



PRAYERS OF HOPE

Brigette is 15 years old and is alone. She lost both parents at 6 months old. At first she was cared for by her aunt, but her aunt died when she was two. Her uncle took her in but she was abused by her cousins and others. At 8 years old she found her grandmother and lived with her for two years until her grandmother died. Another uncle took her in and helped her go to school. She had to work before and after school and had little time to study. She fell behind in her studies and was punished when she was late to school. At 12, even though her uncle was poor, he gave her a little piece of land to farm. As she had no farm training it was not too successful. She ate what she could grow but people started stealing her crops. She finally dropped out of school and went to the capital city, Kigali, to be a house girl. Since she was young, she was not paid and was abused. She came back to the village and now works for food, which means that she works all day for a small amount of money in order to eat. If she is sick or cannot find work, she will not eat that day. She missed work the day of our meeting and so would not eat that day, if not for the food that was provided at our meeting. Her dream is to own a cow and have a proper house. She was happy to be invited to join a ZOE working group, which will be her "family" and will help her help herself.



BRIGETTE

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Jeremiah 29:11*

See reverse side for details about ZOE

Please fill out and return now or to the church office
ATTN: Peggy Caverly, Missions or send to serve@st.lukes.org.

Name _____

Email _____

- I agree to regularly pray for **Brigette**.
- I would like to be on the ZOE/St. Luke's email list to receive updates about this ministry and St. Luke's working group.
- I am interested in assisting the ZOE Ministry with a few special events a year.
- I would like to serve on the ZOE Core Group (meets monthly).
- I would like to know more about contributing to St. Luke's ZOE Working Group or giving in other ways to support this ministry.

ZOE is a distinctive, three-year empowerment program that works with orphans and vulnerable children in Rwanda, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Malawi, India and Guatemala. ZOE goes into communities where teens and children (like the one on this prayer card) are already living. ZOE's in-country staff helps the children make an extended family by combining sibling groups into a Working Group of 60-100 children to create a new family that works together. They help them articulate dreams for their lives and then ZOE provides training and minimal strategic resources that they need to transform their lives in just three years. ZOE leads to sustainability rather than long-term dependency. The children, who often have felt invisible even to God, are able to see and hear the gospel in beautiful and tangible ways that are empowering.

St. Luke's UMC began its journey by meeting the challenge of funding a ZOE working group during the Advent season of 2015. Since then, more working groups have been funded by St. Luke's families. During a visit by a St. Luke's team visit to Rwanda in February 2016, we were able to capture some of the children's stories. Every child's story is different and yet the same. They are stories of suffering, pain and isolation. Now that they are part of a ZOE working group, there is new hope. Through this prayer card, we are asking you to make a commitment to regularly pray for this particular child and her siblings. She is just one of many so please pray for those for whom we do not yet know by name.

There are many things you might consider praying for (hope, health, food security, good crops, safety, knowing that God is with them) as this child helps her family rise out of extreme poverty. Your prayers are a way to walk alongside this child and this working group and cheer them on in spirit.

www.zoehelps.org
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www.st.lukes.org/journey-with-jenn

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