

# Love a Child

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# Change the World

## UGANDA CHILD SPONSORSHIP



Thanks to all who sponsor a child in Uganda at Destineyville School!  
Below are the updates from Pastor James Luwaga.



**June 2021**

Greetings from Uganda. Hoping that the good Lord who has so far kept us both alive and focused on his business is giving you good health and courage to continue the journey of faith. We have recently been hit by a new wave of COVID19 which is claiming many lives. A few friends have lost loved ones and we hear that it is still worsening. This outbreak has forced the government to close all schools and religious congregating centers for six weeks. This means our kids will be home until the 19th of July when they resume active classroom learning. We continue to pray that the situation will calm down and life goes back to normal.

Our observation during the first outbreak was that when everything was locked down a number of kids lost interest in education. Today I went to a nearby motor repair garage and found a 10 years old boy covered in motor vehicle oil. So I picked interest and started a conversation with him to find out what was going on. He told me that he has now decided to become a motor mechanic and will not go back to school. I kind of challenged him about the fact that he may not be able to run a bigger business given his little exposure in reading, mathematics and understanding of the disciplines that come with learning but he was like fed up and didn't pick much interest in my line of reason.

We continue to pray that the children across the country don't loose interest in education which can increase the illiteracy rates and force our economy to remain peasantry.

In a meeting with some teachers we have decided to give our primary four to six a two weeks break and hen engage them with home work to keep them focused.

In the meantime we have also chosen to use this time to plant flower gardens, do some painting so we improve the outlook of the school. We have also identified a corner on the school property that we want to develop into a small vegetable farm.

We pray for you also as this pandemic has had complicated effects on every country. May the good Lord continue to protect and energise you to serve Him in new ways.

We don't have Sunday services like we normally do but have continued with the small groups for fellowship and currently we have seven active groups meeting to pray, learn the word of God and have fellowship.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor James Luwaga



Some of the members baptized on 30th May

On June 6<sup>th</sup> I preached two sermons on the call to be holy, and then rushed from church to join my wife and Tinah who were waiting for my company to return Tinah to school before the school closing time. We had been skeptical about taking her back but the deputy principal assured us that it was all well and we should not listen to any rumors going round about schools not going to operate. We drove like crazy and were in time for the rigorous checks during the admission. Dorcas and I returned home feeling a sense of victory and achievement and were making comments on how COVID19 is becoming a defeated epidemic. That very evening, the president made a national address concerning the growing concerns for the COVID19 cases that are beginning to overwhelm the medical institutions especially around Kampala area. He then concluded his remarks by passing a regulation to close all schools, religious congregating centers, house parties, public gatherings and travel to and from any District. After listening to these restrictions I felt a chill of anger burning through my head. I didn't know exactly who to address it to but I realized I was mumbling to myself and feeling frustrated about the fact that we could not go about business as usual.

After a few days of reflection I called for a meeting with some of the leaders at church and we quickly took stock of what God had done during the past lockdown and how it changed our perspective on doing business as usual. This stock taking quickly revealed that we had raised more leaders, run more small groups, and actually increased in attendance when church finally opened. What was so amusing was the fact that on the 30<sup>th</sup> May we had just baptized 32 members. My mind was quickly drawn to:

### John 4:35

**Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white already unto harvest.**

We then agreed that in such troubling times, it's easy to loose focus on the souls that are hungry for God and concentrate on the restrictions, pains and inconveniences from the lockdowns. We all got into an Aha moment just taking stock of what God had done in a past difficult time. One singer nailed it when they sang "Count your blessings, name them one by one, count your blessings see what God has done, Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings see what God has done."

Taking stock can be a great motivator for taking a step of faith into the future. It can be a trigger for attempting bigger things for God. Taking stock has reawakened to us the call to reach souls for Christ. We are now planning more intentional ways of reaching more people with the gospel during this lockdown. Its interesting to note that until we lift up our eyes to see like God sees, we tend to only see our perspective. The times we are in are a perfect weather for ripening fruit!

We continue to pray that God will give us (the church of Christ) the wisdom to engage the people in such a way that makes church relevant and meaningful to the prevailing conditions. That the light of Christ will shine through our lives even as we reach out to the lost souls. This we pray to be a true experience with all our partners in the ministry.

Take stock and see what God has already done in your life and ministry, may be you'll find it energizing for you to attempt bigger things for God and His Christ. Amen.



April 2021

There is a heart searching quote from John C Maxwell: “Everything rises and falls on leadership.” Reflecting on that quote, one would quickly think of charismatic personalities who have a natural outward energy to move things. I have been tempted to feel like a failure especially considering the people that God has made available to me for training. Looking at the personalities, profiles, age, and personal development I have always prayed and waited for some vibrant personalities to show up and sign up for the ministry and my best guesses have all been disappointments. I want to be successful just like my Lord Jesus was, leaving a vibrant ministry behind me when my time to move on or to go be with the Lord comes. In my prayer and search, I found myself captivated by this quotation from the book of Acts.

**Acts 4:13**

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

In that text I discovered that what was really crucial was not the kind of people rather the kind of influence that those that were drawn to Jesus had on their lives. I came to terms with myself that great leaders are made by great leadership and it's going to be largely on my part to form the desired ministry legacy. This journey has helped me to look at the necessary building blocks to great leadership. Among things like building systems that work, establishing a clear vision and values, I am sharing some of my experience on building a strong team.

Since the beginning of the year I have embarked on training a team of four leaders who I assume will take on great leadership for the ministry. I have divided our catchment area into two zones, I am working on systematizing pastoral care and transitioning the church into a cell groups (commonly known as missional communities) which I have put under the leadership of those that am training. It's exciting what is happening but practically it's a great challenge especially to me as a leader. I am realizing that having a great team requires a great degree of depth and that takes trust, vulnerability, time and openness. I am learning more as I continue in this direction.

I have been watching how winning teams work and it's amazing to see that the focus is not only at the field but in the training, identification of areas of strength, working on the attitudes of the team members and continual encouragement from the touch lines. This is my journey and my life, training this team and growing it gives me more options for predicting a great future!

I am happy that this experience is made possible by many of you who pray for me and the ministry and give financial support to help me do the work of ministry!

God bless you,

Much love and blessings!

Pastor James Luwaga

March 2021

Hi! We've had a busy week doing final preps for the primary seven kids who will be doing their exams this week on Tuesday and Wednesday. We are looking forward to some good performance when the results come out.

We commissioned them in prayer yesterday and gave them everything they need for the exams. We have 13 of them and eight have been supported by the sponsorship program. It's exciting to see that we have supported them to this level of their development.

Pastor James Luwaga





## March 2021

Greetings from Uganda!

It's interesting how time passes very quickly. It indeed looks like ages ago when I last saw many of you face to face and yet it remains so fresh in my memory especially due to the frightful experience that I had while there. You remember it was during the early days of warnings concerning the Corona Virus and catching the deep flu, chest congestion and body pain all got me concerned and I know that a number of you were in the same state of concern together with me. The telephone exchanges, bountiful groceries and prayers all made it a reality for me to experience true love. I've told that story in many places here sharing about how we can practically demonstrate God's among the brethren.

Indeed God is amazing in how he accomplishes his plans of reaching the lost with the gospel. It's an incredible pastry when you look at the connections that God set up in partnering Barnabas and Paul, Philemon and Onesimus and many more. When we met it was indeed a divine arrangement for the result has seen more contribution to the work of the kingdom of God.

I am so delighted to see the impact that our partnership has had on the work of God and certainly I and my family are so amazed at the love and kindness we've experienced from you. We've found encouragement and acceptance not easily obtainable in today's competitive and self-interest society. And because of the love and support it's been very imperative that we do ministry with such interest and earnestness knowing that we are not alone.

In this episode I will share the bigger picture of what is happening and hopefully I will continue to share the related details in my future episodes.

Like I mentioned earlier, our partnership has provided support that has made it to continue in ministry in such a way:

*Picture of the school before and current*



- I have continued pastoring a vibrant church that has planted 5 (five) other churches. I am very proud to mention that 4 of the church plants are operating from permanent locations and are steadily growing, and the other is still looking for land that we can buy for the church. What is amazing is the opportunity to see how leaders have been raised who are now shouldering the responsibilities in these churches. I have had opportunities of baptizing a number of people from these church plants, what a joy to participate in the global movement of making God known and expanding His kingdom. Our prayer is that we continue to plant more churches that also plant other churches.
- Child education has always been a deep passion and a great area of need in Uganda. Over 24,000,000 (twenty four million) children have lost one or both parents and struggle to make it to school. Providing an opportunity for over 120 s needy children to go to school is a great honor. I have continued overseeing the establishment of a primary school that has progressed from pupils learning under tree shades to a modern school with proper buildings, desks, and professional teachers. We hope to build more schools as a way of sustainably supporting needy orphans.
- I have been able to inspire other Christian leaders to engage in the double-handed gospel (that is catering for the spiritual and physical needs of the people).
- My children have continued school with two of them now sitting final exams for the next level of learning.

I am so honored to be a part of the SF family and especially being the hands to many of you that can't come and touch the children and or do the work that you are a much part of through your prayer and giving. May God bless you for your faithfulness and continued support to the work we are doing here.

I continue to stand with all of you in prayer and please do remember us in your prayers as face these turbulent waters of uncertainty with the COVID19.

James Luwaga  
Pastor Jubilee Fellowship



## March 2021

Hey TSF, we are living in very exciting times. We are pushing on with our call to support children's learning. Our government has come up with a very prolonged and phased plan for schools opening. Higher classes are allowed in school and lower classes are encouraged to stay at home and find alternative means of learning. As a ministry we decided together with parents that since children come from same localities and have minimal interaction with people outside of the community, we can have the kids learning outside of school. Our experience is that as children stay out of school for a longer time, the interest in learning dwindles and they struggle in their learning. There are a number of pupils not only in our schools but also in others that we interact with, who have openly said they can't go back to class. The number of teenage pregnancies is growing, young people in petty jobs especially as hawkers for merchandise, and some loitering villages looking scrap to sell for quick money. We are grateful that the sponsorship program has kept many children in school. We stand to proclaim hope even in such confused moments even as we share the love of God with those supported. Thanks so much for all the hard work to make the sponsorship possible!

Blessings,

Pastor James Luwaga







## February 2021

Greetings from Uganda,

The education system has totally been altered and although schools are allowed to operate, they can only do so by allowing shifts of learners into the school premises. Right now the candidate classes are allowed in schools; in two weeks one additional class (P.6) will be allowed to join them. At the beginning of March we'll have the candidate classes do their final exams and leave the school creating room to two additional classes (P.5 and P.4) to join. As for the lower classes the directive is to provide them with home work. This regulation does not affect schools offering International education system of learning.

So basing on this new set up, our school has decided to conduct home schooling support for P. 1 to P.3. This will be done in clusters of 15 children gathering in identified homes where a teacher will visit for two hours a day to give guidance and additional homework. The goal is to provide opportunity for the children to continue getting guidance from a professional teacher since the majority of parents don't know how to read and write and therefore can not offer any form of support into the child's learning process.

In the meantime we are taking every chance and every available penny to continue improving our school facilities so as to offer a hygienic and conducive learning environment. We have completed putting concrete floors in all classrooms therefore eliminating the dust from the classrooms; and all classrooms have walls which makes learning easy in all weather. We have repaired all broken desks and plan to make a few new ones so that we can implement the So So distance as required by the standing regulations. The school is working on a better food storage and handling procedure as part of improving the general hygiene.

Our teachers have continued working under very uncertain conditions and yet they continue to be hopeful for a better future.

We continue to thank the TSF family for the love and support offered to make the dream of providing affordable quality primary education possible especially for the target needy children in our catchment area.

## February 2021

The schools are running okay in the current confusion especially that teachers are not allowed to have good contact with kids, and kids are not allowed any games where they can interact. We've not had any incident of COVID19 with either the teachers or kids.

For the lower classes, we have organized the kids to meet in homes gazetted through the Parents/Teachers meeting. Teachers rotate in the homes teaching one topic a day and giving homework. This is much better than learning on radio as recommended by government.

The church is doing okay, we are meeting in smaller numbers also keeping the social distance. We hope and pray that God will make us stronger even as we go through this period of uncertainty.





## **DECEMBER 2020**

2020 has been a year confused with the threats of COVID19 and government lockdowns that totally disoriented our academics, businesses, social life and religious functions. Many people were affected with especially the lockdowns to the extent that domestic violence, suicides and family breakdowns were rampant. Large populations of some urban dwellers were forced into hunger due to the closure of small businesses that account for their daily living.

This impacted on us with similar measures and we were forced to look for options of helping the needy households in our reach. The mercy of God unfolded when we received food support from the Sanctuary Fellowship that saw us distribute food to over 400 households. It was such a heavenly blessing as families received food portions to last them months while government food support was only for three days.

Later the schools were allowed partial opening and we tactfully allowed in three classes to attend school after a long strenuous assessment process. The teachers and the pupils have continued steadily with academics with no alarming incidents. Next week we close the school term with a lot of gratitude and thanks giving to God and the sponsors of needy children. The sponsorship funds have been the life line to keep us going as regular parents are still struggling to make ends meet. Operation requirements were that pupils had to stay in school once they arrived in the morning only to leave in the evenings. So we had to provide them with break porridge and lunch, we had to cater for the disinfectants, feed teachers, pay salaries, pay teachers rent and improve the security of the school premises. We trust that the good Lord who has brought us this far will see us through to a decent closure.