

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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We Never Imagined!

By Brian Prunty

My wife Karen died on February 8th, 2025, after a 3-year struggle with ALS. The children and I could never have imagined, that one year later, we would be in Dodoma, Tanzania, attending the blessing of a beautiful new school built in her memory.

One of the toughest jobs I ever helped Karen with was planning her funeral. When it became clear time was running out, I wasn't surprised when she told me she wanted her memorial gifts to be directed to Living Waters International (LWI), in support of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS).

The support of Karen's memorial from family, friends, and benefactors of LWI is overwhelming; over 200 people made a gift. The family is humbled and grateful for this outpouring of generosity and love.

Karen was involved with LWI from the very beginning. Her involvement increased as the organization grew, and as our children began leaving home. Her duties included serving on the board, acting as corporate secretary, and other responsibilities. Of all her jobs, her passion was the student sponsorship program, where she diligently

matched families in the States with poor African children seeking a quality education and a chance at a better life.

The MSFS were also involved with LWI from the very beginning. Over the years, LWI and the MSFS collaborated on several projects including getting schools and churches built, as well as efforts aimed at helping the poor. Karen and the MSFS Fathers worked closely to find sponsors for poor students.

"Karen's motivation in working so hard for so long, was always about the children!"



Brian & Mary with their sponsored students
Jacline & Emanuel.

When I learned the MSFS were starting to develop a new mission site on 10 acres of vacant land in Dodoma, Tanzania, we knew where the memorial money should be directed. Dodoma is a rapidly growing region of over 3 million people. Its rapid growth is due to recent efforts to relocate national government offices from Dar es Salaam on the coast, to Dodoma which is the center of the country.

The region is not only growing because government workers are relocating, but because others are arriving to take advantage of opportunities that come with rapid economic growth. The challenge is supporting this growth, especially when it comes to education because of the lack of good schools.

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The MSFS plan to fully develop the 10-acre site over time by establishing a campus that educates children from pre-K through secondary school (high school). The initial phase is construction of a pre-primary school, consisting of 4 grade levels (equivalent to our pre-K through grade 2). The school includes 8 classrooms, library, computer lab, administrative offices and multipurpose hall.

Last fall, when Fr. Siljo Cherian, started sending pictures of the construction progress, I knew I had to get to Tanzania to celebrate the school opening, and I wanted to share this moment with my children. I was thrilled when my three daughters, Jennifer, Elly, and Mary jumped on board. Good friends Eileen Hartl, a LWI director, and George Shiners, a long-time supporter of LWI, also agreed to go.

We arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on the 13th of February, days ahead of the February 21st school blessing. The extra time afforded us the opportunity to visit long-time missionary friends and connect with some of the sponsored children.

The first three days were in Kenya, where we were especially grateful to stay 2 nights at the Francis de Sales School in Bisil. LWI played a significant role helping this school get developed. This site includes a preprimary, primary, and junior secondary school. It was amazing to see how this school has grown since my visit in 2022.

We traveled by auto crossing into Tanzania on the 16th and stayed at the Lumen Christi Institute in the Arusha region. Mt. Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa, is visible in the distance. It was here when the girls and I went on a safari to the Ngorongoro Crater. This conservation park is a must-experience adventure when visiting Tanzania.

On the 18th, we flew to Dar es Salaam on the coast and boarded a train to Morogoro. Here we stayed 2 nights at the Fransalian Spirituality Centre, a beautiful new facility educating both religious and lay catechists in effective spiritual leadership. While in Morogoro, Mary and I were able to visit with our sponsored students, which was special.

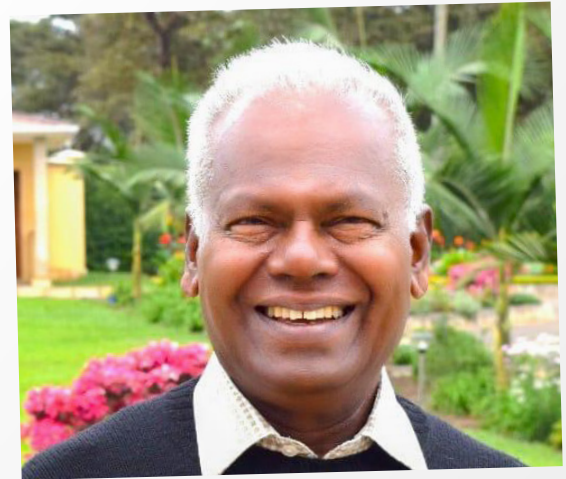
On the afternoon of the 20th, we travelled by train to Dodoma. Upon our arrival we toured the newly completed school. It wasn't quite complete; Father Siljo, the sisters, and others worked well into the night getting everything ship-shape. Walking through the beautiful new school and seeing Karen's memorial plaque for the first time was quite emotional. The next day was the big event. About 300 people attended the school blessing led by Archbishop Beatus Kinyaiya. Afterwards Mass was celebrated where I felt Karen's presence celebrating with us. A program followed where we were asked to say a few words. George summed it up best, "Karen's motivation in working so hard for so long, was always about the children!"





Spotlight

By Eileen Hartl



Today we shine the spotlight on Father Augustine Mangatt, MSFS, whose home base is in Bissil, Kenya, and who recently celebrated his golden jubilee serving in the priesthood. Just as the apostles and disciples of the Lord were commissioned at the Ascension, and sent out at Pentecost with a clear vision, Father Augustine and three other pioneer fathers from the Order of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales were sent to East Africa to evangelize the people by constructing not only school buildings, churches, etc., but to establish a rapport with the people of East Africa that they might be transformed by the Gospel and lifted out of their poverty.

And indeed, after thirty-eight years, they have established a real rapport. The people of Africa have embraced the MSFS as is evident through their ownership, participation, and support. Another demonstration of how they have become a household name is in the ordaining of 29 African priests. "This reflects the true spirit of inculturation and demonstrates how many African families have embraced the missionary vocation by generously allowing their children to serve the Church."

From four pioneers who arrived in 1988 - planted at one mission site, now has ... "flourished into a vibrant missionary presence comprising of thirty-seven missions with fourteen fully integrated mission schools and four vocational training centers." Dear benefactors of Living Waters, you have played a vital role in much of this work. Father shares, "My relationship with LWI has been one of genuine companionship, trust, and shared commitment in service to God's mission." What a gift you truly are and how the MSFS and other congregations have garnered great strength and encouragement from your belief in their noble cause! In conversation with two LWI cofounders, Steve Zimmerman shared how Father Augustine has always been a faithful companion in mission, and Brian Prunty said, "I have been fortunate to have known Fr. Augustine for 25 years. He is more than a friend; he is someone who inspires me to follow his example of working tirelessly while serving others."

This February, Father introduced us to Mama Joyce, who lives in Enkaroni Village, about an hour's drive from Bissil. She passionately appealed to Father to pay attention to the needs of the children and youth there. She wisely observed that, "The traditional pastoral way of life of our Maasai community is no longer sufficient, and without education, they have no future." A lot more could be said about Mama Joyce, but it can be summed up by saying, "Her faith, clarity of thought, and the deep respect her family has for her, make her a respected matriarch, and a guiding light in her community."

Father is acting upon her request to start building up the community by drilling a borehole and constructing a school. "Her

appeal means addressing some of the most urgent and foundational needs of the community, namely: access to education and clean, safe drinking water. These will not only transform the lives of children and families but will also lay the groundwork for further development, including improved health services and overall community well-being."

Father also shared that in many ways, both the local Church and government structures are scarcely felt there. By supporting this mission, it will bring hope, opportunity, and dignity to a people who are often overlooked. "I warmly invite all people of goodwill to join us in this noble cause and help make a lasting difference in the lives of this community." (Please see the enclosed insert to donate).

In closing, I have known Father for 22 years, and I can attest to his faithful service to the Lord and the people of Africa. We are happy and proud of his achievements and for reaching his golden jubilee this year. Congratulations Father, you serve the Lord so faithfully!

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Goretti Fundraiser



Although it was a brief visit, we were delighted to have the chance to meet Goretti, her mother Leticia, and Aunt Feliciano this February.

MUSIC IN THE PARK FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR GORETTI

When: Thursday, July 23rd

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Where: City Park West

230 Aurora St, Antigo, WI 54409

Music by: Balsam Road Ramblers

Gina's Pizza, ice cream, pies & desserts will be served. We hope to see you there!

Volunteers & dessert donors needed. Please call Eileen

@ 715 610-9567

Students In Need



Name: Babirye Teddy

Gender: Female **Birthdate:** February 18, 2018 **Country:** Uganda

Favorite Subject: Art, Math & Literacy One **Favorite Pastime:** Watching movies.

Other Remarks: Babirye's father is deceased and her mother, Christine, earns a peasant's wage of \$50 per month. Therefore, she is desperately struggling to provide her nine children with clothing, food, and school tuition. Only two of Babirye's siblings are enrolled in school. In addition to an education, benefits include Christian formation, clothing, nutrition, shelter, medical and dental attention.



Name: Elizabeth Kasere

Gender: Female **Birthdate:** April 15, 2009 **Country:** Uganda

Favorite Subject: History & Physics **Favorite Pastime:** Netball, Singing, & Dancing

Other Remarks: Elizabeth comes from a poor family, her father is deceased and her mother is struggling to support her and her seven siblings. Her progress in school has been good thus far, but she needs your support to see her through the completion of her secondary studies.



Name: Bridget Etinot

Gender: Female **Birthdate:** July 5, 2015 **Country:** Uganda

Favorite Subject: Mathematics & Literacy

Favorite Pastime: Playing with other children.

Other Remarks: Bridget is a very needy child. Her parents passed on and is under the care of her uncle who is a local mason, and his wife is a housewife. Out of goodwill they took Bridget to take care of her. She delayed to go to school because no one was there to help her. The family taking care of her is really struggling.

Student Sponsorship

\$30 a month provides help for:

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

Payments can be made:

- Monthly \$30
- Annually \$360

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

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