



Living Waters International, Inc. Spring Newsletter – 2012

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A Family Affair – Easter Mission Awareness Trip 2012: by Karen Prunty, Secretary & Coordinator of Living Waters International Student Sponsorship Program

In life, we all experience various challenges. When they come our way, depending on our perspective of things we can choose to be open and work for what is the greater good or we can simply be overwhelmed and give up easily. My husband Brian, Treasurer of Living Waters International and I visited East Africa in 2004. This time around, our daughter, Mary, a senior in high school and the youngest of our five children, accompanied us. It was to be Mary's first visit and I was looking forward to the three of us experiencing adverse challenges, as well as the good and favorable things that are blossoming within the various congregations of missionaries that Living Waters International collaborates with.

Upon arrival, we were heartily welcomed with a warm breakfast at St. Francis de Sales Parish - Mkuza by Fathers Sheejan Kallarakkal, Matthew Chavely, and Antony George. Mkuza is located about 45 minutes inland from Dar es Salaam.

Palm Sunday Mass was to begin shortly. Fr. Zachariah Burrofero, the first ordained African priest of the *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales*, and sponsored by one of Living Waters' benefactors, presided at the Mass. Warm smiles greeted us at church and palms were shared. While we knew only a few words in Swahili, the native language, their smiles spoke a million words.... "KARIBUNI!!" ("WELCOME!!") The service began with a procession of palms that were actually *growing alongside the road*. Babies to grandparents filled the church inside and out. The African people have beautiful, joyful voices that really make you want to dance. (We left that to the choir!)



Palm Sunday procession at SFS Parish - Mkuza, Tanzania

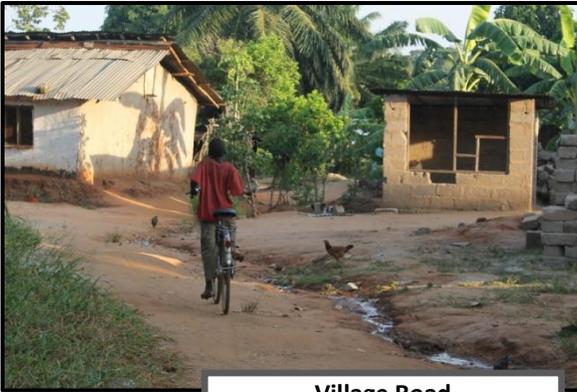
We celebrated Holy Week services at different mission parishes in Tanzania. Their native language was spoken, but I felt God's mercy and love spoken through the gestures of the people and missionary priests. God is very much alive!

The *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* are called to be builders of communities, a sower of God's Word. Many young African men and women are being called by God to work among their people. One such young man from Tanzania is Deacon Innocent Ngowi. He will be ordained on July 28, 2012. Brian and I have supported his formation studies through the Seminarians' Purse Program.



Deacon Innocent Ngowi with Brian and Karen

We were happy to meet him and also very inspired to listen to his experiences of formation with the *MSFS* and his desire to live his calling from God as a priest to serve among the East African people. Simply put, it was another affirmation of our determination to do what we can, in a small way, to support one another's shared vision of evangelization to the peoples of East Africa.



**Village Road
Mkuza, Tanzania**

It was a great trip to experience with our daughter Mary. The *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* and the various congregations of Sisters were very welcoming with their gracious hospitality. We ate many different foods like ugali, a staple of African diets, which looked like mashed potatoes, but definitely didn't taste like potatoes! Water, a precious resource, forced Mary to learn to take a shower with a bucket filled with just 2 gallons of water and a cup. Traveling through villages on poor dirt roads was difficult, but even more difficult to see was the abject poverty. I believe those challenges will remain in Mary's heart ... still, we are making a difference in the lives of many families in Africa.

We witnessed the progress accomplished by the *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* and various congregations of Sisters since 2004. I'm so grateful to our many benefactors who partner with *Living Waters International* to contribute to the greater good and make a difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in East Africa!



Best in America Living Waters International (listed under its DBA name of Aid for African Catholic Missions) has been awarded the Independent Charities Seal of Excellence. The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to the members of Independent Charities of America and Local Independent Charities of America that have, upon rigorous independent review, been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. These standards include those required by the US Government for inclusion in the Combined Federal Campaign, probably the most exclusive fund drive in the world. Of the 1,000,000 charities operating in the United States today, it is estimated that fewer than 50,000, or 5 percent, meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 2,000 have been awarded this Seal.



Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales seminarians in Philosophy studies and MSFS staff at the Lumen Christi Institute, Maji ya Chai, Arusha, Tanzania



Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales seminarians in Theology studies and MSFS staff at Salvatorian Institute, Mlima Kola, Morogoro, Tanzania

Living Waters International - The Seminarians' Purse

But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" (Rom 10: 14 -15)

The Seminarians' Purse supports the 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.

East African Province Stages of Formation Program

1. **Vocation Promotion** Location: St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary, secondary schools, parishes
2. **Aspirancy** (six months) Location: Fransalian Seminary, Ndagani, Chukka, Kenya
3. **Postulancy** (Pre-novitiate) (six months) Location: Fransalian Seminary, Ndagani, Chukka, Kenya
4. **Novitiate** (one year) Location: Fransalianum, Kibaha, Tanzania
5. **Study of Philosophy** (three years) Lumen Christi Institute-Arusha, Tanzania
6. **Regency** (Pastoral Mission Experience - one year) Location: Mission centers of the MSFS province of East Africa
7. **STUDY of Theology** (four years) Location: Salvatorian Institute, Morogoro, Tanzania
 - Ministry of **Lector and Acolyte**
 - Perpetual profession** (at the completion of six years in Temporary profession)
 - Diaconate** (At the completion of third of year of Theology)
8. **Ordination to Priesthood**

The *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* currently serve in parish missions in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Chad, Cameroon, Namibia, South Africa and Mozambique. They are involved in religious formation, formal education, vocational training, and social services, including caring for street children, empowering women, and providing medical services.

The *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* are contributing positively to this urgent need for spiritually mature and professionally qualified personnel in the Church. The congregation currently has nineteen novices and twenty-seven major seminarians (philosophers and 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.



Please support a Seminarian

Your support is needed for the education and formation of young men for the priesthood in Africa. One such man is Brother Gerald Mabiriizi Ssekalembe, who we met at the *Lumen Christi Institute*. He is in his second year of Philosophy studies. He assisted with the Good Friday service we attended. Your support will provide school fees, daily living expenses (food and accommodations), health care, and other basic essentials for a seminarian like Brother Gerald. The total amount required to support a seminarian for one year is approximately \$3,100. Your contribution is a very great help!

Seminarian's Name: Gerald Mabiriizi Ssekalembe

Date of birth: April 27, 1981

Nationality: Ugandan **Tribe:** Muganda

Father: Joseph Anthony Ssekalembe

Mother: Restituta Nabulya Ssekalembe

Date of Baptism: June 28, 1981

Date of First Communion: December 7, 1995

Date of Confirmation: December 9, 1995

Where residing: *Lumen Christi* Institute,
Maji ya Chai, Arusha, Tanzania

Present year in seminary: 2nd year Philosophy

Hobbies: Drumming, listening to music, gardening,
and reading, spiritual books

Br. Gerald Mabiriizi Ssekalembe



Why I would like to become a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales priest?

My dream is to become a holy *MSFS* priest in order to preach the Good News of Christ and to implant the Church in places where it has not yet reached, especially in the continent of Africa. I love the spirituality and the missionary dynamism of *MSFS* congregation. By being a *MSFS* priest I want to work for the development of the poor and marginalized in our society and to dedicate my life for bringing more people to Christ and to his message of love.

**To support a seminarian today,
please see the insert**