

the Perennial Path

Brittany's
HOPE

Seeding Change in Orphans' Lives Worldwide



Father George Grima Speaks of Tragedies and Miracles

After 13 Years in Ethiopia, Father George Asks Brittany's Hope Foundation to Build an Orphan Care Village

On a cool November evening, Brittany's Hope hosted a gathering to hear Father George Grima speak about his years spent ministering to the needs of impoverished people. His stories, some horrifying and others uplifting, moved the guests in the audience to both tears and laughter.

Speaking in English heavily accented with his native Italian, Father George mentioned the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. "If you would not make one or two of the dishes you put out with your turkey, you could save that money and send it to Brittany's Hope so that hungry children can eat."

He spoke of poverty-stricken people living in cemeteries, families sleeping huddled under umbrellas. He told of parents asking for lumber to build coffins to bury children dead from starvation. He said, "The father told me he did not want to bury his son's body wrapped in banana leaves, so I gave him what lumber I could find."



Father George greets an infant in a Gumuz village in Ethiopia.

Years ago, Father George was a close friend of Mother Teresa's, working with her to improve the lives of the poor worldwide. Since then, he has overseen the building and operation of countless schools, street centers, rescue missions, orphanages, food distribution centers, and shelters for the homeless.

Father George is particularly concerned about the well-being of children. When children are arrested and jailed for crimes such as stealing food or glue-sniffing, Father George pays the fees to free them. He offers them a place to stay at one of his shelters, feeds them, and gives them a chance to change their lives.

Education is a rare luxury for poor children. Father George encourages villages to construct a small classroom, then pays a teacher to instruct the children. He is proud

"If you are praying, and someone interrupts you to ask for help... you must stop praying then you may speak to Jesus directly by helping them."

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of the kindergartens he has set up in leper colonies, so that the children there have the opportunity to learn.

In his travels through Ethiopia, Father George has found people who are as concerned about children as he is. He recounted a story of finding an infant abandoned in a trash pile. He was able to find enough milk to feed the starving baby for a short time, but cans of milk in Ethiopia cost \$7 to \$9 each. Friends of Father George fasted for a week to save money to buy cans of milk to feed the baby until more could be found.

You can help build a future for orphans!



100% of your donation to the Orphan Care Village will be used for the project in Ethiopia. For more information, call us at 717-367-9614, email Joanne Martin, Director of Development at martinj@brittanyshope.org, send a contribution to 1160 N. Market Street, Elizabethtown, PA, 17022, or visit us online at www.BrittanysHope.org

Would you like to hear Father George speak about his service to the poor of the world? Thanks to Elizabethtown College, we have video DVDs available. Contact us at 717-367-9614 to request a copy.

After he finished speaking, a guest approached Father George with a check for several thousand dollars. It was more than enough to finish a well that had been started, but he had run out of funds to complete it. The next day, Father George received a message that a child had fallen into the unfinished well. "Praise Jesus," Father George said, "with this money, we will finish the well so that no more children will fall in."

In the weeks that followed, more generous donors stepped forward to contribute to the Orphan Care Village. With their help, construction is moving forward. Together with our supporters and Father George, Brittany's Hope anticipates a time when orphans in Injibara will be free of poverty, hunger, and hopelessness.



Father George is a popular favorite with children.

ORPHAN CARE VILLAGE: Construction Update

Phase I of the Orphan Care Village construction began in September 2008. Originally slated to begin in July, excavation was delayed by an unusually stormy rain season. For three months, rain poured down on Injibara. Dirt, hard-packed from months of dry weather, became deep mud. When the rain finally cleared, backhoes were brought in to begin excavating the site.

After the excavation was complete, workers used cement, sand, gravel, and stone to lay the foundations for the children's homes. Soon concrete block was in place, and electrical wiring was laid out.

Father Abebe Teklemariam is in charge of overseeing the Orphan Care Village's construction. Because he issues regular reports about the progress, Brittany's Hope is able to follow developments as they occur.

In January 2009, David Abel and a few other Brittany's Hope representatives will travel to Ethiopia to inspect the construction site. They will also visit areas in Kenya and Tanzania to view possible future projects or orphanages.

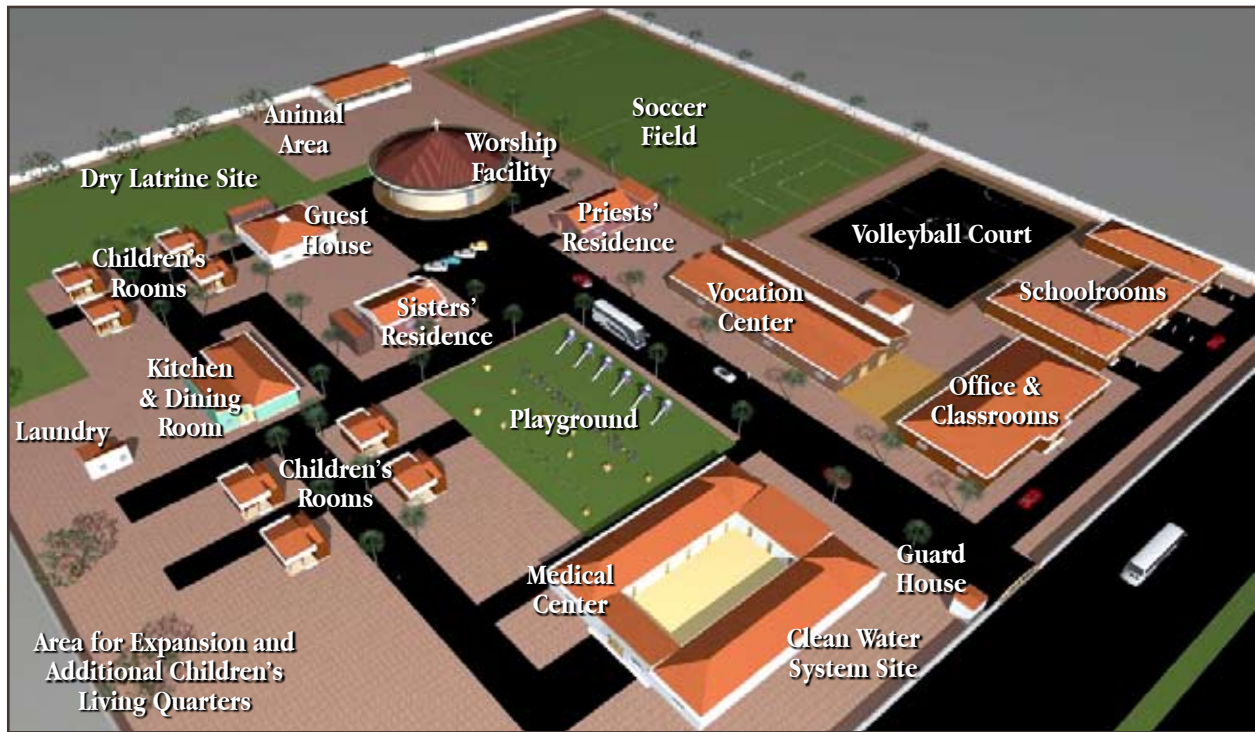
Construction on Phase I of the Orphan Care Village is expected to be complete by May 2009.



Construction started in earnest after the rainy season ended. Workers began laying out logs to cross muddy trenches.

ORPHAN CARE VILLAGE:

Construction Site: Layout and Plans



Phase I at The Orphan Care Village at Injibara will include Children's Rooms, a Sisters' Residence for the nuns who will act as caretakers, a Priests' Residence, and a playground. Sanitary facilities will include a dry latrine, clean water plant, and laundry facility. A guard house at the front gate and fencing around the perimeter will enable security for the campus.

Inside the buildings, we will build bedrooms, classrooms, and offices. A separate building will contain a kitchen area and a common dining room. Flush toilets, sinks, and showers will be part of the clean water plant.

The exterior of the village will feature landscaping with trees and shrubs. A section of land will be set aside for fruit-bearing trees and a garden area to grow food to help make the project self-sustainable.

Phase II will include a medical clinic with examining rooms, hospital rooms, offices and secure storage for medical supplies. A worship facility will serve the entire surrounding community. Outbuildings will house livestock such as cattle, chickens, and goats.

Phase III will include a guest house with bathroom facilities and a common meeting area. Also planned are additional dorm rooms and classrooms to house and educate more children.

Phase IV will include a vocational center to teach trades such as sewing, carpentry, and machine work. A soccer field is also planned.

PHASE I PROJECTS:

Estimated Costs in US Dollars

Construction of Fencing.....	\$ 42,070
Construction of Children's Home	\$ 112,188
Sister's Residence	\$ 62,000
Latrine	PLEDGED \$ 1,323
Guard House	PLEDGED \$ 4,273
Childrens' Furniture ...	<i>Partially Pledged</i> \$15,705
Sisters' Furniture.....	\$ 5,608
Playground	PLEDGED \$ 7,010
Clean Water Plant	\$ 63,105
Landscaping	\$ 13,000
Laundry Facility	\$ 22,058

For detailed architectural plans or to discuss how your donation will make a difference to the children of Injibara, please contact Brittany's Hope Foundation at 717.367.9614 or send an email to info@brittanyshope.org.

EVENT UPDATE: 2009 Walk of Love

by Marcie Bahn, BH Board Member and Walk of Love Committee Co-Chair

Brittany's Hope Foundation deeply appreciates the efforts and commitment of our supporters in our efforts to realize Brittany's dream for abandoned children. Because of you, lives are enhanced every day.

Sunday May 3, 2009 marks the 5th annual Brittany's Hope **Walk of Love**. We're excited to host another day of fun for families and friends, a celebration for the children and forever families who have found each other. This year, we will be honoring a young girl and a sibling group as our *Hope Children* (see page 5 to meet them). They are all children who were united with their families with the help of grants from Brittany's Hope.

Our fundraising goal for 2009 is \$50,000. We hope to increase attendance to include 400 individuals. Activities before the Walk will include a bounce castle, children's games, and snacks. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Each year we've been blessed with beautiful weather for the **Walk of Love**, and Elizabethtown College is a great place to have a fun-filled family afternoon. Join us this year and meet some of the children whom you've blessed through your support. If you would like to register to walk, or help by volunteering for a short time that afternoon, please check our website or contact our office for more information. We would love to have you attend, and to have the opportunity to share Brittany's dream with your family, so the event is free. Please join us for the day and enjoy the activities!

Thank you again for your daily good works. You are making a difference in not only your life, and the lives of families, but also in the lives of children around the world.



For more information about the **Walk of Love**, visit our website at www.BrittanysHope.org, call (717) 367-9614, or email info@brittanyshope.org.

On May 3rd, we're going to change the world in one hour.

2009 Walk of Love

Elizabethtown College Track
May 3, 2009

Registration and Games

1:00 to 2:00 pm

Face painting, moon bounce, bean bag toss, giant slide, and more!

Walk of Love

2:30 to 3:30 pm

How many laps can you walk? Join the fun as we enjoy coming together for the joyous cause of aiding abandoned children worldwide.

Closing Ceremony

3:30 to 4:00 pm

Celebrate another successful walk with refreshments!



Brittany's Buds

Featured Granted Children Waiting for Their Forever Families

We are featuring children whose grants will soon expire. You can view all of our available granted children at www.BrittanyHope.org/waiting.html.



"Gordon" was found with a note on June 30, 2006, when he was four. Diagnosed with congenital heart disease, he is described as clever, docile, quiet, active, honest, curious, and cute. When he is quiet they describe him as a gentleman and when he is active they describe him as an athlete. He has been growing and developing normally. He is not very talkative but gets along well with other children and is like a big brother to them. REGION: East Asia; AGENCY: All God's Children International; CONTACT: Ashley Cone, 503-282-7652; GRANT: \$5,000.



"June" was born in June 2005. Diagnosed with cerebral palsy and global delays, June waits for her forever family. REGION: Eastern Europe; AGENCY: Bethany Christian Services; CONTACT: Janie Van Dyke, 1-800-652-7082; GRANT: \$5,000, possible additional grants available from the agency.



"Addie" was born in November 2007. Her name means "saved." She has a quiet personality and sweet little smile. She laughs out loud when she plays. She is blind and waits for a warm, loving family. REGION: Africa; AGENCY: Children's Home Society and Family Services; CONTACT: Lisa Trinh, 651-255-2252; GRANT: \$5,000, possible additional grants available from the agency.



"Brett" is an adorable boy who enjoys being with people. He has a good social smile, and talks and laughs. Brett has been diagnosed with mild hydrocephalus and mild cerebral palsy. He waits for a family who is open to the unknowns of his condition, and who has access to the services he needs. REGION: South Asia; AGENCY: Holt International; CONTACT: Erin Mower, 541-687-2202 ext. 150; GRANT: \$7,500.

Meet the 2009 Walk of Love

Hope Children



KATIE is a little girl who loves anything pink, watching Dora, cooking in her play kitchen, and snuggling with her kitties. She is an extremely affectionate child. She loves painting, playing store, typing on the computer, and listening to music. She is learning the alphabet and her family is so proud of her!



YAMILÉ loves school, likes to read stories about animals, and is the class hula hoop champ! She enjoys drawing, singing, and dancing, and wants to learn to play guitar. **JORGE** is a bright boy with a great sense of humor who loves an audience while he sings. He adores dogs and looks forward to having one of his own. Both children are a joy to their family!

We Stand In Awe of the Details Our Heavenly Father's Hands!

by Heather Redington, Mom of two boys adopted with help from Brittany's Hope

When our daughter Whitney was asked to describe adoption, she used the metaphor of beef stew. "You see, when you add another ingredient (child) it takes a while to get used to the new flavor. Each one of my siblings added new spice to our family. Zoë added sweetness, Wyatt added spiciness and Zion added a little bit of sweet and sour. But it's our family and it was made by God!" stated our 15 year old daughter. My husband Scott and I have been married almost eighteen years and have five amazing children.

In 2006 we were praying about adding a fourth child to our family through our local Department of Child Services, and hadn't considered overseas adoption. We have fostered over fifty medically fragile children and adopted our sweet Zoë through foster care. We contacted Bethany Christian services to inquire about a special needs child in their magazine and told them that the finances would be an issue for us.

Two days later we received an email from Janie Van Dyke about Erikas (now Wyatt) from Eastern Europe. She said he had a grant from Brittany's Hope, and his adoption fees were reduced!

We had no clue where Lithuania is - we had to look at a map to find out where our son was! Six months later, we were in Lithuania with our son running into my arms saying, "mamita! mamita! (mama, mama)."

In 2008 God placed on our hearts the desire to adopt another child and we were looking at our local foster care adoption program. Oh, God has a sense of humor and his plans are much greater than our own! I was looking at the waiting children list at Holt International. My husband reminded me that we were going to pursue a "local" adoption, and we were "not" going overseas again!

I told my husband I was praying for the children and that I would look at just one more child. I clicked on a child that had a Brittany's Hope grant. To our amazement, this little boy had one finger on each hand and one toe on each foot. Our son Wyatt (Erikas) from Lithuania was born with one finger on each hand and two toes on each foot! Scott agreed that we should pray for him. Later Scott said he felt God intervening immediately in his heart. Two days later I found my husband on



Wyatt Redington joined his family in 2007.



Zion Redington joined his family in 2008.

his knees, in total surrender to God's plan for us to adopt from China.

Zion's adoption process took eight months. So in October 2008 we headed to Fujian, China to bring Zion home! On our flight home from China I was wondering if a two year old could even notice that his big brother Wyatt had the same hands as he did... That was the first thing Zion noticed as we greeted the kids at the airport! Zion reached out his finger and touched his big brother's finger! It was so amazing to see how God created these two boys to be brothers and how there was an instant connection!

It is amazing to look back on the past two and a half years with Wyatt. He is full of life and is growing in many ways. It has not been an easy journey



The Redington Family: Zachary, Zion, Heather, Scott, Wyatt, Zoë, and Whitney.

at times. Wyatt learned in the orphanage to be very self-reliant in meeting his needs. When Wyatt first came home he did not know how to express his feelings, and any time he hurt or felt overwhelmed he would withdraw. After being home for six months he totally shut down. After three trips to the pediatrician in five days, we finally found out what was going on after he was admitted to the hospital with a ruptured appendix. God opened our eyes wider from that point on. To this day we work with Wyatt in communicating basic needs. With love and the security of a safe environment, we see a child learning to cry out when he needs to.

Zion has been home for three months. Zion grieved for the first few days away from the orphanage while we were still in China and had many temper tantrums during the first month. Still, it seems that Zion has had the easiest adjustment coming into our family. He is an extrovert and loves to be around others. He wants to do everything Wyatt and his other siblings are doing.

I wanted to share from my heart about our adoptions. Adopting children who are older or have special needs brings challenges as well as blessings. God is now directing us to adopt one more child and we have learned to trust God in His leading. We are very thankful for our two teenagers and their love and support in adopting children with special needs. I am thankful for my husband and all that he does for our family. He is the most caring, talented, funny and loving husband, father, and pediatric nurse! I would encourage anyone praying about adopting children with special needs to seek out friends who are like minded. I have the BEST supportive friends that pray, cry, laugh and love me and our family. Our family wants to share God's love and passion for orphans around the world.

Brittany's Hope Benefit Golf Tournament

Our annual Golf Tournament, sponsored by DAS Distributors Inc., will be held on August 27, 2009 at the Crossgates Golf Course in Millersville, PA. For more information, please contact us at 717-367-9614 or send an email to info@brittanyshope.org.



A Visit to Cherry Crest Adventure Farms

by Paula Tobias, Recipient Family Coordinator

Our first Recipient Family Support Group outing was a fantastic beginning for our Recipient Families! We ventured out to Cherry Crest Adventure Farm in Ronks, Pennsylvania to a wonderful day of excitement, fun and laughter! Even though we had a few bumps in the road along the way, no one let it dampen their spirits as it ended up being a wonderful day had by all!

Participants involved in this uplifting event were Recipient Families, Board members and staff who attended with their children, family and friends. All of us saw the excitement fly over the faces of the children while they were going down the slides, making sand art, racing the ducks down the water chute, petting the farm animals, crawling through the hay tunnels or jumping on the GIANT pillow! It was amazing to see how huge the smiles were on the faces of all the children!

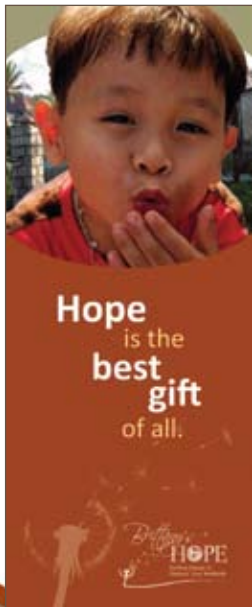
It was even more astounding when we saw Recipient Families exchange their phone numbers and addresses. It is a small tribute to all of us to know we were able to connect them together, in a very special way. They have become friends and can build long-lasting relationships.





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How will you **change** the **world** today?

Brittany's Hope Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to aiding abandoned children worldwide.

We place child-specific grants on special needs orphans who wait for their forever families. At our **House of Love** project in Cam Ranh, Vietnam and **Orphan Care Village** project in Injibara, Ethiopia, we're creating living centers and nutrition programs for children and communities in need. Our **Brittany's Cribs** project provides bedding, cribs and educational toys for children who spend their days in broken cribs without mattresses or blankets. The **Emily Cane** project gives canes and mobility instruction to the vision-impaired.

At Brittany's Hope, every dollar we receive goes directly into placing grants on children and funding humanitarian projects. We're proud of the fact that **100% of all donations are used to make children's lives better**. Want to help? We always need people like you, with open hearts and willing hands. Give the gift of a donation or visit our website to discover how much you can change the world today.

Our Giving Campaign booklets, sent to Brittany's Hope supporters in November, have already made a difference in the lives of children worldwide. The booklets are available at our office, at your request by mail, or can be downloaded from our website at www.BrittansHope.org.

www.BrittansHope.org

