

Living Waters International, Inc.

- Aid for African Catholic Missions -

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Advent Newsletter

December 2020

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

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2020 – Gratitude & Hope

by Brian Prunty, Treasurer

There is universal agreement, 2020 is a most unusual year. Here at LWI its been unusual too, but in a good way. In fact, due to the generosity of our wonderful benefactors, we have been able to make the biggest impact yet for advancing the Church’s efforts in educating, healing, and evangelizing the poor.

In the early part of the year, when we started to realize the danger potential from the CoVid19 pandemic, we were concerned about its impact to our benefactors; both in terms of their personal health, and their ability to continue to financially support us if the economy turned south. We pray our benefactors are all healthy.

We are so grateful because despite the pandemic, grants and gifts have been flowing in at a faster pace than ever before. To illustrate, for the first 10 months of 2020, total grants and gifts received was \$1.516 million, compared to \$699 thousand for the same period last year. Money sent overseas directly to mission sites during these same periods were \$1.496 million and \$706 thousand in 2020 and 2019 respectfully. To maximize the support of the poor, we continue to keep LWI’s operating expenses low; under 3% of total income.

Our gratitude to our wonderful supporters has also brightened our hope for the future.

We get many requests from missionary sisters and priests for assistance to aid the poor, which we simply cannot meet due to insufficient resources. The unmet requests are more than ever because the pandemic has shut down the economies in most third world countries. Frankly, this is the most emotionally difficult aspect of my involvement with LWI. Many requests are for clean water projects like pumps, wells, and storage tanks. Others are

for feeding the poor, often elderly folks (there are no social security like programs in Africa) or the young (often orphaned). We also have many more children seeking to enter our Student Sponsorship Program, than we have USA based sponsors.

Regarding the Student Sponsorship Program, which began in 2000, we have gotten pleas from missionaries to increase the support payment going to them. The annual cost of sponsoring a child was last increased to \$300 in 2008. Fr. Jonathon Muema, Manager of St. Francis de Sales School, Bukene, Tanzania recently wrote, “We really feel the impact of



Father Jonathon with Students at SFS Bukene Primary

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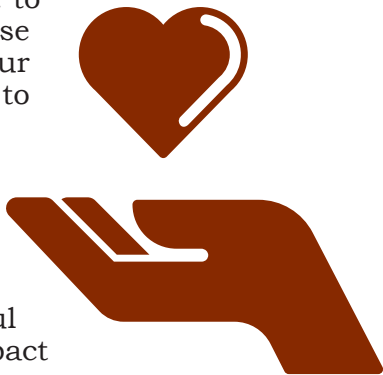
2020 – Gratitude & Hope

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educational and social transformation the supporters of Living Waters International are rendering to the sponsored children.” He went on to request, “Increasing funds for sponsored children would be a big help, because the expenses for educating and caring for the children have increased and the sponsorship fees no longer cover all of them.”

After receiving the request for additional assistance from the sisters and priests, we did an evaluation on how the sponsorship program is serving the needs of the children. As a result, a decision was made by the LWI Board to increase the annual amount from \$300 to \$360 per year for new students being sponsored. Again, this is for new student sponsorships, existing sponsorships will continue to be billed at \$300 annually, but we will be asking benefactors with their renewal to prayerfully consider increasing their gift to \$360. As always, please know that 100% of your gift is sent overseas to support your child.

2020 is a difficult year; because of this we are truly humbled by the generosity of our supporters. We are hopeful that LWI’s positive impact will continue to grow!



Safina ya Nuhu Antenatal (Prenatal) Clinic and Maternity Ward

by Stephen Zimmerman



The Servants of the Good News is a congregation of indigenous Sisters in the Mbulu Diocese of Tanzania. The Mother House is at Gitting. The congregation’s primary charism is evangelization, especially of marginalized native peoples. Special attention is given to youth and young women.

The Sisters seek support for the construction of an Antenatal (Prenatal) Clinic and Maternity Ward for the Safina ya Nuhu Dispensary at Bereko in the Kondo Diocese of Tanzania. The project will serve the women and children of the Irangi and Waasi tribes in Itololo Parish.

Women will receive proper antenatal care and delivery in the clinic’s maternity ward. Children will receive needed vaccinations to protect them from common childhood diseases. **Mother and child mortality will be reduced.** Please see the enclosed donation form if you can help support this very worthy cause.



“It is Christmas every time you let GOD love others through you. Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.”

-Mother, Saint Teresa of Calcutta

*We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous, safe New Year.
Ann, Steve, Karen & Brian, Emma & Eileen, Tina & Jeane*

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Shop at Amazon-Smile and Amazon will make a donation to Living Waters International. When you shop at AmazonSmile, (smile.amazon.com) the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to Living Waters International, Inc.



SPOTLIGHT

By Eileen Hartl

This Advent we shine the light on our brothers and sisters in Africa, living with the pandemic.

One of Mozambique's leading industries, tourism, came to a screeching halt when the government closed its airports and borders at the onset of the pandemic. Vendors along beachfronts and marketplaces suddenly had no source of income and poverty skyrocketed. Father Henry Nedumkallel, MSFS, reported, "Doors closed, the roads emptied, and fear engulfed the masses ..." still, "... a spark of hope kindles in everyone's heart that this too will pass."

"The price of everything has gone up!" explains Father Antony George, MSFS, Administrator of the SFS Primary Boarding School in Chera, Kenya. Things are looking extremely bleak as government and private sector offices were closed and businesses restricted. "We have 32 orphans with no extended family members to offer any financial support, and feeding the children is now a real challenge. We are running out of food and there is no government support. There is no peace in the families, no jobs, no money." They are simply relying on God, well-wishers, and sponsors to see them through.

Tanzanians' have fared best when it came to the virus. After one month of lockdown, people in the private sector were able to get back to work while being encouraged to social distance and wear face masks. Life went on as normal with some limitations. Three times in its history,

the country was consecrated to our Mother Mary of the Immaculate Conception, the last being at a special ceremony in Fatima, Portugal on March 25, 2020 at the onset of the pandemic. Father Johnson Kallidukil, MSFS, reflects that "to the secular mind in the scientific world, these things may sound absurd." However, if one should ask him if this sort of thing is meaningful, his answer would be a resounding "Yes!" "Faith has its answers, which generate only questions in the minds of the faithless. The proof is in the Corona-Free Life in Tanzania and other nations consecrated to the Immaculate Mother."

In Iyolwa, Uganda, Father Robert Raj, MSFS, says, "The sickness itself has not caused our problems so much as the lockdown." In the case of teen pregnancies, numbers have soared to nearly 4,000 above the normal rate. According to Father Paul Santhosh, MSFS, in Osia "Churches opened in October with a limited number of worshippers allowed, but the churches are full ... they take life as it comes, happy with the little they have." When there is next to nothing to show for a day's wage, or even worse, no wage whatsoever, the human heart can become brittle and broken; *it also can expand and prepare its chambers for Christ to come.*

The light of the Advent wreath is growing; for those in Africa, in their darkness they perceive this far better than I. And that special "Someone", our true light, will fill their empty hearts, and the night of this pandemic, it "too will pass."



Orphan children having lunch at SFS Primary, Chera

"...it also can expand and prepare its chambers for Christ to come."

Goretti Fundraisers

A big shout out goes to our Wrightstown Friends of Living Waters for your support of another successful brat fry and pie sale last summer. Thank you to Dick's Family Foods and the Dick & Bonnie VandenWymelenberg family for organizing the sale. We also express our gratitude to Catholic Financial Life for their support in this fundraiser.

While the COVID crisis did not allow for us to host our usual fundraisers in Antigo, we are selling African art on our Facebook page. Please check it out and share it with your friends. For our new readers, Goretti was born with bladder exstrophy and the money we raise helps her family to afford disposable diapers and other pharmaceutical aids that keep her dry and free from infections.



Students In Need



My Name: Michelle Musiyaki

Gender: Female **Birthdate:** Unknown
Country: Kenya **Chores:** Fetching water, laundry, & sweeping
Favorite Subject: Reading
Favorite Pastimes: Singing and playing with friends
Other Remarks: Michelle's Mother makes a living by selling charcoal on the street. Fr. Sunny, the mission coordinator, found her in a bad situation and brought her to the school hostel. Your sponsorship will make a difference because she is well fed, healthy, and intellectually stimulated with a future of opportunity ahead of her.



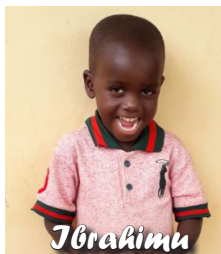
Student's Name: Lewandre Jacobs

Gender: Male **Birthdate:** July 22, 2015
Country: South Africa **Chores:** Too young for chores
Favorite Subject: ABC's & 123's
Favorite Pastimes: Playing with friends
Other Remarks: Lewandre currently lives with his mother in a 1-room brick house with a cement floor and asbestos roof. There is running water and electricity. The local municipality gave them the house. His father does not care for the child in any way and the mother has financial difficulties.



Student's Name: Christina Elibariki Kiula

Gender: Female **Birthdate:** September 9, 2008
Country: Tanzania **Chores:** Gardening & cleaning of classrooms and hostel
Favorite Subject: Mathematics
Favorite Pastimes: Singing & sports
Other Remarks: Christina's father owns a small business but cannot afford to pay her tuition, and room/ board. Through a sponsorship, Christina will receive a good education, clothing, medical assistance, shelter, and Christian formation.



Student's Name: Ibrahimu Hasan Lwangisa

Gender: Male **Birthdate:** March 24, 2015
Country: Tanzania **Chores:** Too young currently
Favorite Subject: ABC's & 123's
Favorite Pastimes: Singing
Other remarks: This child is in dire need. He is an orphan; his uncle took him in after his parents threw him out and the uncle is utterly poor. Sr. Lucy Maliekal and Father Toppo have become Ibrahimu's mother and father, and they take care of him in all ways. Ibrahimu is now school age and needs school funding among his many other needs.



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.



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

Rest in Peace



Our sincere sympathies to the families of **Joseph Sheehan, James Draeger, and Leonard Wild.**

Living Waters and their beneficiaries will never forget their kindness toward the poor.

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.***