



SAVING KAMEA BABIES

- A BABY MILK PROGRAM THAT IS GIVING BABIES A SECOND CHANCE IN THE MOUNTAINS OF KEREMA



THE little children in the pre-school laugh joyously. Their teacher wants them to sing but they can't remember the words perfectly.

It doesn't matter. As long as they are still here, alive and healthy. Not long ago, the future looked bleak for the children.

Most lost their mothers at birth. And without the nourishing milk of their mother, they would have succumbed to hunger and thirst.

In the past, this unfortunate situation was a curse on the Kamea tribe of the Kerema Mountains in the Gulf of Papua.

But the arrival of the Baptist Mission from America has changed the landscape and given these little children great hope.

The children are the product of a program called the 'Baby Milk Project', largely funded by generous donors back in the United States.

It was introduced by missionary couple John and Lena Allen.

Sr Lena takes up the challenge: "We thank the Lord for His provision each year for baby milk for our clinic ministry. In 2017 we purchased 420 cans of formula, serving dozens of infants and young children who are malnourished.

"In some cases, the mother has died in childbirth, or shortly thereafter. In other cases, the parents have given the child away as they are unable to feed another mouth... and yet others of our "baby milk babies" have

mothers who are unable to produce sufficient milk to feed them.

"This little one was a recent case toward the end of 2017. The mother rejected the baby soon after birth due to a mental illness, and the family was struggling to provide proper nourishment.

"After just a few short weeks on the SMA formula, she is doing much better, and thriving!

"The baby milk program began in 2009, and it has served almost 300 children since then. Some of these children are school-aged now, and by God's grace, they are doing quite well."

2017 - Income: \$4,180.41; Expenses: \$5,341.75; Total cans purchased: 420 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$12.72 - price decrease due to exchange rate) Babies served: 45

2016 - Income: \$5,715.00; Expenses: \$5,638.34; Total cans purchased: 400 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$14.10 - price decrease due to exchange rate) Babies served: 50

2015 - Income: \$6,875.00; Expenses: \$8,280.37; Total cans purchased: 558 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$14.83 - price decrease due to exchange rate); Babies served: 29

2014 - Income: \$1,320.00; Expenses: \$6,468.40; Total cans purchased: 400 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$16.17) Babies served: 44

2013 - Income: \$6,414.16; Expenses: \$8,396.37; Total cans purchased: 471 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$17.82) Babies served: 58

2012 - Income: \$627.51; Expenses: \$10,446.22;

Total cans purchased: 547 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$19.10); Babies served: 58

2011 - Income: \$1,415; Expenses: \$5,325 Total cans purchased: 300 (Cost per 2 lb. can: \$17.75); Babies served: 42

On February 8, 2014, Sr Lena posted online: "I wrote a new card today for our Milk Baby program. It is a 3x5 lined index card with the mother's name and her village, except this card does not have the mother's name at the top. Right after having this baby girl, she continued to bleed until she died. So, I wrote the adoptive parent's name at the top. This all happened just 4 days ago. Hard to imagine that somewhere near here a lady gave birth in the jungle, and then died within hours.

"Through our prenatal clinic, we offer to deliver babies here at our place. Some of the mothers do come, and we are able to help. Yet most of our mothers still do things 'the old way;' they go out into the bush and deliver their own babies.

"Another example was a baby who also came to clinic today. She was only 3 days old, and had a huge scratch across her face and nose from where she went head first into some brush and landed on the ground while being born. Change is such a difficult thing for anyone. We too often prefer 'the old way,' the way we were raised. Even when presented with a better way, we are often suspicious.

"Often I pray for our Kamea ladies, asking God to help them because their lives are so hard. I ask Him to help me speak to them in

their own language, to touch their hearts. I pray they will learn to trust me so that I might help them in their suffering. Mostly, I pray that God would let them trust me so I can lead them to the One Who loves them perfectly and even gave His Son for their souls. I wish the mother of this new little girl had not died. I wish she had come to know Him, Who is life eternal."

And this posted on January 7, 2014 - Thank you for helping with our Baby Milk Program!

At the end of 2013 we received a great financial gift in the amount of \$5,000 toward our Baby Milk Program. It was totally unexpected and totally, gratefully accepted! We have had many give differing amounts during the last three years, and we are grateful for each gift.

In 2011, and again in 2013, we were able to ship some baby milk in our containers from the US. These were donated or purchased for us, and those numbers are not reflected in the amounts below. Those were added blessings!

As you see the list below, the 2 pound cans we use (900 grams) will last a baby from 1-2 weeks, depending upon the size of the child. Each child's progress is monitored, and most are on the formula program for one year.

The Kamea people wish Mama Lena Happy Birthday on November 14. You have been a great 'mama' to us.

