

CCF President Recalls Kenya Killing Fields

Lokichogio, Kenya, has been known for over a decade as the center of relief operations for neighboring Sudan. The desert areas outside Lokichogio, however, are known as the "killing fields."

Christian Children's Fund President, Dr. John Schultz, traveled to this grim spot on his recent trip to Africa. Armed soldiers protected Schultz and the local CCF staff as they took a dusty drive into the desert. Along the way, they passed new villages that had sprung up during the drought as people searched for food, water and security.

"The small gatherings of women and children we passed were an excruciating sight," he remembered. "Their clothing had been sold for sustenance, and many were wrapped only in animal skins, the old-fashioned way. Some had nothing more than a scrap of plastic sheeting or a used food bag to cover themselves."

Dr. Schultz found the killing fields marked by "animal carcasses in all directions." In what he called "one of the ironic cruelties of the drought cycle," he learned there

was actually a small stream of water close by. "Here, after the animals survive for days crossing the scrublands with no forage and no water, they die quickly after their first drink because they drink too much. It overwhelms them."

Nearby, the CCF group found an area of abandoned huts. Simple utensils lay scattered on the ground, seeming to indicate "people had died suddenly or left out of sheer hopelessness," he said.

From nowhere, two young girls appeared. The girls, aged nine and 12, were the last surviving members of a small group that had traveled together. The pair, who were in a weakened condition, were picking the abandoned items off the ground — perhaps in the hope of selling them farther down the road.

"Their mother had perished two days before from hunger and thirst. Their father, as far as they knew, had wandered off into the desert wilderness to shoot himself from sheer humiliation at not being able to provide for his family," Schultz said. "We learned from our escorts that suicide is becoming increasingly common



Dr. Schultz pictured with items abandoned by those wandering in search of food and water.

among the once proud, once self-sufficient men when they have reached a state of sheer desperation."

Schultz sent for a truck to

carry the sisters to a nearby food distribution center. Thinking about the girls, he said, "It makes you wonder how many people didn't make it that far."

How To Help

To make a contribution to help the thousands of children affected by drought, or to sponsor a child from Kenya or Ethiopia, call 1-800-776-6767 between 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday,

Or visit our web site at www.christianchildrensfund.org,

Or mail this form in with your contribution to:
CCF, 2821 Emerywood Parkway, Richmond, VA 23294-3725

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