

Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Spring Newsletter

May 2020

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

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Living Waters Sends Ellie Payant on a Mission to Tanzania

I had an incredible opportunity to live in Tanzania and do missionary work for 6 months (August 2019-February 2020). While I was there, I lived in a convent with four nuns from the Congregation of Mount Carmel. I took part in their daily prayers, meals, and community life. It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to pray and be immersed into a community while far from my own home and culture.



Ellie with Carmelite sisters.

My days started at 6:00 am with morning prayer and daily Mass at the seminary next door. Following breakfast,

a couple days a week I would walk 20 minutes through our small village to St. Francis de Sales Primary School. I helped in a kindergarten class as a teacher's aide, correcting homework and teaching English. I learned so much about the Tanzanian school system and the needs of the people. On my off days from school, I helped at the MSFS Lumen Christi Institute's dispensary that was run by the Sisters I lived with. The nurses understanding of English was limited, as a result, I learned many Swahili words from them. Most afternoons I would interact and play with students from my school who lived in the school's hostel. They were all from families that were too poor to send the children to school or lived too far away from home to attend a good school. In the evenings, I often went on walks with an elderly nun I lived with and then joined the other sisters for evening prayers.



Ellie in front of SFS Primary School

During my time in Tanzania, not only did I become familiar with their culture and language, but I learned many lessons I will carry with me throughout my life. I would like to share two of those lessons. One being hard work and the other gratitude. Soon after my arrival I realized the Tanzanian people have a much different mentality towards life than most

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Americans. They were the most hardworking people I've ever met. The villagers who worked where I lived usually worked seven days a week. They would often walk 30 minutes or more to work to arrive by 6:30 am. They worked tirelessly for 10-12 hours each day. Then they would walk the 30 minutes back home at night. Not only did they work hard, but they were very friendly and grateful to have a good job. This hardworking attitude was not just prevalent among the adults, but it was also engrained in the students; they knew the importance of hard work. They also knew education was very important and not accessible to all children. In the heat, dust, or business of the day you could always find someone working hard to provide for their family and for a better life. They studied extremely hard and strove to earn top marks in all subjects. I never heard anyone complain about having to walk long distances to get to a job or attend school because they were so proud to be employed or have a chance to study.



A highlight of Ellie's day - playing with the children.

This leads me to the second lesson, gratitude. As an American, I know we are extremely blessed with countless things from homes to education. However, after my time in Tanzania I realized how incredibly unaware I was of the true blessings we have. Things as basic as clean water from the tap, to a normal shower, to washing machines, to electricity that works all day, to paved roads that are flat are a few examples. In an average day, I was repeatedly struck with gratitude for the ease of life back home. I realized numerous things that never occurred to me as gifts until I no longer had them. It was a unique experience trying to explain to a young student why we feed corn to cows. She couldn't understand that we had so much corn we could feed it to animals rather than have the animals just eat grass. It had never occurred to me that in America we have such an abundance of resources that are not available to people in other countries. I started recognizing every moment I felt grateful, throughout

the day, and thanked God for it. Before long I found myself thanking God for just about everything from the sweet tasting mango at dinner to the joy I felt while laughing with the Sisters.

Now that I have returned to America, I pray I can maintain my attitude of gratitude. I realize now more than ever just how blessed we all are. I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to experience the incredible country of Tanzania as well as the unforgettable and wonderful people I met in my time there. I know I will eventually forget some of their names or faces, but I know I will never forget the lessons I learned and the gift of being a part of their lives as they are a gift in mine.



Marlene Grinde Memorial Grants

One of Living Waters benefactors, Marlene Grinde of Antigo, WI, passed away last August after a heroic twenty-month battle with Pancreatic cancer. She was an outstanding volunteer in our community, lending her time and talents to: AVAIL, a local shelter for abused women; Aspirus Langlade Hospital, as a member of their auxiliary; election inspector for the city of Antigo; Good News Group, a nonprofit in nearby Wausau serving needy families both locally and abroad; she also was a member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Antigo.



Marlene and her husband Paul have supported Living Waters for many years, and she will be dearly missed. However, she remains a benefactress both in life, and in her death. Her legacy of serving continues as we are grateful to the Vanguard Foundation and Paul Grinde for generously awarding twenty-one missionary applicants a combined total of \$121,000 in Marlene's name.

“God will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people.” (Hebrews 6:10). Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.

Visit us at our website at www.livingwatersinternational.org!



SPOTLIGHT

By Eileen Hartl



Today we shine the light on Restituta Tarimo. She was born and raised in Kilema Village in the region of Kilimanjaro, Tanzania. She studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, TZ. Her major: Teacher's Degree in Science with an emphasis on biology and chemistry.

At an early age, Restituta had little hope for a future. A penniless father whose wages satisfied a thirst for spirits, left her mother to beg for day jobs to feed their six children. With her primary education nearing its completion, her expectations were to fall in the line of other village girls destined to become married and pregnant at an early age. Then, Sister Anne Joseph, Holy Cross Sisters, came into her world.

It's interesting, how the mind of a missionary works. Their lives are marked by great sacrifices and they don't wait for things like an approved budget in order to build something; as in this case, to build a future for a young girl jaded by a life of poverty. Sister Anne took Restituta under her wings and enrolled her in Anwarite Secondary School for Girls in nearby Moshi and then asked Living Waters to sponsor her education. Sister Anne is a powerhouse when it comes to prayer, as she would say, "We're storming heaven's gates!" The fruit of her prayers and sacrifice brought forth a sponsorship through Living Waters.

Where there is order, there is good fruit, and then beauty and goodness flow. For

Restituta, a typical day at Anwarite began at 5:00 AM. The girls would shower and commune for morning prayer. From there they studied until 3:00 PM and participated in extra-curricular activities after school and weekends. Daily chores included cleaning, cooking and laundry; lights out every night at 10:00. Her life was marked by integration and a firm foundation in faith in Christ.

"While at Anwarite, I received news of the sudden death of my nine-year-old brother. This was very difficult to accept. God had forsaken us. 'Why did you do this despite our hardships?' I managed to get through with the help of Sister Anne. She consoled me and helped me to accept his death. I found relief in Jesus and life went on. Everything happens for a reason, that's all. I studied hard and my faith became stronger until I finished secondary school with good results. I was selected for a good government high school in another region and during that time, my oldest brother, 28, suffered and died from tuberculosis leaving two sons behind. He contracted the disease mining for Tanzanite."

She may be on the opposite end of the spectrum, exposed to broader world experiences, but she hasn't forgotten her family who remain poor and destitute. "I receive a government loan that pays my tuition, dormitory and meal fees. I invest some of that money in small business sales of items like underclothes and snacks. Knowing

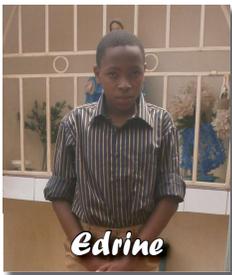
how to save and reinvest, I can afford other basic needs and support my extended family back home." During school breaks, she returns to Anwarite to help the Sisters with orientation of new students, prepping for chemistry labs and biology, supervising students during exams, and preparing meals. "I love to cook, and I am a very good cake baker. The Sisters put me at their back, as a child." She also hasn't forgotten the girls in her village whose education ended and who are left helpless at home. "It breaks my heart to hear the misfortune of girls that can't move beyond their formal education. I also feel the same for boys and young men." This battle is ever present in her culture.

It's taken many hearts, prayers, and efforts to form this young woman into the person that she is today. Her class is set to graduate next year. "I would like to thank you on behalf of all the poor African students you are sponsoring, especially the young ladies in our country. Your generosity will not go unappreciated. I kindly request others to consider a sponsorship; your reward will be great in heaven. God will repay you with many returns for your kindness and support."

Students In Need

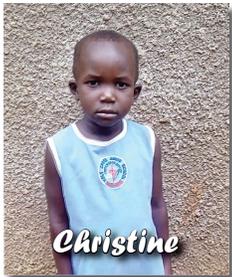


Student Sponsorship



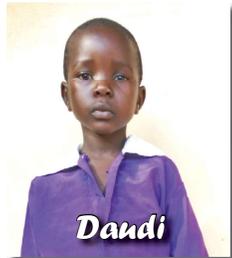
Edrine

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.



Christine

My Name: Christine Precious Abbo **Gender:** Female
Birthdate: August 1, 2015 **Country:** Uganda
Chores: Helping out at home & gardening
Favorite Subject: Drawing **Favorite Pastimes:** Playing with friends, singing & dancing
Other Remarks: The father is a very hardworking person, as well as is the mother. Since many of her siblings are studying in secondary schools, they are struggling to fund fees for all the children. Yet they try their best to educate their children in good schools.



Daudi

My Name: Daudi Masweke Marko **Gender:** Male
Birthdate: January 16, 2015 **Country:** Tanzania
Chores: Helping Mom & Dad **Favorite Subject:** Unable to attend school due to the parent's inability to pay school fees
Favorite Pastimes: Playing, dancing & football
Other Remarks: The family is very poor and needs help for this child. They live in a one- room mud hut with a dirt floor and grass roof. There is no running water or electricity and no proper sleeping or cooking facilities.



Enock

My Name: Enock George Kitambi **Gender:** Male
Birthdate: April 29, 2011 **Country:** Tanzania
Chores: Washing utensils & planting trees
Favorite Subject: Swahili, math, science
Favorite Pastimes: Playing, reading newspapers & storybooks
Other Remarks: Enock's father is unemployed due to a physical disability. They live in a one-room mud hut with a dirt floor and a grass roof with no running water or electricity and no proper sleeping or cooking facilities. They desperately need your support!

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

\$30 a month provides help for:

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

Payments can be made:

- Monthly..... \$30
- Quarterly \$90
- Semi-annually. \$180
- Annually \$360

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



Corona Pandemic - By Eileen Hartl



We pray your families and friends are being protected from the pandemic that is plaguing our world. Many of us are and will continue to be affected by COVID-19 in ways that we never imagined. For our friends in Africa, testing for the virus is extremely limited; Father Paul Santhosh of St. Jude Parish in Osia, Uganda tells us, "At the moment we have 45 infected cases in the country. We don't know whether there are many cases because there is only one lab in Uganda that is testing for the virus." The government imposed strong measures prohibiting the movement of people; a devastating blow to his parishioners that are daily wage earners. "They ride motorcycle taxis, sell vegetables, dry fish and so on. These people are really suffering as the country is in a full shut down."

You have gratefully sacrificed for the sake of our brothers and sisters in Africa. May we all be so fortunate to continue financially supporting them. Finally, let us earnestly and fervently pray with Father Paul ... "that the Lord may touch the world with His healing hand that we may come back to a normal life and continue to glorify God as his children."