



# Merry Christmas

Christmas 2023

Dear Friends,

Merry Christmas! The song, "I Can only Imagine" keeps playing through my mind as I imagine the lives of our children if they went without our care and love.

Imagine being 4 years old, living with your mother in a quiet, remote village in Zambia. You have never ridden in a car, met your extended family, or even had clothes that fit. You can't run and play like the other children because your leg is twisted and getting worse. Walking is painful, and people make fun of you.

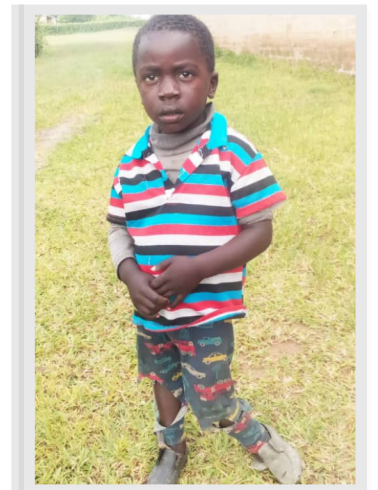
That was China's life last year.

One day, around Christmastime, your mother places you on a motorcycle with a stranger. She tells you "Goodbye." After a long ride you arrive at a small home. A lady you do not know says she is your grandmother. Eight children are something called "cousins." The man who brought you rides away. Your only possession is your dirty, ripped, oversized pajamas. You are hungry, alone, homesick, and afraid.

Abandoned. That's the only word for your feelings. Through tears you say to the lady, "I want to go home on big motor." But that is not possible. You have a new home.

Last Christmas, China was abandoned at one of our Granny Homes in Zambia. At first glance China's story is heartbreaking. And, if it ended there, it would be. But what seemed like abandonment was really God's protection.

China's life has changed thanks to God's love and your partnership with us in ministry. China has now bonded with his cousins and loves his sweet grandmother. He has clean clothes that fit, and hears about Jesus Christ, the baby in the manger who was born to save us.



China when he first came to live with his Grandma Jeni.



But there is more to China's story. In October, he and Mr. Vincent traveled five hours by taxi and train to Lusaka, Zambia. China, still experiencing anxiety at all the unknown and new experiences, vomited for the entire trip. The next day he met a nice doctor. Great news! On March 24, China will have both his legs fixed surgically!

God is so good! I am reminded of Psalm 27:10:

**Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.**

We thought China was abandoned. God did not abandon him at all. China was brought to his grandmother's home. We help this family stay together by helping with food, clothing, spiritual care, and education. I doubt China would ever have had the opportunity to have his legs repaired, not with the resources available in that remote village.

Please help us give China and all our children a wonderful Christmas. Their faces will be joyful as they open a new outfit, toys, or a Bible. We recently gave some US children new pajamas. They were overjoyed. The pajamas meant they would be warm in their drafty home.

As you give, we pray that you will also rejoice in the gift of Christ our Savior, the Savior who never abandons any of us and who gives us reason for great joy!

God bless you this Christmas Season. Rejoice! Our Lord has come!

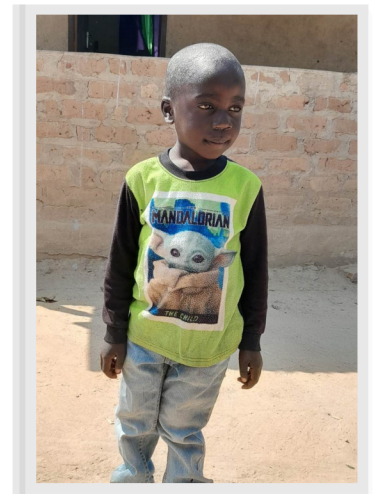
In Christ,

*Linda Brooks*

Linda Brooks, MA  
President

10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11



Our most recent picture of China, age 4.

