



November 2, 2009 E-Connections

In this Issue:

Tickets Still Available! 7th Annual Luncheon in Cleveland November 4th
Kenya Continues to Suffer Devastating Drought
\$100,000 Match Campaign Update & new \$30,000 Campaign Announced!
Lidia Coggiola Celebrates International Children's Day
Project Highlight: *El Cercado Community Development*
Holiday *Brie en Brioche* Fundraiser to Benefit IPM
Slumdog Millionaire

Dear Friends,

As our seasons change here in Cleveland, Ohio (USA) we wrap up a busy summer and early autumn full of Immersion Experiences, and transition into the new school year. Our thoughts at this time are particularly with our Partners and Friends around the world, as they celebrate successes and joys, and struggle through challenges and loss.



Jared Odhiambo and his daughter, Michelle, who died at the age of four from Malaria.

We are happy to share with you that Hellen Maina Chepkorir, IPM Regional Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa, gave birth recently to a baby boy, Kiptoo. Hellen and Kiptoo are doing remarkably well. We offer our sincere congratulations (*Pongezi!*) to Hellen, Gideon, and their entire family. Hellen can be reached directly at: hmaina@ipmconnect.org. On a more somber note, our thoughts are especially with the family of Jared Odhiambo, IPM Logistics Coordinator for Sub-Saharan Africa. Jared and his family traveled upcountry from their home in Nairobi to commemorate the third anniversary of the death of his daughter, Michelle. Michelle passed away in 2006 at the age of four from malaria, (for our

related story, please see *Connections*, July 2006). The memorial celebrated the too-short life of Michelle with the entire extended family and village where Jared was raised. The prayers of the entire IPM Family are certainly with Jared and his family, in thanksgiving for the energy and life that Michelle brought to the world, and in grief for her early death.

Here in Northeast Ohio, IPM continues to make our way through what has proven to be a particularly challenging year. In the midst of such struggle it is often all too easy to neglect those who are the closest to us. The deaths of Board and Staff Members, serious illnesses and hospitalizations of members of our Staff leadership team, and the ongoing challenges of the global economic crisis for both our headquarters and our Project Partners; remind us all of the fragility of the work for justice and peace and how essential hope and love are, no matter the difficulties we encounter in our personal and professional lives. We remain

grateful to each of you for your support and prayers through what has certainly been a time of mourning and transition for IPM.

In the same spirit of gratitude, I would like to share with you a prayer I encountered in September, while worshiping with friends of IPM at the UCC Congregation in Northeast Harbor, Maine (USA). This "Unison Prayer" spoke deeply to me about the challenges of the current year and the promise of the year to come as we remain faithful to one another in our relationship as members of IPM's global family:

Gentle and Holy God, we acknowledge to You, to one another, and to ourselves that we have in one way or another missed the mark. We have not practiced your dimensions of mercy in our loving, nor your dimensions of generosity in our sharing. We have avoided opportunities to offer kindness, but have been quick to take offense. We have turned away from the hard work of forgiveness and clung to our resentments. We have pretended that we could make no contribution to peace and justice in our world, and have excused ourselves by pretending that we are powerless. We have taken more than our share. Have mercy on us. Heal our wounds and forgive us the wounds we have inflicted on others. Cleanse us from all those attitudes and actions in ourselves that destroy life and separate us from you and from one another. Lead us to find once again the abundant life into which God invites us.

May the spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness inherent in the above prayer help each of us rededicate our time, talent, and treasure to the mission of IPM throughout the coming Holiday Season and the new year to come.

Peace,

Joseph F. Cistone
Executive Director
November 2, 2009

Follow Joe on Twitter @josephfcistone
Find IPM on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ipmconnect

Tickets Still Available! IPM's 7th Annual Luncheon in Cleveland

On **November 4, 2009**, IPM is pleased to host our 7th Annual Luncheon in Cleveland, Ohio (USA). We are happy to honor Peter & Rita Carfagna, as well as St. Ignatius High School, with this year's Richard E. Sering Award for their commitment to fostering justice, peace, and hope around the world. Hina Shah, member of IPM International Board of Directors and Executive Director of the International Centre for Entrepreneurship & Career Development (Ahmedabad, INDIA), will serve as the keynote speaker.

The Luncheon will be held at Cleveland's Windows on the River in the West Bank of the Flats. This annual event is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about IPM, and share with some of IPM's fellow friends and supporters in Northeast Ohio.

To download the invitation and response card, visit our website.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Ilze Fender at +1.216.932.4082 or ifender@ipmconnect.org.

Kenya Continues to Suffer Devastating Drought

The country of Kenya continues to suffer a devastating drought, threatening the food security of the people of Kenya. This crisis was covered on September 8 in the New York Times, explaining, "In Baringo, in the Rift Valley, people are eating cactus because corn and wheat have gotten so expensive. In Nyeri, in central Kenya, some have turned to pig feed. In Nairobi, the capital, even the fanciest neighborhoods often go without running water for a week. And it is dark too. Kenya relies on hydropower for electricity, so less rainfall means less power."



Students at IPM Project Partner, Watoto Wa Lwanga, in Nairobi, KENYA.

IPM continues to stand with our Project Partners in Kenya as they face the extreme challenges posed by this drought. Our prayers are with them as they hope for conditions to improve. To make a contribution to one of our Project Partners in Kenya, visit our website at www.ipmconnect.org and click "Donate Now"

\$100,000 Match Campaign Update & new \$30,000 Campaign Announced!

We were thrilled earlier this year to receive a US\$100,000 Match Gift Challenge from an anonymous donor. In response to this campaign, we received overwhelming support in new or expedited contributions from our donors. This an extraordinary response to the challenge has helped IPM to continue and enhance our partnership with our Project Partners in their work with children, women, and youth around the world despite the global economic crisis.

Recently, one of IPM's most faithful donors—The Singing for Change Foundation—challenged us to raise another US\$90,000 in new funds to support the work of our Project Partners around the world. For every US dollar we receive between now and year-end, Singing for Change has committed a US 50 cent match. As IPM and our Partners worldwide continue to be impacted by the global economic crisis, we remain especially grateful to Singing for Change for this expression of confidence in our mission and to each of you for helping to make our work possible. Thank you in advance for helping us meet this exciting new challenge to continue changing lives around the world. To make a contribution to IPM, visit our website at www.ipmconnect.org and click "Donate Now", or contact Joe or Ilze in the IPM office at +1.866.932.4082 (toll free in Canada and the USA).

Lidia Coggiola (Zaragoza, EL SALVADOR) Celebrates Children's Day

On October 2, 2009, *Lidia Coggiola* (Zaragoza, EL SALVADOR) celebrated Children's Day, and concluded a week of cultural celebrations. The school is committed to the holistic development of pre-school children, using song and dance to teach the students, in addition to other traditional and hands-on methods of teaching.

Video of *Lidia Coggiola* students dancing the "Torito Pinto" at the Children's Day Celebration is available on our Facebook Page (www.facebook.com/ipmconnect). Check out other video from IPM's Project Partners around the world by visiting www.youtube.com/ipmvideos

Project Highlight: *El Cercado Community Development* (El Cercado, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC)

We recently received some exciting updates from our Project Partner, *El Cercado Community Development* in El Cercado, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. The Project seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of El Cercado and the surrounding community through programming such as trainings for health promoters, education initiatives, agricultural projects, and support for small businesses. The Project runs a bakery, which thanks to a recent donation, is thriving, and run by dedicated volunteers and employees. In the next two years, the bakery's board hopes to expand local markets, expand the bakery's offerings, develop a system for equipment maintenance, and improve promotion and publicity. Another women's business enterprise has been working hard at developing new products, such as marmalades and candies. They are similarly looking to formalize some aspects of their work, through improved packaging, expanded markets, and better equipment.

IPM has partnered with *El Cercado Community Development* for more than 20 years, and we are proud to continue to partner with them as they develop new initiatives and strategies for growth.

Holiday *Brie en Brioche* Fundraiser to Benefit IPM

Support IPM by ordering a pre-baked fruit and brandy filled brie en brioche for this Holiday season! IPM friend and supporter, Sue Stewart has organized this wonderful opportunity for to benefit IPM's work around the world. Order your two-pound brie en brioche by phone at 440-871-7638 or email at sals1982@aol.com, and arrange to pick up on either Sunday, November 22nd or Sunday, December 20th between noon and 7 p.m. Any donation will be accepted, and all proceeds will go directly to IPM. Deadline for orders is November 16, 2009.

IPM is extremely grateful for our faithful and creative supporters for their ongoing support. If you have an idea to generate support and interest for IPM, contact our Staff at +1.216.932.4082.

Slumdog Millionaire

On Tuesday, August 25, IPM hosted a unique event, seeking to answer the question *how has Slumdog Millionaire changed life for the people of India?* with a special screening of the Academy Award winning film, followed by a discussion with Mahesh Upadhyaya, IPM Regional Director for South Asia. The event was held at the Cedar-Lee Theater in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

The evening was a great success, and provided an opportunity for members of the Cleveland community to learn more about IPM's work in India and around the world.