

## **Children Sponsorship Programmes**

What does it take to sustain life, to sustain just one precious life? Come with me to a place you have never been.

It is 6.30am here in this corner of Africa. The light is fresh, filled with hope, pregnant with a new day. Xolile rolls over on the layers of newspaper that serve as his bed. He rubs his eyes and slowly becomes aware of the absence that surrounds him. His mother should be there caring for him. He remembers little things about her. Last week they came to take her away, she was silent, her eyes were closed. His father said she had gone to another place where there was no poverty, just simple, lovely things like blankets and food. Perhaps right now she is biting into a warm, baked potato, rolling it around in her mouth, feeling it land in the hollow pit of her stomach with a gentle heat.

Xolile is happy for her. Maybe where she is now is dry and she will stop shivering and rocking back and forth like she did on her small square of old newspaper.

Xolile's small round stomach grumbles and he rubs it absently; he no longer recognizes it as hunger. There is nothing to get up for, his father has left to search for jobs and there is nothing to put in his swollen belly. Somewhere down the narrow dusty path he hears a child crying. He turns his face to the wall. He is not even aware of the tear that rolls down onto the newspaper. He goes back to sleep because there is nothing to get up for. There is nothing to hope for. There is nothing.

What can you do? Is it possible to reach into the life of this small child to relieve his suffering? Can love cross oceans and continents and land like hope outside his door?

Sponsoring a child does this. It is a powerful way of giving that touches all parties like a profound blessing. You can be a link in this chain of giving. With just \$28 a month you can traverse the space that separates you and touch his heart and stomach with the precious gift of life itself.