

Place of Joy

Children's Relief International™

Taking the light of Christ to the poor

Thank you for your generous donation to Place of Joy ministry in Mozambique. Your gift will support this much-needed outreach to children living in extreme poverty.

In 2016, when Place of Joy had just begun, a CRI intern visited this new ministry with her team. Her experience shows the harsh reality that these children endure, but also points us to hope in the One who will bring us to the Ultimate Place of Joy. As you read, please remember that you are revealing a glimpse of that future joy to these children here and now through your support—and we are truly grateful.

With many thanks,
Your friends at
Children's Relief International

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Laughter echoed from the van windows as our team pulled into a sandy open space outside Dondo, Mozambique. We climbed out, eager to visit a new children's ministry, expecting to play soccer or teach games to a lively group of kids.

Our chatter faded as we walked to an open shelter. Fifty pairs of eyes stared at us from small bodies sitting cross-legged on straw mats. These children were not like those we had previously encountered. They didn't move to grab our hands or play with our hair. They didn't smile or laugh.

Helena and Ramizia, CRI project leaders, greeted us. Orphaned at a young age themselves, the sisters recognized a need and brought together this group of children from the Macharote community once a week to eat a meal, sing, and learn about Jesus. "These children are all HIV positive," Helena explained to us, and then turned to them. "Who here has parents?" Only five raised hands. She called three children to the front. Open sores, a sign of weakened immunity due to HIV, covered one boy's

forearm. Flies covered the open sores. "These three are orphans and have no guardian to take care of them. They live by themselves."

In silence we unloaded food out of a vehicle. We served each child a piece of bread, lettuce, a boiled egg, and tea. It was the most wholesome meal they would receive all week, and they waited until everyone had been served before taking a bite.

As I helped a young boy peel his boiled egg, I longed for a New Heaven and Earth more than ever before. I longed to sit with this boy in resurrected bodies free from sickness and decay. I wanted him to know a world characterized by goodness and beauty—not a land of injustice and death.

And yet they named this ministry Place of Joy. It is a place that brings foretastes of shalom to the present. Every meal, every song, and every story allows these children to behold the character of God—Redeemer, Reconciler, Good Father. Helena and Ramizia fight for that joy. To glimpse the rare smile of a child means they must enter their stories through home visits, care for the sick, and fierce prayer. May we also enter the stories of these children and allow them to enter ours. And together, let us embrace our part in the greatest story as we anticipate that Ultimate Place of Joy.

Written by Paloma Douglas

Former CRI intern and team member to Mozambique

THANK YOU!



Thank you for joining Helena and Ramizia, our project leaders, in taking the light of Christ to children in the darkest poverty. Your gifts and prayers will go far to bring joy to their lives. We hope you will share about this ministry with your friends and family and invite them to be a part of God's good work through Place of Joy.

HOW TO GIVE:

By Check: Make checks payable to Children's Relief International. Write Place of Joy in the memo. Mail to the address below.

By Credit Card: Visit our website (below). Click Donate. Choose Place of Joy under Sponsorships. Or you may give a general gift to the ministry under Projects.

By Automatic Withdrawal: Visit our website (below). Click Donate. Download the Automatic Withdrawal form and return with a voided check.

Gifts to CRI are tax deductible.

CRI is a member of the ECFA.