



BISHOP MASEREKA CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION (US)

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

NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2008

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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.bmc.org.

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

Hello friends, the year 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 man can conclude when 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

Gratitude to the BMCF Webmaster, Supporters and Well wishers

The Board of Directors and staff of BMCF want to express their deepest gratitude to Allison Lee for her special dedication to maintain BMCF website and posting our newsletter to the website periodically. Thanks also go to the prayer friends, churches, schools, and individual donors for the great generosity extended to BMCF.

Bishop Masereka Medical Centre (BMMC)

In the bid to provide quality medical services in the community, the management of Bishop Masereka Medical Centre resolved to establish a modern diagnostic centre in the District. The local community was suffering high transport and medical bills taking their patients to distant diagnostic centers. Many people in the rural villages of Kasese District are affected by this problem owing to the fact that they could not afford all these expenses.

The Management of Bishop Masereka Medical Centre purchased some few equipments to start up the diagnostic Centre and these include a biochemistry analyzer, haematology analyser and an ultra-sound scan. The Clinic management is still considering acquiring an X-Ray Machine, An Elisa Machine, and building a theatre in the short run to consolidate the medical services. However, BMCF requires a permanent home because the current premises are too squeezed. Your prayers and help are needed to make these dreams come a reality.



In the picture on the right is the new laboratory showing a biochemistry analyzer, haematology analyzer and the laboratory technologist, Joseph Youngman, entering records.

The Clinic has also been equipped with hospital beds leading to and improvement hygiene in the Clinic. With your prayer and support, we expect to make even more achievements in our work.

By Thembo Alex (Admin. Assistant)

BULIDING A VIBRANT HEALTH TEAM IS ONE OF THE MAJOR OBJECTIVES OF THE BISHOP MASEREKA CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION.

The picture below shows the team that saved the life of a 3yr old boy who was involved in ahead on collision road traffic accident on the eve of Christmas. He and his father were among the seven Christmas accident victims. He had foreign airway obstructive elements. The corporate efforts of this health team in the background salvaged the life of this boy who had been feared dead by the relatives who brought him to our health facility. The team was filled with joy on the next day –the Christmas day seeing the boy fully recovered and breathing on his own, except for the bruises seen in the face. We often share the joy as a reward to our efforts. Our staffs are posing for photo with the boy's mother, at the left.



On a different note, Bishop Masereka Christian foundation Clinic was blessed to have a Christmas gift of a baby boy in the middle of the 25th day of December. Bishop Masereka medical facility offers 24hr medical services to the community, regardless of special holidays. We strive to be unique; with unique services aimed at meeting the various health needs of our community at various hours of the day and night.

For this reason, we seek to expand our premises as we are ever crowded by patients and people in need of our unique services. But funding of this project is still a major setback. Its mission could easily be realized if the local government and other development partners increased their support both materially, financially and in terms of staffing. The few staff available vibrantly and committedly work very long hours and carry extra burdens each.

Long live Bishop Masereka, long live Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation. “Caring for God’s People” With God everything is possible—(Luke 1:37)

BMCF AND PARTNERSHIPS IN 2008

The year 2008 was very significant in the life and programs of the organization.

We completed the year with 550 AIDS orphaned children on BMCF program. Several of these children have been accepted at Universities and Tertiary Institutions, although most of them are still in secondary schools. It is very much likely that in the next few years we will begin to see some alumni of BMCF OVC program coming to work with us as Nurses, Clinical Officers or Doctors. This is a wonderful prospect in the life of our organization.

Another important event that took place in the last few months of 2008 was the connection of BMCF with other HIV organizations in the Country and the Continent. In September Bishop Zebedee Masereka(ED) was elected Chairperson of ANERELA at the recent AGM, (African Network of Religious Leaders Living With Or Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS).ANERELA brings together



persons living with HIV and persons who have lost very close relatives and forms them into a very active fighting force against stigma, shame, discrimination and misinformation. ANERELA started in Africa five years ago, but is now transitioning into INERELA,(International Network of Religious Leaders Living With OR Personally Affected by HIV and AIDS).The head Office of ANERELA is located in Johannesburg, South Africa. You may visit INERELA website at www.inerela.org, please see the INERELA AGM photo at the left.

INERELA-AGM was held in Lusaka, Zambia in September 2008.The delegates in the above picture represent over 16 chapters and networks in different parts of the world. The goal of INERELA is to empower religious Leaders that are directly and physically affected by HIV with knowledge and skills so that they in turn may empower their jurisdictions/congregations for the fight against HIV.



Another important event that took place in the last quarter of 2008 was the giving of 174 wheel Chairs to the handicapped people in Kasese community by the Rotary Club of Kasese. Bishop Zebedee Masereka, the Executive Director of BMCF is a member of the Rotary Club of Kasese. The function was presided over by the Hon. Dr. Crispus Kiyonga, Minister of Defence in the Government of Uganda. Please, see the photo at the left.

OVC and Scholarship Program

BMCF OVC and scholarship program is faring well. The year ended with a total of 551 students on the scholarship program, 188 in primary school, 320 in secondary school and 43 at the University and other Tertiary Institutions. Thanks go to the supporters / donors of the program, and the coordinator who has successfully ensured the proper implementation of the program.



The local community and the students are too 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 are beneficiaries getting scholastic materials.

BMCF VISITORS:

BMCF is expecting to receive many visitors from the USA in this year to witness the work they have been supporting for many years. A group of three visitors is expected to arrive in Uganda on 12 January 2009. They are expected to visit some homes of the students supported by the organization; one who is a nurse will assist in the clinic work.

It gives much courage to the beneficiaries of the program to physically interact with the people who support them and share ideas with them.

My Stories

Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year 2009

Congratulations for having reached the end of 2008 safely, and also to the most beloved and caring staff of Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation who have by all means tried to reach the beneficiaries of the Foundation and give them counseling and other necessary requirements.

More thanks are forwarded to the Executive Director BMCF, Bishop Zebedee Masereka who tirelessly talks to different donors to support the many needy children in our community. He has directed the work of bringing hope to those who are hopeless.

More thanks go to the sponsors who are making ends meet and making dreams become true through the different donations advanced to us.

I myself was nobody before the Foundation thought of having me as one of its beneficiaries. I was in primary five at Kamaiba Primary School when I was selected as a beneficiary. My life would only cost as less as a peasant gets after selling 1 kilogram of maize or beans in a wet season. My health was a disaster! It was only the doctor who determined my living for the next new day. But when I joined Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation my life changed. I do not regret anything, all the glory goes back to the Almighty God, "You have really brought me from far".

I am very grateful to our dear sponsors especially Mother Marcia, Nicky Weeks, students and Christians of St. John's Church, Tampa-Florida among others on whose potent, intellect and positive response we depend. I have managed to remove the wrinkles that were beginning to form on my forehead at my early age.

Still as upright is my pen, I won't hesitate to ecstatically point out my sincere gratitude towards the coordinator of BMCF for her marvelous and collective efforts, thank you very much, may God bless the work of your hands.

Once again I need to say, I am happy that I have hopes of achieving my dreams because of Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation.

May it last forever, Amen?

By Bwambale Moris (Beneficiary of the scholarship program)

Prayer towards peace

Prayer should be used as a powerful means towards attaining peace. There is no peace in a heart of a criminal, a thief, a liar, a dishonest heart, nor can it be found in a society in which there is much evil, greed, pride, selfishness and treachery.

Peace thrives on openness, love, justice, mutual acceptance and it can easily be destroyed by mistrust, hatred, threats and selfishness.

Prayer places us in a communion with God who is a source of peace, we must seek to be reconciled if

we have moved away from your glory. We should critically review our attitudes to him, his people and his nature.

Remember your people God! Amen.

By Leebu Aganatious (Nursing Officer)

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.