

# Bethel Baptist Church

720 Morrison Crescent  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 2Y3

July 16, 2015

Mayor and Council,  
Town of Fort Frances  
320 Portage Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 3P9

**Attn: Mayor Roy Avis**

Dear Mayor Avis and Council Members:

**Re: African Children's Choir Concert, September 2, 2015  
Townshend Theatre, Fort Frances**

On September 2, 2015, Bethel Baptist Church will host the African Children's Choir at the Townshend Theatre. This will be the fifth time that we have had the privilege to host this incredible choir, the last one being four years ago when they performed to a packed house in the Townshend Theatre.

Please permit me to introduce this charitable organization to you. The African Children's Choir is a subsidiary of Music for Life which was founded by Ray Barnett. "Music for Life partners with community schools in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa to offer a weekly program to the communities most needy and vulnerable children. Music for Life Center programs include music and dance, arts and crafts, life skills training, homework help, Bible stories and one-on-one interaction between the children and Center volunteers. Each Center has approximately 50 children attending each week. Music for Life Centers provide a meal or snack as well. For many of the children, this is the only meal they will eat that day. The results are tangible as the quiet, shy children transform into enthusiastic, energetic children full of laughter and love. Teachers notice increased confidence, better academic performance and growing leadership skills in the children. Since 1984 over 1,000 children have toured as part of the Choir and hundreds of thousands of children and families have been aided in some way by Music for Life. Many of the children from the early years of the Choir are giving back and making a difference to their communities and many are mentoring younger children, each ensuring that the cycle continues." (Music for Life)

Part of the program this year is the possibility of the local youth choir joining to sing the final two songs of the evening with the African Children's Choir. This will allow children from our area to interact with the current African Children's Choir members.

In 2013, the touring Choir had the privilege of performing for her highness, Queen Elizabeth II at her diamond jubilee. We are honoured that Fort Frances is again given the opportunity to experience these world class performers, their talents and enthusiastic outreach.

This concert will be a 'free ticket' concert to enable us to fill the auditorium and not have to turn away people at the door due to full capacity. During the concert, the audience will have the opportunity to share in a 'love offering'. *All monies received will go directly to Music for Life.*

Since we are hosting this event, Bethel Baptist Church will absorb all expenses including the rental of the theatre. Bethel Baptist Church is a small congregation and we are asking that you please consider waiving all or at least part of the per seat charge since this will add significantly to our costs and current budget.

We are fully aware of the current hardships the town and residents of Fort Frances and surrounding area have experienced and we feel that by bringing in this incredible choir we will be encouraging our local citizens by witnessing for themselves children who live in poverty yet exude joy and life.

We would like to extend an invitation to each of you to attend the concert. You will find these children delightful, energetic and absolutely wonderful.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Gluehisen".

Shirley Gluehisen,  
Worship Committee Chair