



# BISHOP MASEREKA CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION (US)

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

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2008

<b>BMCF (US), Inc.</b>	<b>Warm Christian Greetings to all,</b>
<b>Bob and Judy Baldwin</b>	Warmly receive this newsletter and share it with your friends and families. You can also download it from our website, <a href="http://www.bmcf.org">www.bmcf.org</a> .
<b>1233 Vestavia Circle</b>	If you or your church or organization gets news of the activities of Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation (BMCF), please let us know.
<b>Melbourne, FL 32940</b>	<b>Message from the Editorial Committee</b>
<b>Tel. 321-610-4053</b>	BMCF looks at the children of the world as innocent, vulnerable and dependant. Children are also curious, active and full of hope. Their time should be one of joy and peace, playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony and cooperation. Their lives should mature as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences. The new BMCF log depicts some of the features pertinent to the life of children.
<b>BMCF</b>	One of the major objectives of BMCF work is to provide holistic care for the HIV/AIDS orphaned children.
<b>PO Box 411</b>	The BMCF is aware that HIV/AIDS pandemic has claimed the lives of about one million in Uganda since the mid 1980s. Consequently the Country now faces the big challenge of looking after about 2.3 million orphans. Many of the orphans can benefit from the Government program of Universal primary and secondary education. However, provision of health needs, clothing, food, accommodation, and scholastic materials remain a big huddle for the orphaned children.
<b>Kasese, Uganda</b>	Approximately 14 percent of the children in Uganda less than 18 years of age are orphans.
<b>OfficeTel:256-483-444780</b>	Many of the children who are orphaned are forced to live on the streets or under exploitative conditions of labour and sexual abuse, many live in child headed house holds where they have to look for livelihood themselves and support their young siblings. Some of these children are infected with HIV either through mother to child transmission or through defilement. All this calls for BMCF intervention for support and care for these innocent young Ugandans.
<b>Email:news@bmcf.org</b>	In case of any inquiry about BMCF newsletter, or programs in general, please, use the addresses indicated on the left hand-side column to contact the Editorial Team.
<b>Website:www.bmcf.org</b>	Please, continue supporting the efforts of BMCF work. Special thanks from James Mwiruwabo the Editorial Committee Chairman to all our readers.
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**BMCF HIV Work**

**EMPOWERING PLHIV**

Capacity building among the people living with HIV/AIDS is one of the roles and activities which BMCF does. This program helps the organization in expanding the roles of Networks of people living with HIV/AIDS [PHA] in the community.

International HIV/AIDS Alliance of Uganda supported by USA ID has come into collaboration with BMCF to strengthen and improve the capacity of the PHA.

In the picture below, Jane Abisemeza and Stella Katusabe are people openly living with



HIV/AIDS but trained and skilled counselors in the HIV related issues and psychosocial support for PHA's and their families. International HIV/AIDS Alliance of Uganda trained People living with HIV/AIDS and attached them to the BMCF Clinic to provide support and on going counseling to their fellow PHAs. Jane and Stella act as a link between the community of PLHA and the BMCF health care services.

Both Jane and Stella are based in BMCF health facility and offer information, advice and support in use of services related to

HIV and ART.

Capacity building among the people who are openly living with HIV/AIDS and especially those with experience of being members of PLHIV organizations become role models in addressing health issues of the PHAs. They become positive witnesses and examples for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, support and treatment.

Their strong links with community organizations including groups of PHAs and health services means they are able to refer other PLHIV for further health services both at community and facility levels.

Their central role is to facilitate entry into the network of services for PLHIV and their families, and their ability to support individuals in remaining in the groups. They will operate in both health facility and neighboring communities to increase uptake of HIV related services. BMCF's collaboration with Alliance Uganda has helped the organization in achieving the following goals through these trained PHAs:

1. Mobilizing and strengthening the capacity of PHA networks, associations, and groups at the district and community levels for effective coordination and improved delivery and access to prevention, care and treatment services for HIV/AIDS
2. Facilitating access for PHAs and their families to orphan support and other locally available services
3. Enhancing the PHAs capacity to effectively participate in the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the district and Uganda at large.

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**OVC and Scholarship program**

With assistance from Inter Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU), Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation has for this month acquired some funds to supply scholastic materials to 100 students in some Sub-counties of Kasese District. The scholastic materials to be supplied include; books, pens, sanitary towels and school uniform.

The same fund will assist to attach three students to vocational training institutions to help them acquire skills that can enable them get jobs or sustain a living. The students to be

attached will be those who have either result slips for senior four or primary seven. The project that started early October of 2008 is going to run for one year, involving a small budget of about ugx 28,000,000=

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2008, students in Uganda started their end of Form IV exams (Senior Four Exams), BMCF has about 60 students seating for these exams and these determine exams their promotion to the next level of education. Your prayers are needed to help these students pass the exams.

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### BMCF CLINIC

Health is one of the programs that Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation mainly focuses on. With the increase in service delivery at Bishop Masereka Medical Centre, the Clinic has partnered with some corporate organizations, like Kasese Cobalt Company, the local Norwegian Energy Company, (NOREMCO), etc. Through their medical insurers, the Bishop Masereka Medical Clinic will be treating the employees of these companies. This partnership has increased the number of clients in the Clinic.



The Clinic recently acquired some equipment to assist with the day to day diagnostic activities. These equipments included a delivery kit, a wheel chair and two clinic weighing scales. Find them as shown in the picture on the left hand side. Before the end of this year we expect to purchase four new machines: a

hematology analyzer, a biochemistry analyzer, an ultra sound scan and a portable x-ray.

The Medical Centre is being managed with a team of 19 staff who are highly committed to their duties; under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Sambili.

Since Dr. Daniel started his work with Bishop Masereka Medical Centre early November 2007, the Clinic has had so many good changes including equipping, increasing the daily attendance of clients in the clinic and grooming a highly active team.

With proposals under way for the construction of the new permanent home for the Clinic, Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation seeks for prayers for the success of these proposals.

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### Dream after death

It is quite an interesting day when all are mourning for me; they say that they have missed me. What a crowd around me! I see only sad faces around me, I see drops of tears, women seem to be experts in the affair.

Every body is in a mood of sadness and sorrow. How I wish all these were genuine! What a beloved creature I would be! But unfortunate for me, not all mean what they look. Even those who longed for my death, they too are pulling faces; they too are dropping crocodile tears. Open their hearts and you will be surprised.

What a holy man I was, according to the speeches, then after the speeches they drop me down carefully into the pit as if they fear to break my bones.

As I reach the bottom, all is done. The empty mourning continues, even the few genuine mourners are dropping down hips of soil over me.

"Surely we are going to miss him" says my friends. "Even he can die?" ask my enemies. The weight of the soil keeps increasing each second, every body seems to be in a hurry, in no time the soil piles over me, the cross is put and all depart. Their darling left to rot and be forgotten, for a few days' people will look sad and sorrowful, but wait and see how funny human life is.

Life continues as a soul. Even relatives and friends forget me; I seem to have never existed. Oh; history repeats it's self to all humans.

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.