

Cattle Gift Creates Bond

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At two fund-raising banquets conducted this week for Heifer International, Sule communicated the devastating distresses he and his community suffered. The poisonous gas killed his mother and about 50 other members of his family. His nomadic village had depended on cattle for their food supply. They felt hopeless and at loss on how to continue living.

Sule recalled the unfathomable emotion his tribe felt when

they heard that 68 head of dairy cattle would be transported by air from the Heifer International (HI) program. Each family who received an animal promised to "pass on the gift" by giving one or more of their animal's offspring to a neighbor in need.

The cattle were far superior compared to the weakened inbreeding herds the tribe had previously raised. HI personnel taught the villagers a new way of caring for the animals so that herd size could multiply more

rapidly and the animals retain health and vigor. The tribe's previous cows generally had not calved before three years of age. Through cross-breeding, the new stock calved the first year.

Villagers learned the importance of using fencing in grazing. Confining cattle to paddocks controlled previously rampant diseases such as foot and mouth. Paddocks also enabled better control of tick infestations.

Sule and his village learned how to erect cement fixtures to provide a constant water supply for the fenced cattle.

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Heifer International changed the lives of Umaru Sule and his family. Both Sule and Pamela Stone, director for the region, left, spoke at the two fund-raising dinners conducted in Lancaster County this week.



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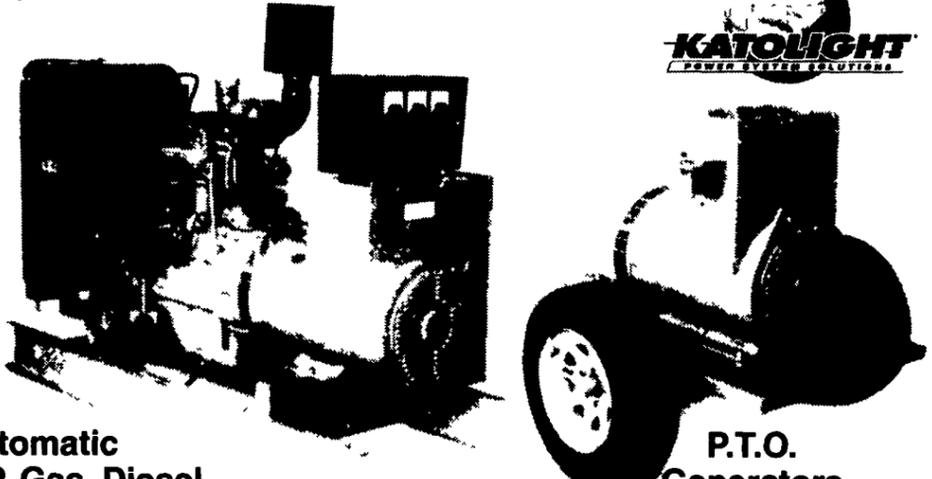


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