



The Gweimen Centre Newsletter

A Self Sufficiency Center for Widows and Orphans of HIV/AIDS

September 2015

The Coalition of the Willing

By Mary Sytsma
June 2015

In the days of the Old Testament prophet Nehemiah, part of the work of God's people included the building of a wall around the city. (Check out Nehemiah 3:1-12). It was a restoration project that required all of God's people, not just the warriors, to accomplish. It was a brave thing to do. Some were naysayers. They thought the job was too big or too dangerous or too hard. They refused to participate. Others did their part, however big or small, and the job got done. My pastor called those who helped "the Coalition of the Willing" because they went forward together, when the job looked insurmountable.

When I look at the situation in Nigeria, the kidnapping of little girls, the terror of Boko Haram, the crushing poverty, the lack of rights for women, and more, it would be easy to say, "The work is too hard. Let's focus our gifts, our money and our time, somewhere else."

But Gweimen is part of God's forever family, so that makes them part of our worldwide family. We can't turn our backs. We know about them. We know that the widows and orphans and those who help them are doing something brave. The work of restoration requires that all of us participate, in whatever way we can.

"Learn to do right. Seek justice. Encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless. Plead the case of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

We have to be the Coalition of the Willing, or nothing will change.

We have to pray, we have to care, we have to give, we have to love, and in doing these things, we will build something very strong. We will build Gweimen. If you help, you will be helping to build a real wall, made of sturdy blocks, around the Gweimen Centre, making it safer for the children and the widows to gather there. If you help, little girls will go to school. If you help, children who are HIV positive will get the medications they need. If you help, children and widows will get enough to eat.

We cannot do everything to stop poverty or the AIDS crisis or the violence, but we can do this. And in doing it, I think we all become stronger and braver.



Thank you to those who purchased bricks last year at the auction.

Please join us for the Gweimen Centre Auction!

A Silent & Live Auction to help HIV positive Nigerian widows, orphans, and vulnerable children

When: Friday, October 23 at 7PM

Where: Crossroads Community Church

1N100 Gary Ave

Carol Stream, IL 60188

Handmade crafts, Bulls Tickets, Restaurant Gift Cards, a Raffle, Original Paintings by Rick Johnson, and many more fabulous items will be available.

To Donate:
Give online at
www.gweimencentre.org

or mail your check to:

**Gweimen Centre
PO Box 1517
Wheaton IL 60187**



Operating Budget

Expense Description	Full Year Estimate	Program Description	Full Year Estimate
Feeding	\$ 3,800	Gweimen Center Kwoi	\$ 24,200
Orphan Education	4,400	Ankung Feeding Center	1,700
Training Materials	1,500	Orphan Education	5,200
Staff Salaries	10,500	Widow Outreach	100
Building Expenses (Rent, etc.)	9,100	Widow Vocational Training	1,600
Transportation	1,300	Grain Milling Program	900
Repairs and Maintenance	1,100	Total	\$ 33,700
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,000		
Total	\$ 33,700		

The Gweimen Centre, a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Board Members: Jacquelyn Adkins, Greg Bendle, Shari Buma, Kathy Carwell, Rick Johnson (Secretary), Heather Loss, Janna Piersma, Mary Sytsma (President), Joy Townsend, Rachel Vanderhill, and Steve Van Zee (Treasurer)