

Christmas Mass Friday, December 22 @ 11:00 am



**Canadian Food for Children
La Nourriture du Canada pour les Enfants**

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RICHARD SMILED

MY NAME IS RICHARD, I AM 10 YEARS OLD. I live in Africa.

MY MOM AND DAD DIED OF AIDS. I HAVE AIDS AND I AM DYING. I am very weak, suffer from infections and I am "skin and bones"

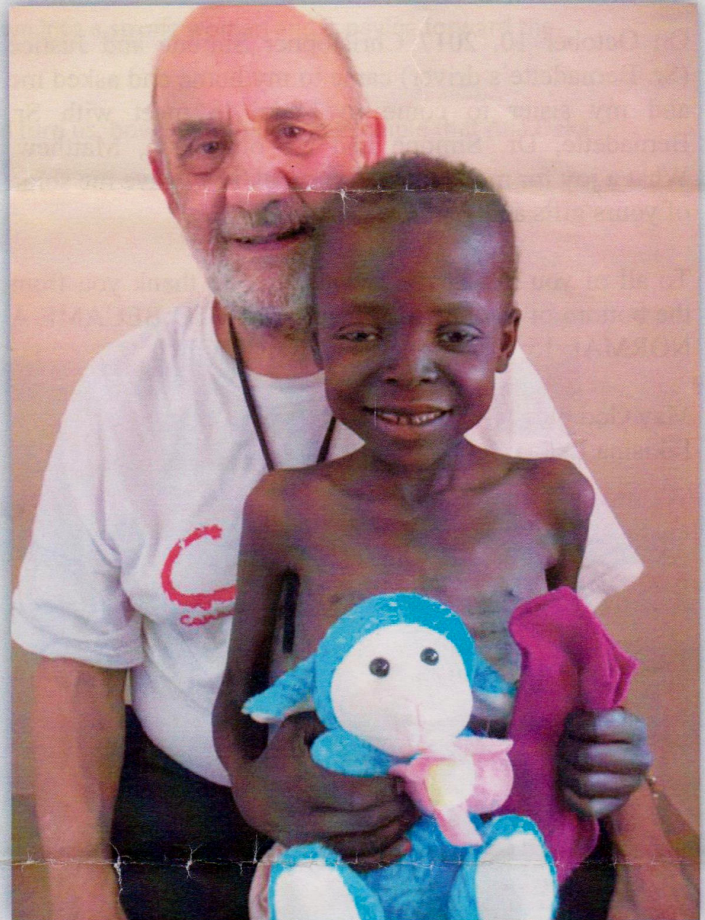
Sr Christina brought Dr. Simone and his sons, Christopher and Matthew to see me.

They gave me and my grandmother many gifts as well as money. I HAVE NEVER RECEIVED MONEY BEFORE. MANY TIMES, I WANTED TO BUY A CANDY OR A SWEET DRINK BUT, I DID NOT HAVE ANY MONEY.

DR. SIMONE WAS HAPPY TO SEE ME SMILE, Matthew and Christopher noticed really big smiles with the tennis ball, hat, crayons, cookies and candy.

WHY DID I SMILE? I SMILED BECAUSE SOMEBODY THOUGHT OF ME. My grandma and I have no money and often no food. WOULDN'T YOU SMILE IF SOMEONE GAVE GIFTS TO YOU?

WHEN WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS AT CHRISTMAS, WE REMEMBER THE WISE MEN GIVING GIFTS TO JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH.



So, thank you sincerely to all in Canada who help the poor. I BELIEVE THIS WILL BE MY LAST CHRISTMAS ON EARTH. IN CHRISTMAS 2018 I WILL PRAY FOR ALL OF YOU FROM HEAVEN.

Sincerely,

Richard

P.S. MY GRANDMOTHER IS A VERY SPECIAL LADY who has used every ounce of her energy to help me. SHE ALSO SMILED.

**Jesus, Mary and Joseph, our strength and our glory
Jésus, Marie et Joseph, notre force et notre gloire**

LIKISINA LUKAS

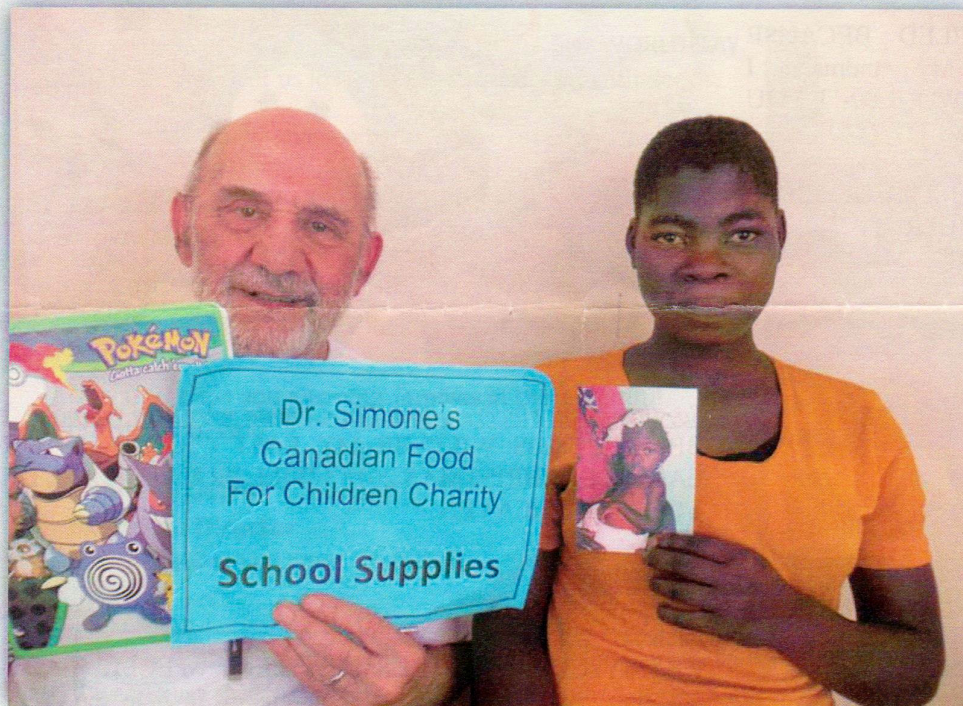
My name is LIKISINA, I was born in January 2002. Dr. Simone met me in February 2003 in Africa. I was 13 months old and weighed 3.8 kg (8 lbs.) and suffering from advanced starvation. Sr. Bernadette cared for me.

Dr. and Joan Simone visited with me again in 2005 when I was 3 years old and recovering.

On October 10, 2017 Christopher Simone and Justice (Sr. Bernadette's driver) came to my home and asked me and my sister to come to Ludzi to meet with Sr. Bernadette, Dr. Simone and his other son, Matthew. What a joy for me to meet everyone! They gave me some of yours gifts and I was very happy!

To all of you in Canada I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping ME TO BECOME A NORMAL 15 YEAR OLD TEENAGE GIRL.

May God bless you all,
Likisina Lukas.



Dr. Simone and
Likisina. October 2017

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, our strength and our glory
Jésus, Marie et Joseph, notre force et notre gloire

ANA DAKA

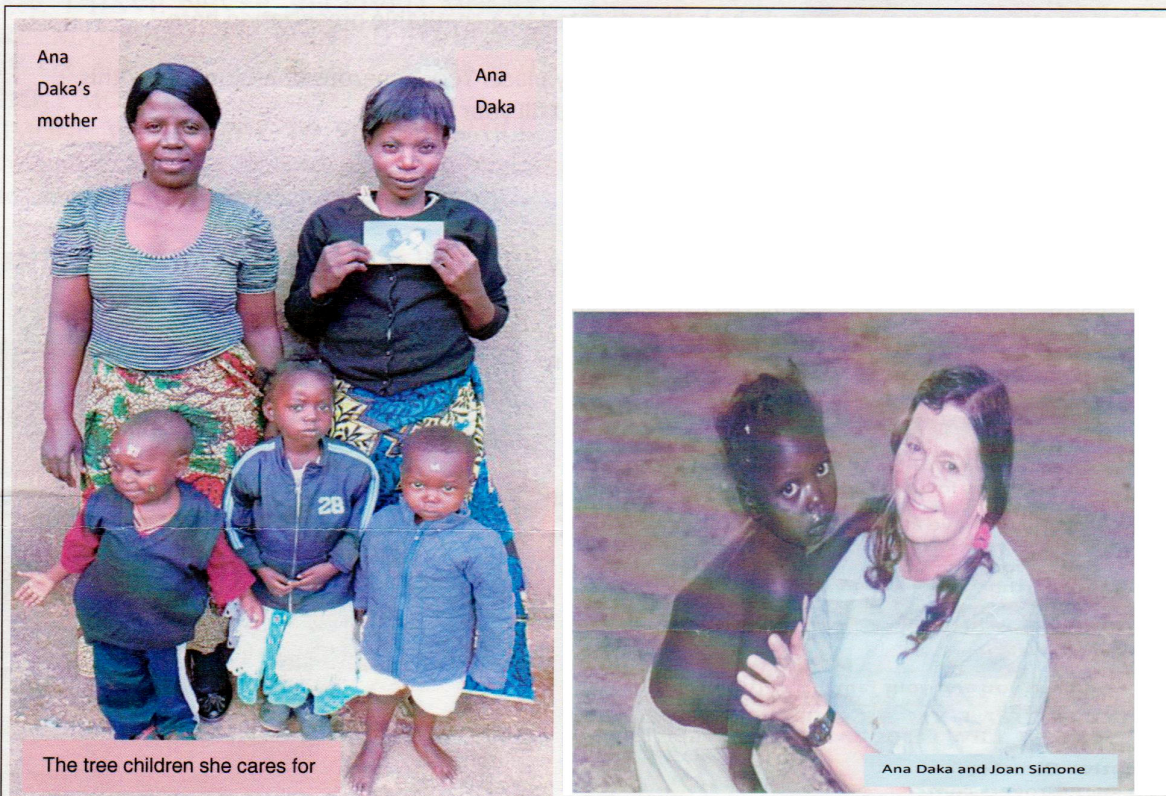
This Christmas I am reflecting on the amazing love our Mother Mary has for her son Jesus. There are countless examples throughout the world that echo Mary's sacrifices and motherly devotion, even though many hardships and persecution.

While in Africa I was able to spend time with Ana Daka and her mother, with 3 children that she cares for as her own, despite the poverty. In the picture below (left) she is holding the original picture from several years back when my mother found her as a child under extremely poor conditions. As a child Ana Daka developed a spinal deformity triggered by malnutrition. Since then Ana Daka and many in her community are helped by CFFC. Ana Daka has grown into a strong woman and is paying forward the kindness she received to these children now.

Jesus asked his mother to mother his apostle and in turn us, how beautiful is the example that Ana Daka has done exactly that.

Thank you, Mom.

Matthew and Daniela Simone



Did she think about the impact these children would have to her social life or if her home has space? It is a decision based on love, dignity and creating positive change.

From the Warehouse #5

As November begins, we are starting to receive donations of Hallowe'en candy from schools. Most of us probably don't think twice about grabbing a treat when we feel the urge, but this candy must be such a treat for the children who receive it. I must admit that occasionally the warehouse volunteers sample a little chocolate bar just to make sure that they are safe, of course! Speaking of chocolate, some groups are under the impression that we do not send chocolate, but it is most welcome. Thank you to all the children who share their candy.

Soon the decorated shoe boxes full of small gifts, school supplies, soap, etc. will begin to arrive from schools and church groups. Often they want to know if they will arrive before Christmas. As the containers generally take 6 – 8 weeks to arrive at their destination, the answer is probably no. However I think anytime one of our containers arrive, it must feel a little bit like Christmas!

It seems that whenever people drop off goods for donation to us at the warehouse that they are happy. Giving makes one feel good, doesn't it!

Some recent events: Jim and his group dropped off 80 bicycles a few weeks ago. I met with some of the Helping Hands group for a warehouse tour yesterday; they are faithful supporters. This week's container for Haiti was filled with so much food through the amazing generosity of the students, staff and parents of the York Catholic District School Board. Our B.C. friends always send us such wonderful donations.

When considering CFFC for donations, we ask that you be thoughtful. Most donations that we receive are so helpful, and a soccer ball, bar of soap, or item of food are excellent. However cook books or home decorating magazines or ice skates would be better donated to a charitable organization here.

One of the visiting priests said that our warehouse is a holy place. Your generous donations allow this good work to continue. May the blessing of the Christ Child fill your hearts.

Sal Badali Assistant Executive Director

Pope Francis has named November 19 the first WORLD DAY OF THE POOR. Let us love, not with words but with deeds.

Because of you we have already sent over 300 containers in 2017 and in this year we are especially proud to have sent an emergency container to Mexico in response to the September earthquakes. We thank you all for your kind donations and support. We look forward to Celebrating the Christmas Mass with you on Friday, December 22 at 11 am. All are most welcome.

May God bless you and your families in this beautiful Christmas Season.

**Helen McGuire
Executive Director**
hcmcguire@rogers.com



Please Contact: Loretta Antonacci to book appointments for students and other groups to come to the warehouse @ cffc_studentgroups@hotmail.com/ Talks in Chatham, Windsor and London call John and Sandra Van Raay @ 519.352.6659 / Talks in Ontario or across Canada call the main office @ **905.274-9239**.

Canadian Food for Children Warehouse: 1258 Lakeshore Road East Mississauga, ON L5E 1E9 (West of Dixie Rd.)
Tel: 905.274.9239. Hours of operation: Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. until 12 noon.

Top Secret: Project Red & Where have all the Teaching Jobs gone?

Christmas is a wonderful time. It is a time for family and friends. It is a time of spiritual preparation and for getting ready! All of us feel the pressure each year of remembering the people we love through Christmas gift-giving. Dr. Simone is no different. He starts his holiday planning each year with a top secret program called: "Project Red." Dr. Simone and Joan have a very large family, 13 children and 35 grandchildren. Many of the foster children and people that have lived with them over the years are still a part of their very large extended family. They like to ensure, as do all parents and grandparents, that everyone receives something under the Christmas tree. They also know the true meaning of Christmas. Gifts don't have to be expensive, it is the thought and meaning behind gift giving that counts.

As members of the Canadian Food for Children family we have read Dr. Simone's letters over the years describing the poverty in our world. We have seen hundreds of pictures showing how this charity has made a difference in the lives of thousands of children. When it comes to our North American vision of Christmas we know that Santa Claus isn't even on the radar for millions of poor children in our world. While gift giving can be excessive and wasteful the idea of sharing gifts is good. Many individuals and schools participate each year in the Christmas Shoebox program. Students and individuals fill empty shoeboxes with school supplies, candies and small toys, even gently used items, and nicely wrap everything up in Christmas wrapping paper. They prepare these gifts for young girls and boys. Thousands of these boxes are shipped every year to poor children in the countries and places that we serve. Dr. Simone says that the love that goes into each shoe/gift box is unbelievable. The children who receive these gift boxes feel so special and loved. Please let Dr. Simone know if you or your organization/school participates in this shoebox program. He would like to personally thank you for your work and he will get pictures of the children receiving and opening your gifts! Every year Dr. Simone sees these beautifully wrapped shoeboxes and he gets so sad because, they are dropped off without leaving their information. Please Keep Up The Good Work. The loving acts that we do NEVER end because as St. Paul reminds us: "love never ends, it endures all things."

Around mid November each year, when Dr. Simone starts wearing his: "Jesus is the reason for the season" button on his coat, we know that Project Red has officially started. He has secretly enlisted the assistance of a few CFFC volunteers to help him search for alternative, thoughtful and creative Christmas items for gifting. He likes to incorporate his warm sense of humour in the process. He especially likes potential gift items to be "red" in colour, hence the name "Project Red". One year he cut recycled red paper into squares, tied them together into cubes and made handy note pads. Another time he came across some curious red plastic containers that really intrigued him. You should have heard him laugh when he was told what these strange items were for. The plastic containers he found were apparently ergonomically designed to be the size and shape of potato chips! A handful of potato chips could be neatly stacked inside each plastic container. When the lid was closed you had a handy, compact, potato chip protector for your lunch bag. No more crushed potato chips and unnecessary lunch bag let-down to ruin your day. These red potato chip protectors were one of Dr. Simone's favourite "Project Red" finds. With all of the injustices and problems in our world he found it very amusing that time and human brainpower had been used to solve the crushed potato chip, lunch bag, dilemma! It highlighted what Dr. Simone likes to refer to as a: "First World Problem". We fret and worry about the silliest and most inconsequential things in Canada. Our affluence makes us worry about our "things" more than we worry about other "people".

Although it might make us slightly uncomfortable and spoil a little of the festive mood, this Christmas, before we go out gift shopping let's try to remember the beautiful children in our world living and dying in poverty. Perhaps we might start a "Project Red" program of our own? We might look for less expensive alternative gifts that can convey the love and true meaning of Christmas without the unnecessary expense? We might even consider sharing some of our new found savings

with the poor? Let us ask Jesus to always help us have a special place in our hearts for the poor. Let's try to never forget about them.

xxx

A few years ago Dr. Simone accepted an invitation to be a keynote speaker at a Teacher's College Graduation ceremony. He frequently gets these requests. Dr. Simone has great respect for the role of teachers. He acknowledges the important role that teachers have played in his own life. He frequently tells the students volunteering at the CFFC warehouse about the supportive teachers that nurtured and inspired him when he was in school. I have heard him tell student volunteers about a certain high school guidance counselor he had who laughed at him when he said that he wanted to be a doctor. He bluntly told a young Andrew Simone: "You'll never be a doctor. You aren't smart enough!" That guidance counselor originally hurt Andrew's feelings but he got Andrew determined to succeed and do well! Who knows what might have happened if Andrew had a different guidance counselor who didn't challenge him when he needed it most? Andrew studied and worked so hard that he received numerous academic awards at Queen's University in Canada and even received a scholarship to attend Harvard Medical School in the United States. He sure proved that guidance counselor wrong!

During the Teacher's College Graduation ceremony, as Dr. Simone addressed the graduates, he told them about their important work and encouraged them in their new teaching careers. Towards the end of his address he said something that made the entire audience quiet and very uncomfortable. Dr. Simone lamented the fact that there weren't as many teaching jobs as there should be here in Canada. Teaching jobs are missing because children are missing. Looking out at the new grads he said that: "If there weren't so many abortions in Canada many of you young graduates might already be offered permanent, full time, teaching jobs". Many of these new grads wouldn't have to work for several years as supply teachers, waiting for older teachers to retire, before they can get permanent full time teaching contracts. According to an article that I read in the National Post, there are well over 60,000 abortions each year in Canada. According to my math, these aborted missing babies result in 3,000 fewer teaching positions a year. Considering that children are in school 14 years until they graduate it works out that there are 42,000 missing teaching positions in Canada because of abortion! (missing teaching jobs are only the tip of the iceberg of the destruction and damage abortion causes in our country) As Dr. Simone returned to his seat the crowd was noticeably quiet and subdued. Many in the crowd were uncomfortable with his comments and honesty that night. You might say his comments hit a nerve. Dr. Simone didn't hit all of the politically correct notes. I wonder if he will ever be invited back to speak again at this institution? Why do you think the crowd responded in this way? Why are so many of our institutions silent about the reality of abortion? Dr. Simone has never been silent on this issue. He is a Pro Life Doctor! He frequently reminds me and others that we really have to pray for an end to the crisis and evil of abortion. We cannot allow this issue to be pushed aside and pretend that it doesn't exist. Dr. Simone calls abortion the Crisis of our age.

This Christmas as we once again remember and celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, try to remember how sacred and special the children are for the world. Children are never a problem. They are a blessing for all of us regardless of where they are born or where they presently live. A child born in Africa or in South America is a gift from God to us all. Emmanuel, God is with us, came to dwell among us as a vulnerable and beautiful little baby Let's love all babies from the moment of conception and work to build a world where all children are truly loved and welcomed. May God Bless you and your family during this holy Christmas season. May 2018 bring you all: Grace, Peace and Joy.

Brian Finamore
Chaplain