



BISHOP MASEREKA CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION (US)

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

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Warm Christian greetings to all,

Please share this newsletter with your friends and families. Always refer people to our website, www.bmcf.org. The site has recently been re-designed and has more new details about BMCF work.

If you or your Church or Organization gets news of the activities of Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation (BMCF), please let us know.

Message from the Editorial Committee

Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation and the Editorial staff would like to express their sincere gratitude to the readers of this newsletter and to encourage them to comment, appreciate and advise on any of our newsletter issues. In case of an inquiry about BMCF newsletter, or programs in general, please, use the addresses indicated on the left hand-side column to contact the Editorial Team.

Please, continue supporting the efforts of BMCF work. Special thanks from James Mwiruwabo the Editorial Committee Chairman for all our readers.

Please take note of BMCF new Logo shown in the top left hand corner. The major features of this logo are God's caring hands for the world, especially the children, shape of a shield is a symbol of God's power to defend and care for his people. "BMCF motto is Caring for God's People."



Orphans and Vulnerable Children scholarship Program:

In the orphan and vulnerable children program, Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation has worked hard to assist many children who would not have gone to school. In addition to the school fees provided by BMCF, some students have been selected to get school uniform, bags, shoes and lunch. In the picture on the left is one student after receiving shoes and a bag. He narrates that “if it had not been for BMCF my foot would not have stepped in school”. The student prays that the Foundation and the sponsors leave longer to help people of his kind and that God’s mercy should be upon them, and replenish their pockets. The exercise for giving out the



scholastic materials was conducted by BMCF program coordinator and Mother Marcia. In the picture on the right is Mother Marcia, Ann Nyangoma and a teacher from Kamaiba primary school.

The BMCF Good Samaritan Fund



Jonard Bwambale is an eleven month old boy who was first brought to the BMCF Clinic in April this year. He was seen by Dr. Daniel Sambili and Dr. Christiana Russ,(a Visiting Pediatrician from Boston Children’s Hospital). The little boy was found to have a murmur (an abnormal sound of the heart) and failure to grow normally.

At the age of eleven months he was not able to sit without support or crawl. The mother of Jonard had been in several Medical Clinics in their village but no one was able to tell her what was wrong with her son and whether there was a remedy to his ailment. Jonard needed special investigation, an

echocardiography (someone to look at his heart using a special ultrasound scan).

Jonard’s parents are poor peasant farmers. They own a small piece of land on which they grow bananas (commonly referred to as matooke) and vegetables for feeding their nine children. It was practically impossible for them to raise the needed funds for Jonard to be seen by a cardiologist at Uganda Heart Institute in Kampala, some 250 miles away. Dr. Christiana Russ was moved and felt compelled to help this boy and his mother who was distressed by not knowing what was wrong with her son. So Christiana donated one hundred thousand shillings(shs 100,000=) towards the BMCF Good Samaritan Fund. This contribution made it possible for Jonard and her mother to travel to Kampala on 10th June. At the Heart Institute, what Dr. Christiana Russ had suspected was confirmed. The echocardiography showed a small hole in Jonard’s heart, most likely a defect he was born with. The Pediatric cardiologist at Uganda Heart Institute further recommended that Jonard be reviewed by a neurologist. However because of limited funds, Jonard and his mother came back to Kasese before anything could be embarked on. Today, Jonard’s mother is grateful to Dr. Christiana and Dr. Sambili of BMCF Clinic for having made it possible for her to know what is wrong with her son. She had been told by neighbors and friends that her child had a problem in the back bone. Patients like Jonard walk in the Clinic everyday, yearning to know “what is wrong with them” but because of the limited financial resources of the patient and the lack of diagnostic equipments at Clinic we can not do much. BMCF Clinic urgently requires better and modern diagnostic machines to facilitate their work. In the mean time, the Management of the Clinic has set up a **Good Samaritan Fund** to help patients who would not otherwise afford health care.

Because of limitations in funding, we can only use three hundred shillings each quarter, and yet the need is much greater than what BMCF can afford to fund. To date Dr. Christiana is the first person to contribute towards that fund. We keep praying that more people will be moved by compassion and generosity to assist BMCF Clinic as we care for God's people.

BMCF HIV Work



Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation continues to be in the struggle to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS scourge in Kasese District. BMCF Clinic has embarked on a massive campaign for elimination of stigma and HIV testing for all. In the month of May and June about 569 people were tested for HIV 248 of them were children below 14 years. The statistics for the two months have indicated a high prevalence rate of HIV in the rural community. This continuous campaign against the virus requires much

more effort and resources because the mobilization of men in the community out here is quite slow and yields little results for HIV testing.

With assistance from Kasese District local Government, BMCF has been able to give her clients some seprine for the infant and adults. BMCF is planning to begin an ART Clinic to help her clients get medication. Prayers and support are needed in order to meet this objective. On the left hand side is a picture of a BMCF HIV Counselor with a client in the counseling room.

BMCF Foundation Day:

Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation is organising an anniversary day on July 13, 2008 to mark seven years of service in the community. The Foundation day will be celebrated by carrying out a number of activities: - auctioning of some items, a football tournament, presentation of the past and present students on BMCF scholarship program, music dance and drama, commissioning of the new website for BMCF, launching of a new anthem for BMCF, launching of 4 new community education songs, and laying of the Foundation Stone for the new BMCF Clinic by Bishop Duncan Gray of Mississippi Diocese. We expect the Hon. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence to be the Host for the Foundation Day.

BMCF VISITORS:

Since the year began, BMCF has been blessed by a good number of visitors, mainly from the US. The Rev. Marcia Davenport and Mr. Keith Lindquist from St. John's Church, Tampa, Florida, US were the latest visitors received in Kasese-Uganda in the month of May. The two teachers were involved in a series of activities like: carrying out seminars for guardians and teachers, home visitations and assessment of the situation in the homes of some BMCF beneficiaries. These seminars were mainly based on handling orphan or vulnerable children. Marcia and Keith donated one Microscope worth 2,000,000=Uganda shillings to Bishop Masereka Medical Centre and two computer system units worth 800,000=Uganda Shillings to Foundation.

BMCF friends and supporters from St. John's Church, Tampa, FL sent many learning materials to Kamaiba Primary: like Pencils, books, swings, balls and many others. Other Visitors for BMCF are expected to arrive in Kasese, Uganda on 8rd July 2008, and others on 22 July 2008.

My Stories

A Spanish Teacher was explaining to her class that in Spanish, unlike English, nouns are designated as either masculine or feminine.

"House" for instance, is feminine: "la casa."

"Pencil," however, is masculine: "el lapiz."

A student asked, "What gender is 'computer'?"

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups, male and female, and asked them to decide for themselves whether "computer" should be a masculine or a feminine noun.

Each group was asked to give four reasons for its recommendation.

The men's group decided that "computer" should definitely be of the feminine gender ("la computadora"), because:

- No one but their creator understands their internal logic;
- The native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else;
- Even the smallest mistakes are stored in long term memory for possible later retrieval; and
- As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your paycheck on accessories for it.

(This Gets Better!)

The women's group, however, concluded that computers should be masculine ("el computador"), because:

- In order to do anything with them, you have to turn them on;
- They have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves;
- They are supposed to help you solve problems, but half the time they ARE the problem; and
- As soon as you commit to one, you realize that if you had waited a little longer, you could have gotten a better model.

The women won.

Three things in life that, once gone, never come back

1. Time
2. Words
3. Opportunity

Three things in life that can destroy a person -

1. Anger
2. Pride
3. Unforgiveness

Three things in life that you should never lose-

1. Hope
2. Peace

3. Honesty

Three things in life that are most valuable -

1. Love
2. Family & Friends
3. Kindness

Three things in life that are never certain -

1. Fortune
2. Success
3. Dreams

Three things that make a person -

1. Commitment
2. Sincerity
3. Hard work

Three things that are truly constant -

Father - Son - Holy Spirit

I ask the Lord to bless you, as I pray for you today; to guide you and protect you, as you go along your way. God's love is always with you, God's promises are true. And when you give God all your cares, you know God will see you through.

CLOSING PRAYER

Merciful God,

We remember before you all, who are sick this day, and especially all persons with HIV and AIDS infections. Give them courage to live with the disease. Help them to face and overcome their fears. Be with them when they are alone or rejected. Comfort them when they are discouraged. And touch them with your healing Spirit that they may find and possess eternal life, and make us Instruments of your love and care for the needy. Now and forever. Amen.