

Mariam Benjamin Mgogoro: Immanuel's Compassion Child

As we start the year 2011, let's get reintroduced to Mariam. Mariam was born June 10, 1995. She was adopted by the entire Immanuel congregation through Compassion International on January 2006. In June of 2007, the Tanzania Team had the privilege of meeting Mariam & her family. The trip was long & rough from Dodoma into the arid mountains to the village where she lives. The village is extremely impoverished & Mariam's home was dirt floor with a thatched roof. This was a loving & cheerful child that was accepted into the Compassion program & she has a loving family, but they are very poor. Three counselors & a pastor greeted the team. A humble meal of potatoes & tea was shared with the team & Mariam's family. Mariam is receiving an education, a Christian lifestyle & any medical care she needs. She has been treated for malaria in the past. Without being a Compassion child, she would not have had this treatment available to her. It was apparent when the team was there, that Compassion International was a very worthwhile organization. The counselors were young adults that had all been residents of this same area, completed education (both scholastic & Christian), attended university & returned to this area to live & work as counselors for Compassion. They are dedicated & keep excellent records. Everything in regards to every child was an open notebook of all education, concerns at home, & health status.

It is difficult for children to receive a sponsor, so once they are sponsored, it is important that the sponsor keep this child. A child is sponsored until the age of 18 or 22, depending on the country. In Tanzania, Mariam will be sponsored by our church until the age of 22. The cost of this sponsorship is \$38.00 per month. Since she is in an extremely high HIV/AIDS area, she is also enrolled in the HIV fund which is an extra \$8.00 per month (for a total of \$46.00 per month). Immanuel sent her \$20.00 for her Christmas gift this year (one time for her birthday, Mariam used her money to purchase a milk goat, a large bag of rice & several other items)

This monthly fee is used for:

Supplemental food (if needed)

Education: Health, Hygiene, Daily Living Skills, Life Skills, Christian Education, HIV prevention, Safe water & Cooking practices, Plans for the Future

Health Care: Medications, Regular physicals, any care when ill, HIV testing (if needed), HIV Medications (if needed)

Counseling: Personal counseling for both Mariam & her family, frequent visits to the home

How Can You Contribute?

Each & every one of us at Immanuel is a joint partner in being Mariam's sponsor, it is more than just financial support

*Sign up for a week of being her sponsor (\$10.00 for that week)

*Sign up for a special gift on her birthday or Christmas, the money will go directly to her

*Write her a letter: this is VERY important for a Compassion child. They need letters of encouragement, bible verses to look up, telling of things in your life-Mariam does have a Swahili bible that the team presented to her in 2007. She reads it to her family (there are special forms to write the letters on, if you, your family, or a class would like to write Mariam, talk to Pastor, Carol in the office or Deb Schechinger for more information)

*Pray for Mariam & her family

Lord, we pray that Mariam & her family will continue to hear the Gospel & understand it & that they will remember that You are their Savior & Lord. Amen (2 Corinthians 5:17-21)