

Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Spring Newsletter

May 2017

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

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Trip confirms sacrifices here; enable the Church in Africa

Brian Prunty, Treasurer of Living Waters International, Inc.

In 2016 LWI directed \$715,000 to multiple Catholic religious communities in nine countries in support of 70 different programs, including the student sponsorship program, which provides for the care and education of 240 needy children. The money is made possible through the generosity of hundreds of benefactors of LWI. While the money is freely given, LWI recognizes it comes as the result of the financial sacrifices of many. Whether you are supporting a needy student or helping with a clean water project, LWI is sincerely appreciative to everyone who funds our initiatives. Be assured you are making a difference -- 97% of LWI's overall revenue is spent on missionary programs assisting the poor.

Promoting LWI's initiatives and then directing the money to the proper places in Africa is no small task. On a daily basis, someone from LWI's board of directors is in contact with African missionaries through email or other social media. While electronic communication works, it doesn't allow us to experience what's happening on the ground in Africa. As a result, some of the directors try to save money so they can get to Africa on a rotating basis every 4-5 years. This past February, my wife Karen and I made our third trip and this time our long-time friend and supporter of LWI, George Shinnners, traveled with us to Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. The trip lasted 17 days and was full – we visited 30 different sites and met with scores of missionaries. Here are some of the highlights:

Meeting students – Karen coordinates the student program and prior to our arrival arranged with the various sites to visit as many of the sponsored children as possible. Her organization bore fruit – we were blessed with the opportunity to meet one-on-one with 70 children. These meetings were heartwarming and reinvigorated our efforts to help the poorest of the poor. The children are all so grateful for their sponsors giving them the opportunity of a good education! If you are a sponsor of a student, know that your sacrifice in supporting your child is giving them the precious gift of a better life!



Brian & Karen visiting students.

Dedicating new schools – This trip provided us the opportunity to celebrate two school's openings. The first was St. Francis de Sales College, a new secondary school in Iyolwa Uganda. Because of generous benefactors LWI was able to provide funds for school furniture, the science lab, and text books thank Notre Dame Academy in Green Bay. This co-ed school is located in a rural area that has been severely impacted by civil war.

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Seminarian's Purse Appeal

The Seminarians' Purse is an initiative to support future priests of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) in the Province of East Africa. The MSFS began their apostolate in East Africa in 1988. MSFS

“Sponsoring a seminarian not only benefits the individual, but also the community.”

priests currently serve in parish missions in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Mozambique. These missionaries are involved in religious formation, formal education, vocational training, and social services, including caring for street children, empowering women, and providing medical services. Sponsoring a seminarian not only benefits the individual, but also the community. To sponsor a seminarian or to donate to the Seminarian's Purse, please see the enclosed insert.



(continued from page 1)

It is the only high school in this part of country and many of the 200 students come from poor families or are orphans. The students live in dormitories on campus, and for many they are the first in their families to attend high school. The second school opening celebration was in Katani Kenya where we cut the ribbon on a new pre-k and kindergarten facility. Through a generous contribution of a benefactor, LWI was able to pay a substantial part of the construction costs of the school.



Katani ribbon cutting celebration.

Visiting seminarians – All told we met nearly 80 young men who were in various stages of becoming a priest. Most were met during visits to the Lumen Christi Institute and the Fransalian House in Tanzania. At the Fransalian House we were privileged to witness the Final Vows of six Missionary of St. Francis de Sales seminarians, two of which are being supported by LWI under our Seminarian Purse program. If you are a sponsor of a seminarian, know that they too are grateful for the sacrifice you are making so they can become a priest!

Witnessing healing – During our travels we visited three medical clinics and one hospital, all of which are being run by religious sister congregations. All offer medical services to the poor with a special emphasis for mothers and children. These visits were so inspiring because of the extraordinary medical service provided by the sisters with genuine love and concern for all. The hours they put in under difficult conditions are beyond belief, but somehow, they manage to do it with a joyous heart.



St. Francis de Sales Church, Mkuza, Tanzania

extraordinary beautiful church, which seats over 1000 and is full at all four weekend services.

Growing churches – The progress made since our first visit in 2004 in getting parishes established is remarkable. We toured a number of new churches where LWI provided some assistance. At one site, which we first visited in 2004 where mass was celebrated in a structure resembling a large chicken coop, now there is an

If you would like to hear more about our trip, give us an email or call. Karen and I, or others at LWI will be happy to put on a program for a group at your parish. Or, if you think you'd like to have an African missionary experience, let us know and maybe we can work it out so you can travel with a LWI director during a future trip.

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



SPOTLIGHT

Today we are shining the light on George Shinnery of Antigo, WI, friend and benefactor of Living Waters.

Having just returned from 15 days in East Africa with Karen and Brian Prunty visiting schools, health clinics and religious formation centers supported by Living Waters International, I have many vibrant memories of our visits with the priests, sisters and students we met in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

While each visit was unique, there seemed to be something similar in all of them. I now realize that it was the presence, the dedication, the hard-earned progress shepherded by the Fransalians priests and brothers at each of these facilities. There are now many more priests than when Jane and I first visited Molongo, Kenya in 2001, but many more are still needed. The outlying parish missions



George, Brother Patrick, Brian & Karen Prunty

and schools, both new and expanding, all need priests to provide wise guidance for them to prosper and carry on the evangelization and education programs of the Fransalians and their many colleagues.

This need for priests reminded me of our visit to Tabora, Tanzania in 2009, in which Jane and I participated in the ordination of Father Zachariah Burofero, the first native Tanzanian to be ordained a priest in the MSFS order. Father Zac was the first seminarian we had the privilege of supporting financially. Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting our second seminarian, now Father Thomas Njeru, who was ordained in October 2016 at the MSFS Provincial House in Morogoro, Tanzania. We also attended the Profession of Final Vows by six MSFS seminarians. This joyous ceremony was especially meaningful to me because I was able to meet Brother Patrick Musyimi, one of the six, who we will continue to support as he progresses to his ordination in two years.

When I think about the truly amazing work the Fathers have accomplished and see the many projects, which are either underway or in the planning stage, I realize what a privilege it is to be able to financially support the seminarians who soon will be able to help carry this much needed, and appreciated, work forward.



Summer Fund-raisers -2017-

Brat Fry

Sponsored by: Wrightstown Area Friends of Living Waters

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

When: Saturday
June 3, 10:00-6:00

Brat Fry at Butch's Super Valu

Sponsored by: Living Waters International (Workers needed for two hour shifts - Call 715 623-5082)

Where: 115 South Superior St., Antigo, WI

When: Friday
June 30, 10:00-2:00

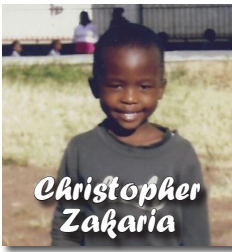
Music in the Park, Pie and Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by: Living Waters International (Pie donations & workers needed - Call 715 623-5082)

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

When: Thursday,
August 17, 6:00-8:00

Students In Need



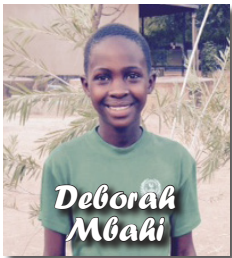
*Christopher
Zakaria*

My Name: Christopher Zakaria **Monthly Sponsorship:** \$25
Gender: Male **Favorite Subject:** Math
Birthdate: March 23, 2012 **Favorite Pastimes:** Playing with friends
Country: Tanzania
Chores: Collects firewood
Other Remarks: Christopher lives with his father and mother and is the oldest of three children. His father is a fish peddler and struggles for the family's livelihood. He can't afford to pay for Christopher's school fees and kindly requests your help.



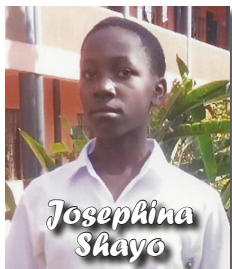
*Rebecca
Mbizo*

My Name: Rebecca Mbizo **Monthly Sponsorship:** \$25
Gender: Female **Favorite Subject:** ABC's
Birthdate: March 12, 2012 **Favorite Pastimes:** Playing with friends
Country: Tanzania
Chores: Picks up around the school grounds
Other Remarks: Presently Rebecca is in lower kindergarten. Her mother is single and they have a very poor life. They need your support.



*Deborah
Mbahi*

My Name: Deborah Mbahi **Monthly Sponsorship:** \$25
Gender: Female **Favorite Subject:** Mathematics, science & geography
Birthdate: June 10, 2004 **Favorite Pastimes:** Singing, dancing & reading
Country: Tanzania
Chores: Cooking & cleaning
Other Remarks: Deborah is one of six children and her father passed away some years back. Her mother is the sole breadwinner of the family. She is not able to go for any job because the youngest child is paralyzed and in need of constant care and attention. She has a small shop and does some farming during the rainy season.



*Josephina
Shayo*

My Name: Josephina Shayo **Monthly Sponsorship:** \$25
Gender: Female **Favorite Subject:** Kiswahili
Birthdate: March 18, 2003 **Favorite Pastimes:** Singing
Country: Tanzania **Chores:** Assists her mother in every way possible
Other Remarks: Josephina's mother is raising the children on her own. She lives and works for her three children. The father's family is very harsh on her, showing no support. It is her faith that keeps her going, but she needs financial assistance for Josephina's education.

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



Student Sponsorship

\$25 a month provides help for:

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

Payments can be made:

- Monthly..... \$25
- Quarterly \$75
- Semi-annually\$150
- Annually\$300

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



You did it! Rain Harvesting Project Completed!

by Eileen Hartl, Project Coordinator

Thank you to everyone who so generously responded to this appeal from December's newsletter. Father Jomat, *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales*, wishes to express his sincere gratitude to all who donated: "Thank you for your genuine interest in this project, I know it is going to help us greatly. The shortage of water is a big challenge for us, but with the additional tanks it will be much easier to handle during the non-rainy season." Together we are making a difference!

