



Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Spring 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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2021 – Another Successful Year by Brian Prunty

Happy is he who has regard for the lowly and the poor, in the day of misfortune the Lord will deliver him. - Psalm 41:1

I have been working in finance for decades, and I often find it amusing how financial officers communicate the financial results of the entity they represent. They speak in terms of dollars, as if the accumulation of money is the ultimate purpose for their company's existence. Our purpose at Living Waters International is different; its about assisting the Church in its mission of service to the poor. In that vein, due to the outpouring of support we received from our benefactors in 2021, we are pleased to inform you we were able to fund over 125 projects/programs in eight African countries. These grants were used to assist missionaries' efforts in education, medicine, food security, clean water, evangelization, and formation of religious vocations. Additionally, our student sponsors provided education and food assistance for 228 needy students ranging in age from 4 years old to young men in the seminary. Finally, generous supporters provided one time food assistance to

hundreds, if not thousands of poor children and aged adults.

For those of you who want the financial details, in 2021 we realized \$1,218,000 in revenue, of which 93% was gifted by donors for a specific project or purpose. Operating expenses, or overhead, amounted to \$48,000, and of this, \$30,000 was used to pay four part-time employees who keep things running smoothly. Overall, our overhead to revenue ratio is impressive at just under 4%. This is possible because of the hundreds of hours of work provided by unpaid volunteers. For a copy of our more recent audit

“Our purpose at Living Waters International is different; its about assisting the Church in its mission of service to the poor.”

and IRS form 990, please go to our web site: livingwatersinternational.org.

I would like to close with a big thank you to our benefactors. Without you, our work is incomplete. We are incredibly thankful for your generosity, and assure you we are getting 100% of your designated gifts to the Church working overseas in serving the less fortunate.





MSFS's Noble Mission of Working to Spread the Gospel of Salvation in Africa

Formation of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) candidates for the priesthood in Africa.

Its specific objectives are:

- To foster local vocations to the priesthood for the Church of Africa.
- To educate and train priestly candidates of the MSFS to evangelize Africa.

Formation and training of local candidates for the priesthood empowers the congregation to grow locally, escalate growth of religious life, and increase the number of missionary priests on the ground to serve both in cities and rural villages in Africa. The rapidly growing African Church needs more clergy and religious personnel to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of its people. Vocation promotion, formation and training of future priests are therefore a high priority for the African Church.

The MSFS are contributing positively to this urgent need for spiritually mature and professionally qualified personnel in the Church. The congregation currently has 12 novices and 48 major seminarians (30 philosophers and 18 theologians) under formation at the MSFS Novitiate in Kibaha, Tanzania, the Lumen Christi Institute at Maji ya Chai, Arusha, Tanzania and the Salvatorian Major Seminary at Mlima Kola in Morogoro, Tanzania and SFS Seminary at Buwooya, Uganda.

East African Province Stages of Formation Program

1. **Vocation Promotion** - SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro, Tanzania
2. **Postulancy** - Fransalian Seminary, Buwooya, Lugazi Diocese, Uganda
3. **Novitiate** - Fransalianum Kibaha, Tanzania
4. **Scholasticate - Study of Philosophy**, Lumen Christi Institute, Magi ya Chai, Arusha, Tanzania
5. **Regency** - (Pastoral Mission Experience) Location: Mission Centers of the province
6. **Scholasticate - Study of Theology**, Jordan University College, Morogoro, Tanzania
 - Ministry of Lector and Acolyte
 - Perpetual Profession (at the completion of six years in Temporary profession)
 - Diaconate (at the completion of the third year of Theology)

7. **Ordination to Priesthood**

Please see our back page if you feel you are being called to support this worthy endeavor.

A WHIRLWIND PICTURE TOUR OF AFRICA

Four months, 3 weeks isn't really long enough to see 5 African countries, but I tried!



African Benedictine Sisters Pre-school, Narunyu, Mtwara, Tanzania



Orphans Swimming in Lake Tanganyika



St Anthony's Children's Village, Ndola, Zambia



Marian Primary School Nundu Morning Assembly



Spotlight

By Eileen Hartl



This Spring's Spotlight shines on student sponsor, Ted Brettin-gen of Milwaukee, WI.

Inspired by his mother, Sue, Ted became a student sponsor for a young Ugandan boy who shared his namesake, Tadeo. His mom planted a seed that caused him to reflect on the state of his own life. At the time, he was single, and grateful for the blessings in his own life, thereby deciding it was, "time to give back."

Safe to say, Tadeo has become precious in the eyes of Ted. "Over the years, I have been watching him grow. From the numerous personal letters, school progress reports, and yearly photos, I can attest to the positive impact on his life made possible by the opportunities through Living Waters." Ted marvels at the simplicity with which Tadeo lives: "It has made me even more grateful for all of my many blessings." The good fruit of sponsoring a student becomes evident over time and sometimes in unexpected ways.

Earlier this year, a chance meeting happened between Ted and a young man, Jacque, from Burkina Faso, Africa. Like so many others in the corporate world, Ted found himself working out of his home when the pandemic hit. One day he was experiencing a poor internet connection and needed technical support from the local internet provider. When Jacque showed up, he was, "... happy, pleasant, and spoke with a distinct African accent. During our conversation, I shared my sponsorship of Tadeo." Jacque shared that he lost both parents at an early age and that he too had the good fortune of a

sponsor from a Catholic parish in France. The tone of the conversation changed as Jacque shared that, "If it had not been for the grace of

God and the individual who sponsored me,

I would most likely be holding a gun right now in Burkina Faso." Therein lies another reminder of why an education is so important, especially for the impoverished. With that, Ted was compelled to give even more.

"Around that time, I was chosen to receive an additional donation through my employer, BMO Financial Group, via the United Way Giving Campaign to a charity of my choosing. The choice of where to direct the donation was an easy one." Ted's connection with Jacque inspired him along with his wife, Stacey, to take on an additional student sponsorship. Given Jacques' truly inspirational story, Ted invited him to take on the role as a mentor of sorts by offering the opportunity to compose letters to the student as well.

Jacque never had the opportunity of corresponding with his sponsor through the parish in France. He told Ted, "... I wish I could offer a simple 'thank you' for giving me a new opportunity at life." Ted added, "The connection with the students is something that I truly appreciate with Living Waters that is oftentimes lacking with other charitable organizations."

While Ted and Stacey await their soon to be assigned student, snow is lingering here in the Northwoods, but the promise of Spring pours forth; things are connecting in a miraculous way. Migrant birds have returned, patches of green grass lie here and there, and branches on trees are budding. In the secular world, one might say that the stars were all aligned for this life-giving story that is unfolding, but we In the Christian life perceive it to be the Lord, "the Giver of Life," that is doing something new.

2021 Summer Fund-Raisers

Brat Fry

at Gilbert's Sentry Food Store
(Workers needed for one or two-hour shifts,
Call 715 610-9567)

Where: 115 South Superior Street
Antigo, WI

When: Friday, June 17
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Brat Fry & Pie Sale

Sponsored by Wrightstown Area
Friends of Living Waters

Where: Dick's Family Foods
400 High Street, Wrightstown, WI

When: Saturday, June 11
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Music in the Park

Pie & Ice Cream Social
(Pie donations & workers needed,
Call 715 610-9567)

Where: Antigo City Park
200 Aurora Street, Antigo, WI

When: Monday, August 1
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Students In Need



Name & Country: Alan Kariuki Mwenda, Kenya

Birthdate: October 28, 2009, **Gender:** Male

Remarks: Alan's father disowned him before he was born, and at the time of his birth his mother, Ann, left him with her parents. The grandmother has taken ill and the three depend on the grandfather who works as a daily laborer for their food.



Student Name & Country: Lovin Mwende Munyua, Kenya

Birthdate: Unknown **Gender:** Female

Remarks: Lovin's father is unknown, and her mother is deceased. She has been in the care of her grandmother who has no source of income; they depend on daily labor when available, for their livelihood. They live in a one room shack with timber walls, steel roof, and earthen floor. Cooking is done outside.



Student's Name & Country: Francisca Zabron Makundi, Tanzania

Birthdate: March 8, 2013, **Gender:** Female

Remarks: Francisca is fortunate in that she lives with both parents, but her mother, Theresia, has uterine cancer. They are renting a 2-room cement block house with a cement floor and tin roof. There is no running water or electricity; cooking is done outside the house with wood or charcoal. Francisca is good at her studies.

See more children waiting for sponsorship at: www.livingwatersinternational.org.

Seminarians In Need



Name: Brother Abraham Wambuchi, Kenyan

Stage of Formation: Second Year of Theology **School:** MSFS Major Seminary

Why I Want to Become a Priest: "I realized my vocation through the influence of many people, particularly my father, as well as my parish priest and his assistant. They were motivational figures for me. The Gospel of Luke 9:32 reads, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few." I personally want to be among the laborers who fill the gap to win back souls for Christ from those who have fallen short from the grace of God."



Name: Brother Collins Simiyu, Kenyan

Stage of Formation: Second Year of Theology **School:** MSFS Major Seminary

Why I Want to Become a Priest: "My desire to join religious started when I was in Grade II. I had the same desire to be in the seminary in primary school. As I grew older, I wanted to become a priest and participate in the proclamation of the Gospel to the entire world. I wish God to be known to everyone in the world; that they know God's love is eternal. I wish that human life is respected everywhere as it is the gift of God."



Name: Brother Godwin Nanalo, Ugandan

Stage of Formation: Second Year of Theology

School: MSFS Major Seminary

Why I Want to Become a Priest: "The zeal for priesthood came from seeing the scarcity of priests in our diocese. I saw people dying in sin because no priest was there to listen to their confession. Some outstations only had Mass on Easter or Christmas. I got a feeling I should become a priest to render service to God's people who are in need of spiritual food that the people of God experience the mercy and love of God with abundance of blessings from above. To see that God's people are able to prepare themselves to return to him without problem or doubt."

Student Sponsorship

\$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.

Seminarian's Fees

Quarterly\$125
Semi-annually\$250
Annually\$500

If you cannot commit to the on-going support of a seminarian, please consider donating to the Seminarians' Purse. (See donation form).

"The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few."
(Luke 10:2)

