



### SCHOOLBAG PROJECT

It was perfect!

Ultimate joy!

That is the only way I can think of to describe the emotions of the children who received a schoolbag with the basic school supplies therein. Most of us won't even flinch when we receive a gift like that.

To us, it may not seem like much, but in their limited world, it is a lot more than they ever had, a lot more than they are used to. Most of them have nothing, just the few pieces of hand – me – down clothing. Some might have a plastic bag with a pencil and a ruler in.

The sparkle in their eyes as they laid eyes on their new space cases and schoolbags, filled with a ruler, pens, a colouring book, colour pencils, a pair of scissors and a few other supplies, can't be described in words. It was almost surreal. I would never have thought that a child can possibly be that excited over something which in our world is quit insignificant.

As the general Monday assembly gathered under a tree (they don't have a school hall) I couldn't help but see poverty ... worn-out clothes with no shoes worn by dusty little faces who probably woke up this morning between the four walls of a little shack with no electricity or food in it. Most of the children are part of a school program which provides them with food. I couldn't help but think that, realistically speaking, very few of these grade ones will be able to break the circle of poverty. I couldn't help to feel that we must do more, that our country still has a long road ahead towards some kind of equality. There is however one thing I am sure of and that is that we have made a difference in the lives of 50 grade one children, who may now just have a little brighter future.

**Butterfly Regards**

**Johan Smith**