!

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..." James 1:17a (NIV)