

June 9, 2014

Then I found out the real story...

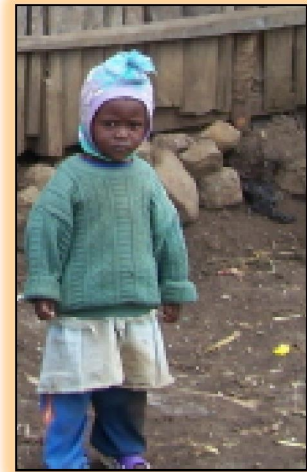
Dear Friend,

Time moves slowly in the depths of a chilly night, when you can't find a blanket and there's no fire to keep you warm.

Can you make a gift today to keep a young girl or boy, or an elderly man or woman warm for a night?

Winter is fast approaching for the children of Kenya. June, July, and August are a time of worry for our little ones – and for our elderly!

Last year, as in the United States, the winter was unusually cold and unforgiving – much colder than previous winters, as you know! While everyone suffered, it's the ones with the least who are hit the hardest. It's the ones who depend on you and me who use so much more energy just to survive, even before it got so cold. For them, the extra effort to survive the winter may be impossible.



Most people like yourself, can add a sweater or blanket, turn up a thermostat to get more gas or oil, or add a bit more wood to the fire to keep warm. My dear friends you are lucky to do this!

Our children and elderly – living in the slums that surround our schools and home – have no sweaters or gloves. The “heating system” might be a fire pit in the middle of the floor. It matters not. There is no coal, wood or dung to burn.

For our children in the slums, gathering warm clothing and fuel is a monumental, depressing task. It is a matter of life and death. That's why everyday our Sisters work among the people of Kenya, begging for additional clothing for our children. The needs are simple: blankets, jackets, hats and gloves! Without these simple items, the results can be tragic.

**I ask you today to stand with the Sisters.
Your gift relieves them of the burden of begging for our children and elderly,
letting them do so much more for so many more people.**

(Over Please)

More than any other time of year, children die during these cold months from pneumonia. The elderly fare little better. Something as simple as a warm meal and warm blanket saves a life!

Please know also that the people of Kenya try to help each other. Like in America, there is good and evil, and while God knows what's in someone's heart, for us it is sometimes hard to tell.

Let me tell you a story of an elderly couple who lives in our area. They were called miserly by their neighbors. They raised vegetables and kept chickens. In a land where everyone bargains for a price, they never would, for anyone. NOT A PENNY'S DISCOUNT! They always charged full price for their eggs and vegetables.

Then I found out the real story...they gave all their profits to two families nearby who had so many troubles! Such deep charity! What compassion! And no one knew - not even those closest to them.

I tell you this because God knows that there is always a way to provide for our impoverished neighbors. Jesus told us that the poor would always be with us...orphans, widows and elderly. He put that good couple, and YOU, here to take care of them.

So many people like yourself give without anyone knowing your sacrifice.
I know! I thank you so much!!!

**Like the couple above, whatever little you have, no matter how big or small,
it will make a difference to the girl or boy, man or woman
who will be cold next month.**

It will make a difference to our orphans who can choose a jacket from our closet.
One child at a time, one blanket at a time. Thank you and God bless!

Sr. Mary Bernadette

P.S. I know that many of you would like to send us blankets and coats. Unfortunately, that would be impractical. Not only would they get there months from now - well after the cold season is over - but the costs to send them would be tremendous. Please be assured that whatever funds you send will go to buy blankets, coats, gloves and fuel locally. That way it not only helps our children and elderly, but also supports the small business people who supply them - who themselves may be just a few shillings away from their own poverty. God bless you!