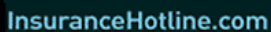


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Photographer publishes wordless book to help Third World children

By Gord Bowes, News Staff News

Nov 11, 2010



GORD BOWES

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Photographers are usually short on words. But to publish a book sans any sort of type is pretty unusual.

Photographer Mark Zelinski has donated 6,000 copies of his ...

There is, however, a method behind such madness, says Mark Zelinski.

His untitled book, featuring photos he took around the world over a 35-year span, is made specifically for deprived children and illiterate adults with little access to books or the Internet.

"I had it in mind for several years that this book would have no words, no title, and therefore wouldn't be limited to an Englishspeaking audience," says Zelinski, a freelance photographer who has lived on the west Mountain for the past 14 years.

"It's made exclusively for children in Third World countries. Usually exclusivity means for the richest people, well this is for the poorest and most vulnerable."

The book is one of three — "From the Field" and "One Small Flame" are the others — he just published.

Last week Zelinski was at Carmen's banquet centre to sell copies to raise money to get some of his books into the hands of underprivileged people living in the poorest regions of the world.

He's donating 3,000 of the untitled book and 3,000 of From the Field, while the proceeds from other sales will go toward paying for shipment of the heavy tomes.

"I've created the books, that's my donation, but now I have the expense of shipping them around the world, and books are quite heavy so shipping can get expensive," said the 55-year-old photographer who has published several other books, including two with a Hamilton focus.

Zelinski said he wants to demonstrate that the human race is a family.

"Whether we are on the far side of the world or right here, whether we're living in affluence or poverty, we're still a family and I think the world has start thinking that way more and more," he said.

"If there are people suffering in the world then we are all suffering."

Zelinski will be signing books Saturday from noon to 3 p. m. at Indigo in Heritage Greene plaza in Stoney Creek.

He'll also be at the Chapters in Ancaster on Nov. 24 from 7-9 p. m.

For more information, see www.MarkZelinski.com

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