

Thank you for your generous support.

Blessings of Joy Board of Directors: It is the beginning of a new school year at Mweruka Junior School, Uganda. This is an unusual beginning with just 38 sixth-grade students returning to school in March. This month, April, fourth and fifth grade students return and join the sixth graders. It is expected that by spring or early summer all classes will be back in session, with 400 plus students.

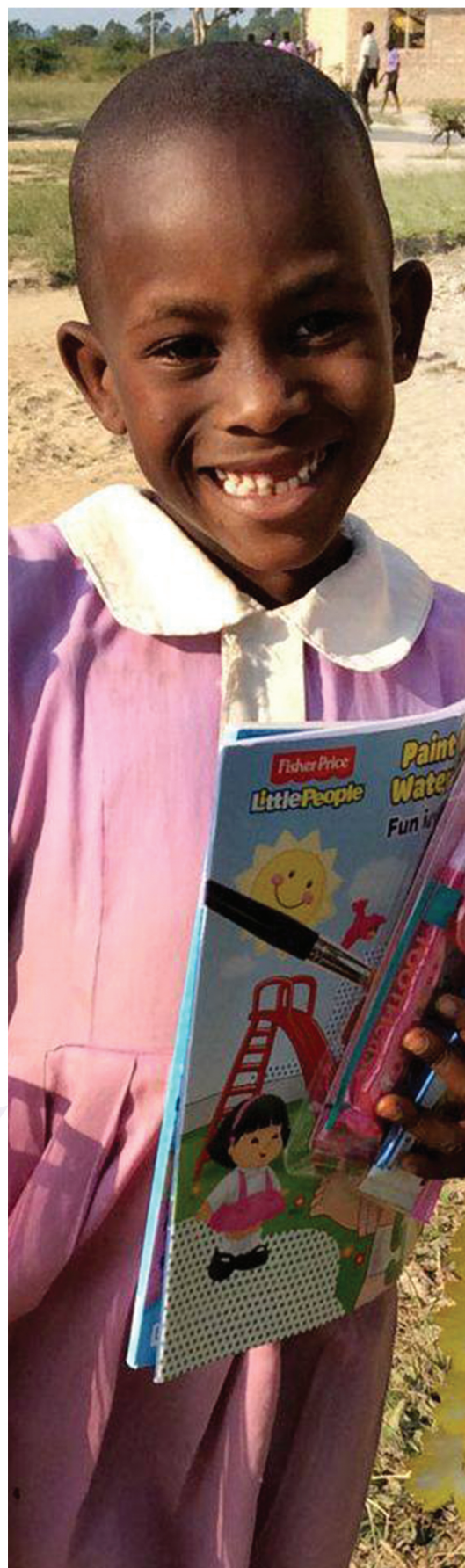
The beginning of the school year is also the time when Blessings of Joy-USA receives and reviews grant requests for Mweruka Junior School (MJS) and Blessings of Joy-Uganda. The grant requests are reviewed and adjusted based on anticipated available funds for 2021. Because of the generosity of so many, new teachers have been added to meet special learning and educational needs. Nutrition funding will increase to meet nutrition and health needs of an increasing number of children.

One of the goals of Blessings of Joy is for as many students as possible to be able to go on to high school after graduating from MJS. We are thankful for the many sponsors who are providing the opportunity for 24 MJS graduates to leave Mweruka to attend high school. Each of these students is provided tuition, room, board, and school supplies. Twelve of the 24 will be entering their first year of high school. Two sponsored graduates are attending trade school.

The number of MJS sponsored children has increased to 50. There are several other children who need and desire the love and support of a sponsor. If you think you might be interested in sponsoring a child and want to learn more, we encourage you to go to our web site, <https://www.blessingsofjoy.com>, click on Sponsor a Child for pictures and information about individual children. Click on Contact Us and then click on Carrie, BoJ Sponsor Liaison to send your questions by email to Carrie.

We thank you for your partnership. The children thank you for your caring support.

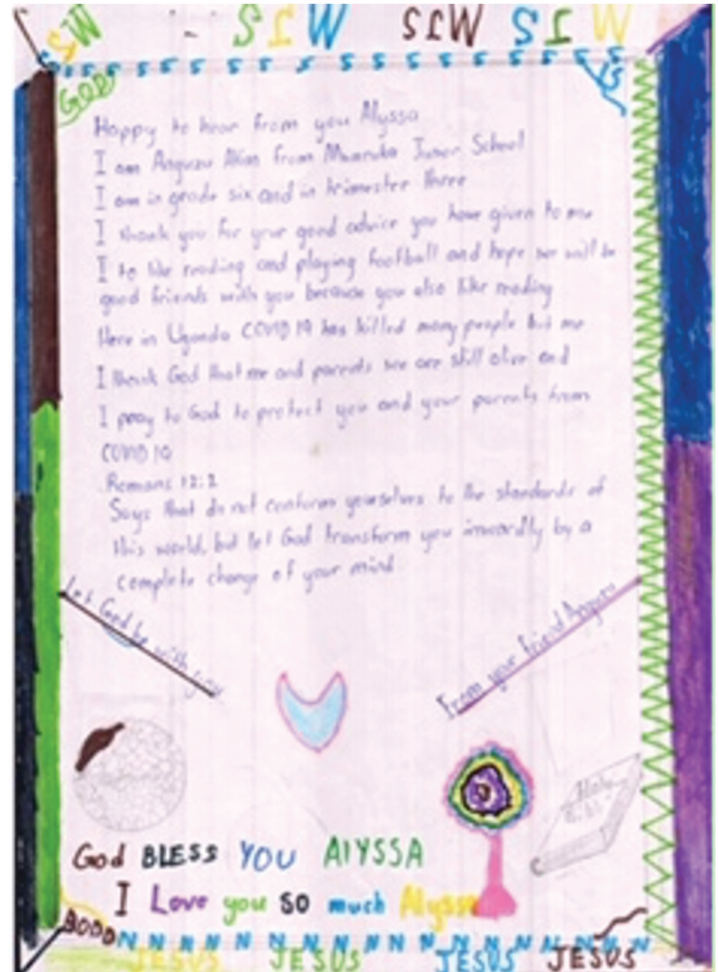
Blessings,
Jon Calvert, Chairperson



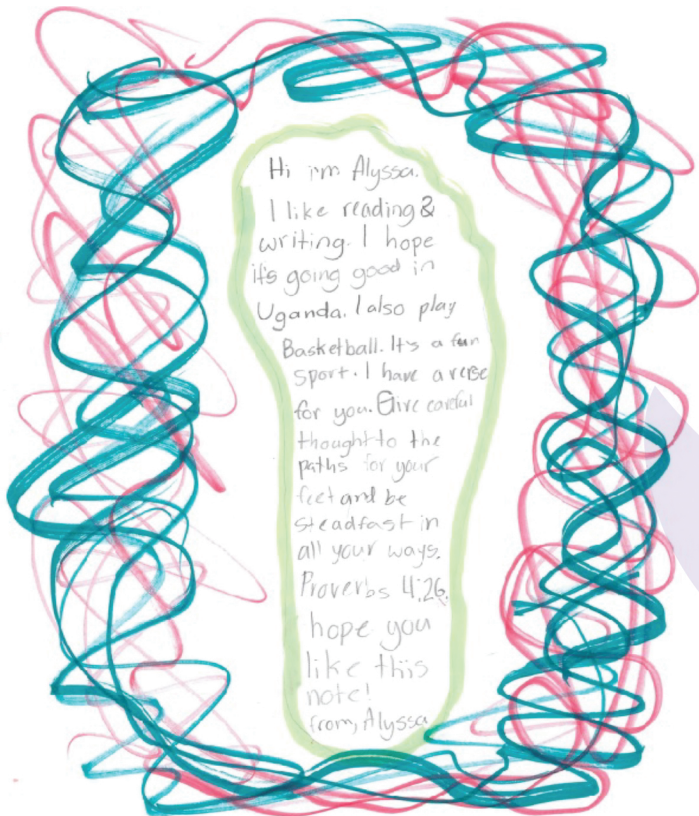
Connecting - A World Apart

The fourth-grade class at Redeemer Church in Tulsa has been studying about “servant-hood” and recently heard about the Blessings of Joy shoes project. They wrote letters to the students at Mweruka Junior School, and the 6th grade class of MJS wrote back!! The letters were beautifully designed, bringing words of encouragement. We are hoping and praying this will be the start of a beautiful picture of how the body of Christ connects from a world apart!

Letter from MJS 6th Grader.



Letter from Redeemer 4th Grader.



6th grade class at MJS - Prayer pals

Uganda- School Opening! Benon's Report

In a letter from Benon sent to the BOJ Board on 2/9/21 we received the following information:

"I love and greet you in the name of the Lord. I want to tell you that (the) government has declared the reopening of other classes, but not all classes will resume at the same time. Primary six, high school senior three and technical students will be allowed to return on March 1st. The government said other classes of Primary 4 and 5 will follow in April, with the rest of classes to follow."

He also states in his letter that the government wants to resume where the students left off in 2020. The 2020 academic calendar will end in August and the 2021 calendar year will begin in September or October 2021.



THE UGANDA FLAG FEATURES A GREY CROWNED CRANE WITH ONE FOOT UP, SYMBOLIZING THE COUNTRY MOVING FORWARD. PRAY THAT MJS WOULD BE A TOOL GOD USES TO EDUCATE FUTURE GODLY LEADERS.

Featured Child: MATABALO ANDREW

Andrew was featured in our last newsletter. Andrew is still in need of sponsorship. Andrew is a young man who likes schooling so much. He is one of the most serious students and struggles daily to make the long walk from home to school, even if there is much rain. His home provision is lacking the support he needs to concentrate well in class. Andrew has potential to graduate from MJS, pass the National Exams and attend high school.

How would sponsorship help Andrew? Sponsorship would provide for Andrew's school tuition, a daily nutrition fortified school lunch, his school uniform, a pair of shoes with socks, and school supplies. Each month it would provide Andrew's family with a sack of cornmeal, powdered milk, blocks of soap, toothpaste, vaseline and shoe polish. It also would provide for any special needs such medical care, mosquito net, mattress, clothes, a special gift from sponsor at birthday or Christmas.

The gift of sponsorship is \$35 each month.

Thank you for being in prayer that sponsors will come forward to help Andrew and 20 other children who seek sponsors.

For sponsorship questions, contact Carrie, Blessings of Joy Sponsor Liaison.



Shoes for Children of MJS - With little, God can do much!

School is starting up in Uganda, the vulnerable children at Mwreuka Junior School will need new shoes. Just like all children, their feet grow fast and shoes wear out. Unlike our children and grandchildren, shoes are a luxury item and their feet are at risk of getting jiggers. The sand fleas dig and lay their eggs into bare feet and causing pain and sores. The Children at MJS have been blessed not to have a serious jigger outbreak since the Rotary Club of Tulsa provided the children shoes over 5 years ago. Through your generous giving Blessings of Joy has continued to provide shoes yearly, except for last year when schools were closed.

Shoes also protect the children's feet during their long walks to school, and during the rainy season. Shoes also make the children look "smart" in their uniform and give the children confidence. One pair of leather shoes costs \$17.00. The children's feet are measured by a local cobbler and he will make the shoes locally, helping to support the local economy.

This year Blessings of Joy's goal was to raise \$5,950. This will provide a pair of shoes and socks for each child in need. Through the generous giving of so many donors the matching grant was matched and exceeded. The goal for this year has been met. Thank you so much! "The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," Matthew 25:40 (NIV).

For more about shoes for children visit the Blessings of Joy website, BlessingsofJoy.com.

Cobbler measuring child's foot



New socks and shoes!



Featured Teacher of the MJS: Nawagaba Laban



Mweruka Junior School has 18 teachers on staff. Some teachers have given permission to feature them in our quarterly newsletter. They have agreed to answer some questions. If you have a question you would like to ask a teacher, let us know and we will forward your question to them. Send your question(s) to Mary our newsletter coordinator via our website, BlessingsofJoy.com.

How did you come to be involved with BOJ? What is your specific role?

"I am a teacher of English in upper classes and also, a director of studies and head of nutrition committee at MJS-Uganda."

With so many organizations to support, why should others choose BOJ?

"The BOJ is a very good organization. The services it offers are of a greater value to both students, teachers, parents and the community in general."

Is there anything else you would like to share?

"I would like to share with you about the adult literacy education program. Many adults here can neither read nor write. So, if possible, this program can be started to erase illiteracy among the adults of Mweruka Village."



Prayer and Praise

- 21 Children who due to extreme poverty need a sponsor. **Pray for sponsors for these children.**
- **Pray for Primary 7 students who are taking National Exams** which will determine their readiness to move on to High School
- **Continued protection** during the uncertain times ahead
- **Pray for continued wisdom and discernment** for decision concerning the future development of the campus in 2021
- **Praise-** for our recent "Prayer Pal" project between Redeemer 4th grade class, and 6th grade MJS students
- **Pray for funding for more shoes**

Giving with a "CLICK"

AMAZON SMILE

Make BOJ your favorite charity on AMAZON SMILE. Start by logging onto <http://www.smile.amazon.com> and registering. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase (excluding shipping, handling and taxes) to Blessings of Joy.

BING

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