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Connecting Life, 20

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Graduation recognition
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Diamonds in the rough *by Patrick Brinton*

Beyond the abject poverty of the slums that surround them,
are precious people who are generous with their inner riches.

I've recently returned from the Lord of Life Mission Jamaica trip and am writing this from my safe and comfortable home. I have kissed and hugged my daughter and wife. They are safe and sound in their beds drifting off to a peaceful sleep. None of us are worried about where our next meal will be or if we will have running water in the morning. The simple things we take for granted are a blessing, and my wish is that we remember this more often.

Prior to our departure to Jamaica, members from Lord of Life and others served at Feed My Starving Children

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"Out of this harshness grows a love and spirit that cannot be denied."



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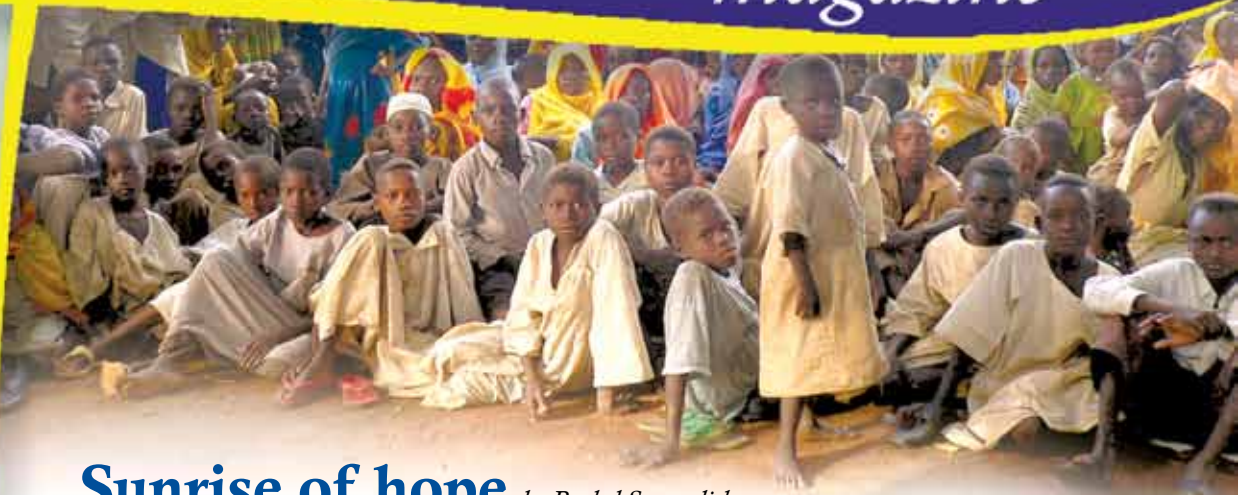
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Packages for soldiers
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Sunrise of hope *by Rachel Samardich*

Lord of Life youth, Rachel Samardich, inspired two hundred eighteen walkers/runners to raise over \$7,010 for people they will likely never meet face-to-face.

Every day the sun rises. There are days when some of us see thunderstorms on the horizon, while others only see the clearest skies for as long as the eye can see. For most of us though, the skies occasionally have storms, but for the most part are clear with scattered clouds.



For the Darfur refugees, the sunrise has almost entirely disappeared from sight. Their hearts are filled with daunting concerns which you and I hope to never encounter. They're burdened with fears and anxiety; how will I feed my family today? Should my son or daughter risk their life to gather firewood just outside camp borders? Where will we sleep tonight?

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Children's Choir
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A Guatemalan family of seven. Two of their five children are receiving an education, nutritious meals, clothing, medical care, and are learning about Jesus because of a sponsorship through Compassion International.



Susan pictured with her sponsored child. She had no idea how much impact \$38 a month had made until she met her face-to-face.

Not wealth, but 'enough' *by Susan Walden*

Compassion advocate Susan Walden shares about her recent trip to Guatemala where she met her sponsored child for the first time. God opened wide her eyes to see beyond the poverty.

I was not prepared for what God would show me. From the moment we landed in Guatemala on Saturday, June 13, God took over. I journeyed with 34 advocates from the United States to meet our sponsored Compassion International children.

Between craft projects with the kids and lots of play, play, play, hugs, and laughter, we visited three school projects, painted four classrooms, and visited nine homes. Visiting the homes was where God really revealed Himself!

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and more

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After School
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"How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action"
(I John 3:17-18).



Connecting with homeless neighbors

The Lord asks us to serve others. I am blessed and fortunate to have an employer that gives its employees opportunities to take time off from work and participate in charitable events. I've had the opportunity to work at the last two PHC events in December 2008 and May 2009.

Prior to the December event, I had no idea what to expect. Here's how it played out. We have hundreds of volunteers from our company that participate. We gather in a large conference room

Project Homeless Connect (PHC) is a national program that provides a one-stop shop of support services for people experiencing homelessness. Here in the Twin Cities, the seventh PHC event was held on May 11. Currently, there are two events a year, December and May, held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.