



BISHOP MASEREKA CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION (US)

A ministry serving HIV/AIDS patients and orphaned children of Kasese district of western Uganda.

BMCF (US), Inc.

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Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation Newsletter for January and February 2009

Message from the Editorial Committee

Hello friends, the year 2008 is gone and we have turned to the new one. Our tale is nearly told and cannot be recalled. Doubtless there is much in this year we would like to change. Most people as they turned to their budgets deficits rocked all around.

Happy season unlocks a perfume casket of love in many of us. It takes away our avarice and meanness and selfishness. The season itself is about giving and receiving. The Christmas story is a cause for our general happiness.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of people think that wealth brings happiness. But there could be no greater mistake. There is, to be sure, no virtue on being poor, and it may be a pleasant and very convenient thing to have wealth; but there is no standard by which a person can conclude when she/he is really rich. Wealth itself has no inherent power to make any single mortal of us happy. People of all ages have sought in vain to find happiness in riches, for great wealth and luxury are not a characteristic of the twenty first century alone

HIV / AIDS DEPARTMENT

Children living with HIV/AIDS – Reach one Touch one.

As I sat out gazing at the sunset one day, a thought bombarded my mind like a fierce tsunami.

My heart went out to the disadvantaged children leaving with HIV/AIDS. What a shock of our generation?

The number of infected children on a meteoritic rise, the pain intensifying, orphanages becoming permanent thing in the society

What are we as responsible Ugandans doing about it?

Visit the children's hospitals, care centers, take a walk on the streets of Kampala (and else where) you will agree with me.

So often it is hard to have the right reaction, only sharp pangs of infinite grief and pain.

We all don't know what tomorrow holds; the other day it could be your close relative etc, but we do know that it is our responsibility as mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters and as a nation of love to bring a smile to the children's face.

So much has already been done and great more needs to be done.

These little ones are hurting, living in pain, fear and signs of hopelessness are what is on their little faces. They have all these questions why / what? They don't just understand why they go through what they are going through.

Let us re-enforce the motion for help and I call upon each one of us the young and old to join hands and we each take up one of these children for support, love and care, physical, social, or economic needs, this will make a big difference. It is a united human race against the killer disease.....

My gratitude goes to the Christian NGO's who are reaching out to these children each day.

Together let us stand up for one another as Christ first loved us.

It is what makes a difference!!!!

OVC and Scholarship Program



BMCF OVC and scholarship program is faring well. The program had many candidates in Primary Seven, Form IV and Form VI. Most of our students in these classes performed well in their end of year exams, this leaves the organization with an increased number of students in high institutions of learning. Thanks go to the supporters / donors of the program, who have made it possible for us to keep many children at school.

The local community and the students are so thankful for this program; for it has assisted many who would not have stepped in school.

With the assistance from Inter-religious Council of Uganda (IRCU), BMCF has been able to give out scholastic materials and lunch to 100 needy students. This is the

second year BMCF has worked in partnership with Inter-Religious Council of Uganda. In the picture on the left above, are beneficiaries getting scholastic materials.

BMCF VISITORS:

In the month of January, BMCF was blessed by three visitors from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania USA. The group included Jim Ellison, Val Bugosh and Elizabeth Singer. The three were involved in a series of activities which included:- commissioning of the laboratory equipments, visiting of some of the Students on the scholarship program and meeting some of the HIV clients that are supported by BMCF.

St. Luke's Church is one of the main supporters of the BMCF ministry. They generously contributed significant amounts of money toward the purchase of the laboratory equipments, the solar panels for the Clinic, maternity equipments, school fees and other many programs. BMCF and Kasese community are very grateful for this kind of assistance from all our supporters for the ministry.

My Stories



Coincidence happened at Bishop Masereka Medical Centre in the month of January and February, where three members of our female staff: Ithungu Rosette a Midwife, Nambuba Joyce Laboratory Assistant and Businge Happy (in the picture above) gave birth to baby girls. Two of the three mothers delivered from BMCF labuor suit. In accordance with the Country's laws the three mothers were granted leave of absence from work for 60 days each, to take care of their new born babies.

In the month of January, BMCF recruited two new members of staff in the accounts section, this followed the departure of Kule Floriberi and Godfrey Bwambale who has for the last five years been working as an accountant and got a new job with the local government. The newly Recruited staff included Annett Muhindo the new accountant and Biira Dorothy the new cashier from right to left as in the picture below.



Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation football team has for these two months gained momentum, in the local community. It has been involved in different competitions and registering some victories. We are

hopeful that if this team is fully facilitated it will do better. The team helps the youth to develop their talents, make them busy during their

leisure time and training them to leave a Christian life.

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One night I had worked hard to help a mother in the labor ward; but in spite of all we could do, she died, leaving us with a tiny, premature baby and a crying two-year-old daughter.

We would have difficulty keeping the baby alive; as we had no incubator (we had no electricity to run an incubator). We also had no special feeding facilities. Although we lived on the equator, nights were often chilly with treacherous drafts.

One student midwife went for the box we had for such babies and the cotton wool that the baby would be wrapped in. Another went to stoke up the fire and fill a hot water bottle. She came back shortly in distress to tell me that in filling the bottle, it had burst (rubber perishes easily in tropical climates).

"And it is our last hot water bottle!" she exclaimed. As they say in the West, it is no good

crying over spilt milk, so in Central Africa it might be considered no good crying over burst water bottles. They do not grow on trees, and there are no drugstores down forest pathways.

"All right," I said, "put the baby as near the fire as you safely can, and sleep between the baby and the door to keep it free from drafts. Your job is to keep the baby warm."

The following noon, as I did most days, I went to have prayers with some of the orphaned children who chose to gather with me. I gave the youngsters various suggestions of things to pray about and told them about the tiny baby. I explained our problem about keeping the baby warm enough, mentioning the hot water bottle, and that the baby could so easily die if it got chills. I also told them of the two-year-old sister, crying because her mother had died.

During prayer time, one ten-year-old girl, Ruth, prayed with the usual blunt conciseness of our African children. "Please, God" she prayed, "Send us a hot water bottle today. It'll be no good tomorrow, God, as the baby will be dead, so please send it this afternoon."

While I gasped inwardly at the audacity of the prayer, she added, "And while You are about it, would You please send a dolly for the little girl so she'll know You really love her?"

As often with children's prayers, I was put on the spot. Could I honestly say

"Amen"? I just did not believe that God could do this. Oh, yes, I know that He can do everything; the Bible says so. But there are limits, aren't there? The only way God could answer this particular prayer would be by sending me a parcel from the homeland. I had been in Africa for almost four years at that time, and I had never, ever, received a parcel from home. (To be continued in the next issue)

CLOSING PRAYER

"Heavenly Father, I ask You to bless my friends. I ask You to minister to their spirit. Where there is pain, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubting, release a renewed confidence to work through them. Where there is tiredness or exhaustion, I ask You to give them understanding, guidance, and strength. Where there is fear, reveal Your love and release to them Your courage. Bless their finances, give them greater vision, and raise up leaders and friends to support and encourage them. Give each of them discernment to recognize the evil forces around them and reveal to them the power they have in You to defeat it. I ask You to do these things in Jesus' name. Amen"