



MERCY CENTER NEWS

Fall, 2009

MERCY CENTER FOUNDATION, USA

Volume 6, Issue 2

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To our donors,
Thank you so much for making a difference and helping the people of Lare. By your constant support, we have made great progress in improving health care and providing clean water to thousands of people. Every Board member and supporter, either here in the United States or in Lare, makes sure everything is running smoothly. In the future, we hope to expand educational opportunities for girls and micro-enterprise initiatives to families. The Mercy Center Foundation Board and I invite you to come and visit Lare and see the work of your hands! We truly appreciate everything you have given us to make Mercy Center Lare what it is today. I look forward to meeting you at our Seventh Annual Gala on October 3rd. I pray that God will bless each and every one of you mightily!

Sr. Rose W. Kuria
Georgetown Visitation Monastery

Reverend Evanson Njogu



Fr. Evans joined the Mercy Center Lare Board and has served as President since 2006. Fr. Evans was a Spiritual Director for many diocesan seminaries in Kenya from 1995 to 2006. From 1991 - 1995, Fr. Evans studied at St. Thomas Aquinas University in Rome. Fr. Evans supervises the finances of MCL, which include the audit and insurance contracts. In addition, Fr. Evans has interfaced directly with the Kenyan Ministry of Health, Kenyan Ministry of Electricity, Catholic Diocese of Nakuru, Baraka Agricultural College and Nyumbani as well as other NGO's in Kenya who are

potential partners for MCL. It is impossible to calculate Fr. Evan's value to our organization, but his devotion to Mercy Center Lare is just part of his life of service. But don't take our word for it. We think you will be touched as you read Father's description of his life as a parish priest...

Continued on page 3



Michael Bethea

Former RCA Records Recording Artist, Michael Bethea is a friend of Mercy Center Foundation and the singer of our theme song, 'I Am A Voice Crying For Mercy.' We're honored to have him performing at our 7th Annual Mercy Center Foundation Gala on October 3rd, 2009. Michael has such an impressive background as an artist. Recording two albums while under contract to RCA Records, he toured extensively abroad, opening for soul music legends, The Temptations. Later, he formed his own band. Wildly popular and something of a celebrity along the Emerald Coast of Florida, Michael has shared the stage with Keith Urban, CeCe Winans, Bo Diddley, Jeff Carlise (38 Special), and Greg Barnhill (Singer/ Songwriter for Vince Gill, Amy Grant).

Nearly 20 years ago, Michael was introduced to another friend of Mercy Center Foundation: Songwriter/Producer/Director, Trish Short. Impressed with Michael's amazing voice, Trish first began hiring him to record vocals for jingles and theme songs for her commercial and corporate clientele. During the 1990's, both Trish and Michael had conversions and re-committed their lives back to Christ. The clientele and music they were recording began to change. Trish started hiring Michael to record Christian CD projects along with theme songs for non-profit organizations.

In 2000, Sr. Rose approached Trish to write a song for the poor and suffering in her country. She explained her longing to begin a non-profit organization to support her struggling village of Lare, Kenya. Three month's after Sr. Rose's request for a theme song, 'I Am A Voice Crying for Mercy' was written. The studio was booked to record Sr. Rose's song; Trish initially had envisioned three lead vocalists singing the lyric lines. But, when she put all three singers together in the vocal sound booth, one voice kept cutting through the song. That voice was Michael Bethea's.

Michael confessed to Trish that the work Sr. Rose wanted to accomplish in Kenya was something he deeply cared about. 'I Am A Voice' would prove to become a truly miraculous force. First, the song grew into full production of a fundraising video. Secondly, the National Shrine of Divine Mercy was so moved by Mercy Center's theme song that they asked Trish to write a contemporary version of The Divine Mercy Chaplet. Since 2002, The Chaplet of Divine Mercy in Song has been seen and heard worldwide on EWTN. 'I Am A Voice' is the first song on the Divine Mercy Chaplet CD. Both the CD and DVD have become international best-sellers. Grossing over two million in sales, the chaplet along with the song 'I Am A Voice Crying For Mercy,' has literally touched millions around the globe and brought many requests for music featuring Michael Bethea's voice. In 2008, Michael signed a recording contract with Trish Short's record company, Soulplay Records. His first gospel album project is set for release Summer 2009.

We wish Michael success with this new CD project and expect great things from him with his new album. Michael believes in keeping his priorities straight. His ministry of choice, as the Lord blesses the sales of this new album, will be the Mercy Center Foundation, of course!

We're thrilled to have Michael Bethea performing a concert from his brand new CD, including our theme song, at our Mercy Center Foundation's 7th Annual Gala on October 3, 2009 - Mark your calendars; we look forward to seeing you there!

A Small Sampling of Live Auction Items

Villa Fiorentino in Positano, Italy: A seven-day stay for 2-4 people. The villa is situated in an atmosphere that is somewhere between reality and a dream. Beautiful terraces of bougainvillea, shaded by lemon trees, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea make Villa Fiorentino one of the most exclusive hotels on the Amalfi Coast. It is centrally located, just a few minute walk from the beautiful beaches of Positano. Visit the Isle of Capri and Sorrento by ferry. Schedule a side trip to Naples and Pompeii. Visit by car the scenic towns of Ravello, Amalfi, Salerno, and Paestum.

Walking on the Towpath: This original oil painting was donated by renowned artist, Claire Howard. Claire is the grateful recipient of several awards in the Washington, D.C. area and her work has been published in major periodicals.

Four Seasons Gulf Resort at Punta Mita: Indulge yourself and a friend with a three-night/four day stay at the luxurious Mexican resort near Porta Vallarta, within half hour from Porta Vallarta Airport.

Gaylord Resort at the National Resort and Convention Center. Enjoy a two-day stay for two! Relax at this luxurious resort on the Potomac River off the Wilson Bridge.

New York, New York! A one-night stay at the Michelangelo Hotel for two and two tickets to a Broadway show!

Traditions de France: Famous for French imports. Framed still life painting to enhance your home décor.

The Winery in Alexandria: A gourmet wine tasting for 12/15 people.

King's Jewelers of Alexandria: Wooden and pewter platter.

Patrick Designs in Alexandria: A three-hour consultation session, included is a room diffuser.

A small sampling of Treasure Trove Baskets

Redskins Basket: Includes tickets to a Redskin game and team paraphernalia...

Family Game Basket: Something for everyone in the family...

Spa Package: Includes facial massage, hair styling, manicure, beauty products and more...

Wine Basket: Guaranteed to please the most discriminating palate...

Reverend Evanson Njogu *(continued from page 1)*

I am the pastor of St. Peter's Catholic Church in Elburgon, just outside Nakuru. Missionary fathers from Ireland started St. Peter's back in 1961. It covers a radius of about 18 kilometers it includes eight mission churches. My Associate Pastor, Fr. Peter, and I serve about 4,000 people.

There are three primary schools and a nursery within the parish. One of the primary schools is a boarding school with about 500 girls. The Diocese of Nakuru owns the boarding facilities; the government runs the other schools. At the moment a huge dormitory is being built to house about 200 girls. I am the "eye of the diocese" in this project and I spend a good deal of time monitoring its progress.

I am also a board member in the school. We have 150 children enrolled in the Kindergarten and 2,200 children in the three primary schools. The majority are not Catholics, but every Wednesday they join us for mass in the parish church. Apart from celebrating mass for them, Fr. Peter, a team of catechists and I visit them in school for pastoral care every Wednesday.

Our parish is divided into 44 small Christian communities; on average each community has about 45 people. This is where I spend most my time on weekdays. We share the word of God, celebrate mass, hear confessions and meet them on a personal level.

Our week looks like this: Monday is a day off. Tuesdays and Thursdays we visit the small Christian communities or at times we preside at a funeral. Wednesday is set aside for office work and being with the school children. Friday we visit the sick and elderly; Saturday is for meetings, seminars or weddings. Sunday is for our parish masses and Baptisms.

I am now three years in St. Peter's parish. We have been able to build a pastoral center that has two classrooms, a main hall, storage area and a kitchen. We've managed to buy a parish vehicle. In the future, we are planning to finish the church building, start a few income generating projects e.g. computer college. We try to empower our people to start small projects of their own.

Perhaps I can tell you more about my life when I come to the United States for the Mercy Center Gala. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your friends and share with you my ministry.

Right now, I am rushing since I have a funeral in 30 minutes!

God bless you,

Fr. Evans



Where compassion transforms life!

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Mercy Center Foundation USA is an organization of volunteers dedicated to serving the needs of the people of Lare, an isolated community of 40,000 people in the Great Rift Valley of Kenya. Our mission is to bring hope to the people of Lare by providing sustainable, affordable, medical, and educational assistance regardless of religion, politics, ethnicity, or nationality.

***GALA
INVITATION
ENCLOSED***