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Mother, Daughter from Georgia Explore Zambia

Richmond, Va. – Oct. 10, 2008 – Jill and Katherine Drerup chose to bond during their mother-and-daughter time in extraordinary ways. They flew across the Victoria Falls in Zambia on a wired cable and watched wild animals during a safari.

The highlight of their recent trip to Zambia, though, was meeting 8-year-old Peggy, who they sponsor through the Christian Children's Fund. In June, the Drerups traveled from Athens, Ga., to Zambia as part of a CCF Study Tour.

“A Study Tour is a great opportunity for a sponsor or donor to not only meet their sponsored child, but learn about the history, culture, music, and traditions of that child's country,” said CCF Assistant Director of Marketing Gary Duncan.

Jill Drerup and her husband, John, have been CCF sponsors through their 24 years of marriage. They currently have four sponsored children – in Zambia, Vietnam, India and Brazil. Katherine grew up hearing about and writing to several sponsored children throughout the years.

“We have sponsored a child for Kat's entire life,” said mother Jill Drerup. “When she was 5, we selected three sponsored children that were approximately her age, so as Kat grew up she communicated with them as they grew up. Those children lived in Mexico, Ecuador and Brazil at the time.”

Katherine is now 17 and a senior in high school.

Before deciding to sponsor Peggy, the immediate thing that stood out about her was that she had the same name as Jill's mother-in-law. When they met Peggy in person for the first time, they noticed she was extremely shy.

After becoming acquainted, it took awhile for Peggy to crack a smile. Most of their interaction was non-verbal communication. Peggy, who was with her mother, received a photo album and a doll from the Drerup family.

During their Study Tour experience, Jill and Katherine visited five different CCF program sites. For each site, they were greeted with smiles and African songs and dance. At one



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site, a crowd of young people gathered in a circle to dance. As they danced, the youth pulled Jill and Katherine into the middle of the circle. Within two minutes, the entire village joined them.

Jill and Katherine Drerup have a passion for helping children who experience poverty. The main issues that they observed in Zambia are poverty, a lack of drinking water and a large population with AIDS. Twenty-two percent of the population is infected with the AIDS virus. Jill says the common struggle for children in poor countries all over the world is education and health.

Jill said that her overall Study Tour experience was like being in a middle of a movie. Katherine agreed and said the experience was like “the ‘Lion King’ coming to life.”

“The view of Chobe River in Botswana where we took a boat tour was very much like stepping into a movie,” Jill Drerup said, “The scenery was breathtaking with herds of elephants lumbering across the river, hippos nestled in the mud, wart hogs along the river banks and other wild animals grazing.”

Their Zambia Study Tour experience has become a family heritage. Jill had previously been on two Study Tours – Brazil in 2004 and Thailand in 2006.

“I’m proud to pass on this legacy experience to my daughter,” Jill said.

The passion to help children in need will continue in the family.

“I’m definitely going to sponsor several kids when I get established. I feel like I have one big family across the world,” said Katherine.

For more information on CCF’s Study Tours, visit www.christianchildrensfund.org and click on “Study Tours.”



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