

Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Advent Newsletter

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Living Waters' mission is the support of Roman Catholic missionary and international development projects in Africa.

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Early Childhood Education in Mozambique

- By Stephen Zimmerman

In Mozambique, as in many parts of Africa where many are unevangelized, the education of children and their introduction to the Catholic faith is the entry into the establishment of the Christian faith. In Mozambique, where civil war and its aftereffects impeded proclamation of the faith for nearly a quarter century, Catholic missionaries are now making inroads.

As I had shared with you in previous LWI newsletters, the *Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians* are ministering to the poor in Ponta do Ouro village in southern Mozambique. A kindergarten for the children of the village is their chosen instrument to instruct children in the Catholic faith and to give them an academic education, both of which will help to protect them from exposure to human trafficking and other social ills.

The initial building plan included 2 classrooms, a kitchen, a storeroom and 3 toilets for girls and three for boys. A recently enacted requirement of the Mozambican government has mandated a dining hall for the kindergarten, thus increasing the overall budget by about US \$10,000.



Ponta do Ouro Kindergarten - First Stage

With the grant of \$40,000 earlier this year, building construction has advanced amazingly well. Stages completed to date include leveling of the land and site preparation; excavation & laying of the foundation with concrete, rock and iron beams; erection of brick walls with supporting iron beams; roofing and doors. All of this has been achieved with most diligent local labor under the direction of a competent contractor.

Work yet to be completed includes exterior finish of the walls with stucco plaster; drywall construction; electrical installation; interior plastering and painting of walls; completing the installation of doors and windows; plumbing for toilets and kitchen; and laying a tile floor.

The Good News is that the work completed thus far is all now under roof, and therefore not exposed to the environment. Funds of \$48,500 have been paid to the contractor with just over \$45,000 still needed for completion of the kindergarten. Please keep praying and offer your financial support if possible.

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FUNDS FOR GORETTI:

We thank those that supported Goretta's cause during our summer fundraisers. Goretta is from Kenya and has a congenital defect known as bladder exstrophy; her bladder protrudes through her abdominal wall. Between "Friends of Living Waters" in Wrightstown, and friends and patrons in Antigo, we raised \$5,400! We

also thank Catholic Financial Life from Antigo for their financial support toward expenses for the brat fry.

Here is what Goretta's aunt Feliciano had to say in response to your generosity: "If many of us could do what you are doing in your little ways, the world would be a small paradise where our neighbors' problems are taken as our own problems, and addressed with love and care." Goretta's needs are primarily quality disposable diapers, monthly checkups, and the need for corrective surgeries as she grows. Please keep Goretta in your prayers and if you wish to donate to her cause, please see the enclosed donation form or visit our website.

SUGARCANE INITIATIVE UPDATE:

In the 2018 spring newsletter, we introduced Reverend Angelo Kaizirege, pastor of the Ibumbida Mission Parish in Tanzania, whose parish inherited fifty acres of land from the government to cultivate sugar. This in turn spurred an initiative by parishioners to use income generated by the crops to help less fortunate families send their children to school. The challenge before them was the startup cost in which you responded in kind.



From left to right, Father Angelo, Parish Members Josef Rutta & Reuwis Muganyizire

Last month we received good news from Father, "Our first harvest was a success! Money from this harvest will be reinvested in seeds for the next planting season. On behalf of the parishioners, we wish to express our gratitude to all those who have sponsored our cause." Looking to the next growing season, they would like to cultivate at least five acres and once again, Father humbly has requested our financial aid. It takes several hundred dollars to plant and cultivate an acre of sugarcane. Once it is planted, it can be harvested over an eight to ten-year period. So, while the initial investment is high, over the long term, it will provide income to support the poor. If you can find it in your heart and wallet to support this cause, please see the enclosed form or visit our website.

A MSFS Seminarian in Need



Moses Okoth, Uganda

My desire to be a priest stems from my childhood. I remain grateful to my parents because they instilled their Catholic values and practices from the very beginning. "Fear of God is the beginning of Wisdom." (Prov 9:10).

For me, fear of God is the starting point of my vocation to the priesthood. Many were the biblical stories read to me by my father which, infused in me the fear of God. Hence, I decided that if I must turn away from sin, what should naturally follow is drawing closer to Christ.

Poverty was a stumbling block to my priestly vocation when I had hoped to join a junior seminary. However, I still trusted in the fear of God remaining rooted in Christian practices and virtues. Eventually, a great sign by God revealed His calling for me to work in his vineyard. After prayerful reflection, I came to understand that earthly life is temporal, and I should seek life everlasting. Then, God extended his hand to me through a friend who guided me to join the Fransalian Seminary, Ndagani, Kenya. It is here that I continue to grow in my spiritual life and form myself to be a daring missionary.

It is important to me that I become a good and joyful priest. Jesus preached the difference between earthly and heavenly life; I wish to preach the same to others. If I can help them understand the difference, they in turn can choose to turn away from sin. I wish for God's blessings on my family and my country that we may live in peace avoiding tribal wars. Finally, I pray my benefactors remain in good health of mind and body.



Checkout our updated website. It has a more modern look and should be easier to view from your mobile device. www.livingwatersinternational.org



SPOTLIGHT

By Eileen Hartl

Today we're shining the Advent Light on Jeane Meade, Antigo, WI.

After over twenty years since our inception, Living Waters has hired an assistant to Karen Prunty, Secretary & Coordinator of the Living Waters Student Sponsorship Program. It's Jeane Meade. Jeane is no stranger to the work of Living Waters. Karen shares, "She has been a great resource for technology in developing and maintaining programs to assist Living Waters." But let us first go back to her early years as a child, growing up on a dairy farm, just south of Antigo.



Jeane Meade

She's number one in the line of nine children! "My mom had a large garden which we had to weed and weed and weed. But we each had our own row of the penny packet from Gurney's seeds - you never knew what kind of surprises there were! That began my love of gardening. We also played lots of word games and always had books around; I'm an avid reader, especially historical fiction." These things alone tell us how she developed her resourcefulness and laboriousness, along with her profound sense of wonder of God's creation, and it explains how she ended up at the top of her class in 2005 in networking and computer support.

Her roots with LWI go back to the early 90's when Living Waters cofounders Mary and Stephen Zimmerman first came to Langlade County to make it their home. "Our paths kept crossing. Church in Phlox, Master Gardner program, the early Antigo Farmer's Markets. Then in the mid-2000's, when I was teaching Microsoft Office evening classes at NTC, Steve told me about this program he was working with - Living Waters - and the challenge in registering the donations. I mentioned that we had used an Access program to enter orders where I worked, Sheldons, Inc. (manufacturer of Mepps fishing lures). I thought with modifications, that it would work for this purpose. Steve and I worked on the program until we went live with it around 2005; it is still being used today."

"Now, after 40+ years at Sheldon's, the last 15 years as their IT person, I am retiring the end of 2019. When I saw LWI was looking for a part-time employee, I thought, 'What a great fit, something to keep me busy along with a myriad of other projects I'm looking forward to in this new road in life.' I offered my time, it was accepted, and here we are! I am excited to now take a more active part in the mission of Living Waters and to work with the other great folks involved." "What a blessing for Living Waters International that Jeane has offered her services to us. I admire her expertise in the field of technology and know from working with her that she is not satisfied until the product is perfect!" commented Steve, Living Waters Executive Director.

We are equally as excited to have Jeane on our team. Karen adds, "I look forward to working together with her to keep our student sponsorship program strong so that Living Waters can continue to make a difference in the lives of the poor in Africa."

*Almighty God and
Father of light,
a child is born for
us and a son is given
to us.*

*Your eternal Word
leaped down from
heaven in the silent
watches of the night,
and now your
Church is filled with
wonder at the
nearness of her God.*

*Open our hearts to
receive his life
and increase our
vision with the
rising of dawn,
that our lives may
be filled with his
glory and his peace,
Who lives and reigns
for ever and ever,
Amen.*



**Merry Christmas
and
Many Blessings
for
the Year to Come!**

**Steve, Emma, Ann,
Brian, Karen, Eileen,
Tina & Jeane**

Students In Need



Student Sponsorship

\$25 a month

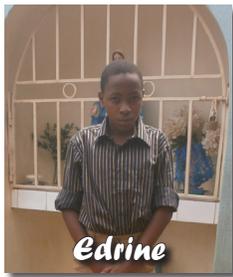
provides help for:

- Tuition
- Books
- School Supplies
- School Uniforms
- Shelter
- Food
- Health Care

Payments can be made:

- Monthly..... \$25
- Quarterly \$75
- Semi-annually. \$150
- Annually \$300

100% of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to your child's sponsorship.



Edrine

My Name: Edrine Ninsiima **Gender:** Male
Birthdate: December 19, 2008 **Country:** Uganda
Chores: Fetching water, dishes & cooking
Favorite Subject: English **Favorite Pastime:** Football
Other Remarks: Edrine's father was paralyzed in a motorcycle accident and his mother has a small market grocery business. There are four other siblings in which the mother is struggling to support on an income of \$80/month.



Neema

My Name: Neema Lukas Kulwa **Gender:** Female
Birthdate: October 22, 2005 **Country:** Tanzania
Chores: Washing utensils and cooking
Favorite Subject: Chemistry, Biology & English
Favorite Pastimes: Reading, Dancing & Recreation with peers.
Other Remarks: Her mother is diabetic and has no means of income and her father abandoned the family. The family is extremely poor and she is not able to proceed with her studies due to lack of funds.



Pauline

My Name: Pauline Stevens **Gender:** Female
Birthdate: March 19, 2015 **Country:** South Africa
Chores: Too young at this time
Favorite Subject: Afrikaan & English
Favorite Pastimes: Watching programs on the television at school.
Other Remarks: Pauline lives with her maternal aunt; her mother went missing when she turned three months old. Her father was never identified during the mother's pregnancy. The aunt's monthly income is \$25.



Sammini

My Name: Sammini Ali Mianga **Gender:** Male
Birthdate: August 31, 2009 **Country:** Tanzania
Chores: Helping parents in the garden
Monthly Sponsorship: \$25
Favorite Subject: Swahili & English
Favorite Pastimes: Playing football and singing, reading and playing with peers.
Other Remarks: Sammini's father has lost his eyesight due to high eye pressure. While in good health, Sammini also has a problem with one of his eyes.

To learn more about these children and other children waiting to be sponsored, visit our website at: www.livingwatersinternational.org

Early Childhood Education in Mozambique

Education of the country's children in a Catholic environment is key to the re-evangelization of Mozambique, which has suffered the devastation of war and religious suppression. The *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* Pre-School in Matola near the capital Maputo is a classic example of the progress made. The first class of children there completed this academic year with the school's premier graduation ceremony on November 30, 2019.

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Graduation at SFS pre-primary school Matola, Mozambique