

Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2008 07:49:49 -0600
From: burrows.brittany@gmail.com
Subject: Merry Christmas from the Congo!

Merry Christmas from the Congo!

I miss you all so much! It doesn't feel much like Christmas without you, my friends and family...Not to mention it is 85 degrees outside! However, I have never been more thankful for each person in my life, and every blessing God has given me.

I've been here for 4 months now, and everything is going great. I am so thankful for your prayers, support, and gifts! Thanks to you, the kids at the Jamaa Letu orphanage each have their own mosquito net, sheet set, and shoes.

I was amazed when I arrived at the orphanage in August to find that none of them had nets. They ended up costing \$3 dollars each, about \$100 dollars to buy nets for every child. These nets are vital for their health since they prevent Malaria, which is carried by mosquitoes that bite at night, and kills tons of children in Africa each year. It is amazing that only \$100 can make such a huge difference in the lives of these kids. We also purchased sheets for the kids. Before now, the kids have just been sleeping on bare mattresses without sheets or blankets of any kind. We also got them new shoes. They had been walking to school barefoot, many of them without any shoes. Some only had broken flip flops. But now, each of them have a nice pair of tennis shoes, brands like Nike, New Balance, Adidas, etc. They are so proud of their new shoes.

And finally, we are delivering an awesome Christmas present to the kids tomorrow- a new TV and DVD player, and 5 very cool DVD's! A fun present like this would only be appropriate on Christmas, but it is one that can bring joy to the kids throughout the year, in a way that nets, sheets, and school supplies cannot.

As for me, I'm doing great. I'm learning a lot about different languages and cultures, meeting new people, and even get to play with chimpanzees at a chimpanzee rehabilitation center near my house. The war has not affected life much here, but we are all very much in prayer for the people north of us.

Thank you for your support, love, and for all you are doing to help. It is making such a huge impact in the lives of these children. Merry Christmas!

Love,

Brittany