

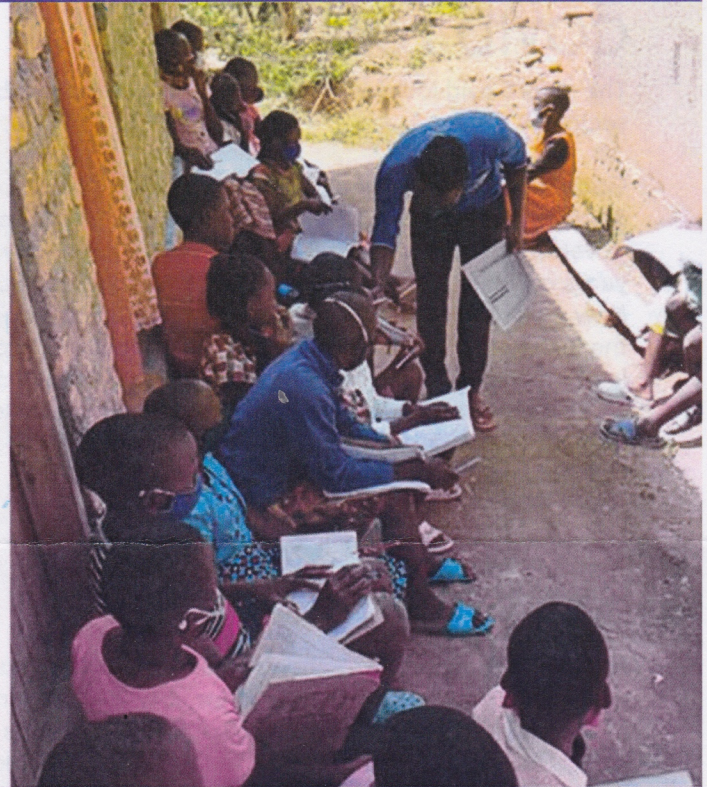
FEATURED NEWS

Serving Community and Children

Since Covid first closed Mweruka Junior School 18 months ago the teachers and staff have done a remarkable job of serving the children of MJS and village families. We thank God for their service. The teachers and staff have:

- Taught groups of students (≤ 6) in the village during the first lockdown and school closure
- Maintained the MJS campus
- Upgraded the campus for reopening, according to government Covid mandated guidelines
- Educated village families regarding covid guidelines
- Taught villagers how to make and use handwashing stations or "tip taps"
- Identified 76 village families needing nutritional support, purchased food and distributed it to the families.
- Established learning centers in the village where larger groups of students continue to be taught during current (second) lockdown and school closure

Village Teaching Center



Latrine Collapses! Urgent financial help needed

In August of this year, the old and poorly constructed pit latrine collapsed. With the pit latrine no longer functional the number of latrine stalls available to the 400 students and 18 staff is four. Given the number of students, four stalls do not fulfill the rules and regulations of the Uganda Ministries of Education/Health. The MJS-proposed new latrine would provide six new stalls increasing the total number of stalls to 10, which would fulfill the rules and regulations. School does not resume until January 2022. This provides a two-month window of opportunity to build the latrine before school reopens. The cost of the new six stall latrine is \$4,442. Blessings of Joy is asking for donations to cover the cost of building the new latrine. Thank you in advance for your financial support!

If you want to contribute to the new latrine building, please use the enclosed donation card.

GIVING
WITH A CLICK

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SMILE

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

BING

Don't do much on-line shopping? Give With BING. Use BING as your search Engine via Microsoft Edge - Check it out! <https://www.bing.com/give/join>

Blessings of Joy is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

COVID Lockdown

The strict Covid lockdown for the past 3-4 months is being lifted in some sectors.

Godfrey reports: "Things are getting back to normal. By January the Ugandan government is aiming to lift any kind of lockdown upon any sector. The government goal is to vaccinate everyone in the country who is above 18 years or older. Almost all of the staff members got vaccinated with first round. Now waiting for the second round. Covid has affected most of sectors under the lockdown. In the Mweruka region agricultural produce has encountered a low price and lack of market. Covid lockdown in our community has affected students with an increase in teenage pregnancies and children taken to Kampala to work particularly as house maids. Covid prolonged lockdowns have adversely affected the economic sector."

School Closure

Primary and secondary schools remain closed. It is anticipated the Government will allow them to reopen in January 2022. There was a partial reopening in spring and early summer 2021. Primary grades 4-7 had been attending school for about two months when the second strict lockdown and school closure was initiated in August 2021. Late January, early February is the traditional beginning of the academic year. The first lockdown and school closure began March of 2020. Because of school closures students have missed two years of primary education. Whatever grade a student was in when school closed March of 2020 will be the grade they will be in when primary and secondary schools opens in January 2022.

! We currently have 10 children that are awaiting sponsorship. If you have questions, please contact Carrie at sponsoredchildren@blessingsofjoy.com.

CHILD IN NEED: Nalule Florence

To sponsor Nalule Florence, visit BlessingsofJoy.com/nalule-florence/.

Florence has been on the sponsored child list for more than a year. She is 15 years old, (birth date August 24, 2006) and will be in the sixth grade when school resumes January 2022. Florence is well behaved, has a beautiful smile and hopes to go on to high school. Florence stays with both of her parents in a very poor family of 11 members. The father's income is too low to support the whole family in addition to taking the children to school. Both of Florence's parents are humbly requesting help for their daughter.

Sponsorship would provide for Florence's school tuition, a daily nutrition fortified school lunch, a school uniform with pair of shoes and socks, plus school supplies. You will also help her family with a monthly ration of 2 sacks of cornmeal, powdered milk, blocks of soap, toothpaste, Vaseline and shoe polish. Sponsorship also provides for any special needs such as medical care, mosquito netting, mattress, clothes, a special gift from her sponsor at birthday and Christmas.

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Pray that God opens new doors for latrine funding.
- Pray that school returns to normal in 2022 without lockdowns.
- Pray that financial aid will become available for MJS students who have graduated from high school and desire to enter technical training or university, so that they are able to bring the Light of Christ into Uganda as adults with a witness.
- Pray that the five students awaiting a sponsor would receive the gift of sponsorship this coming school year, 2022.
- The teachers, staff and children of Mweruka Junior School have stayed healthy and have not contracted COVID.
- The teachers have been able to receive the first round of vaccinations.
- We give thanks for the sponsors of children in MJS or high school who have been faithful to maintain their financial support



MEET

Benon Kizito (CHAIRMAN BOJ-UGANDA)

In addition to being Chairman of Blessings of Joy – Uganda Board of Directors, Benon is responsible for the Sponsored Children Program, oversees the Blessings of Joy House (orphanage), leader of Blessings of Joy Gospel Outreach, helps direct the Blessings of Joy Church, which Solomon founded.

We are pleased to share Benon's response to our request.

"Thank you for giving me an opportunity to appear in newsletter! In brief, I am Benon Kizito, I am married with my wife Dorcus. We have 4 girls! In Blessings of Joy, I oversee the works of the organization, however, I am working mostly for sponsored children and I am glad that some children have already completed O Level (high school). I am happy to see children growing from younger age to big men and women. I love them like my own children and I want them to go higher and be great people in our country! Challenges with sponsored children are that: It's not simple task to maintain them in school especially girls, after completion of primary level some begin to think to discontinue the studies. The other challenge is that some kids get family crisis or dangerous and unstable conditions and others lose their guardians. Then you have to find them a place to stay. That makes me to take them to stay at BOJ House. The BOJ house is about 23 kilometers from the school and that means they should be at BOJ house during break times. We have a problem of accommodating of such children at school since we have no boarding section at Mweruka Junior School.

I am also fully engaged in gospel missions and very grateful to people who are supporting the work of the Lord. As far as I can tell, the successes of the organization have come through this channel, believe it or not!

Also, Blessings has a church, I am happy that I am given a chance to minister most of the time I visit the church every month, however, I attend another church in Kampala and my Pastor is Julius Ewotu.

I must end now. Blessings to you and your families, Benon."



Fantastic! Primary Leaving Exam Results:

How about a high five for students and teachers. Through the above and beyond efforts of the students, teachers and staff the academic performance of the students has shown marked improvement. All graduating 7th grade students must take a national standardized exam, the Primary Leaving Exam (PLE). In 2017 no MJS student achieved the highest score, D-1 level, on the PLE exam. For the most recent PLE exam (2020), 49 percent of MJS graduates achieved the D-1 level and 50 percent achieved the D-2 level score. To attend high school a student must score at the D-3 level or better.

The BOJ Board is pleased with and proud of the students, teachers and staff at MJS. Through the generosity of so many Blessings of Joy partners the Sponsor a MJS teacher/Staff Drive now funds all of the 18 teacher/staff sponsorship positions.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



MJS Campus

Churches and Lockdown

Godfrey reports on the lockdown's effect for his church.

Religiously, particularly in my Church, some believers have totally fallen and other have backslade from faith. Through this lockdown, we received two women who went mad and needed our prayers for deliverance. We are still praying for them, and God is helping them, now are being okay. On the other side, through evangelism, people are getting saved. People are accepting Jesus as their personal savior and are entering Church.

"This Sunday, our church is ministering on a certain crusade. I feel grateful because God has given me a chance to minister on the crusade as a pianist".

"Our church created a group of youths in our sub-county who go and preach the gospel six months on some selected Sundays in a year to different villages. The other six months we go to different churches for ministering again on some selected days. God has given us a chance to preach the Gospel and minister to His people. I thank God and continue uttering out His Name that he is Lord and my personal savior."



Blessings of Joy for Christmas 2021

Jesus Christ was born to save mankind. We celebrate his birth at Christmas time. He came as a baby and experienced all that we do as human beings on this earth. He was fortunate to have a loving mother and father to oversee that he had shelter, was fed and kept safe. In sending Jesus to earth as our Savior, God provided for his Son to help us understand his love (Luke 2).

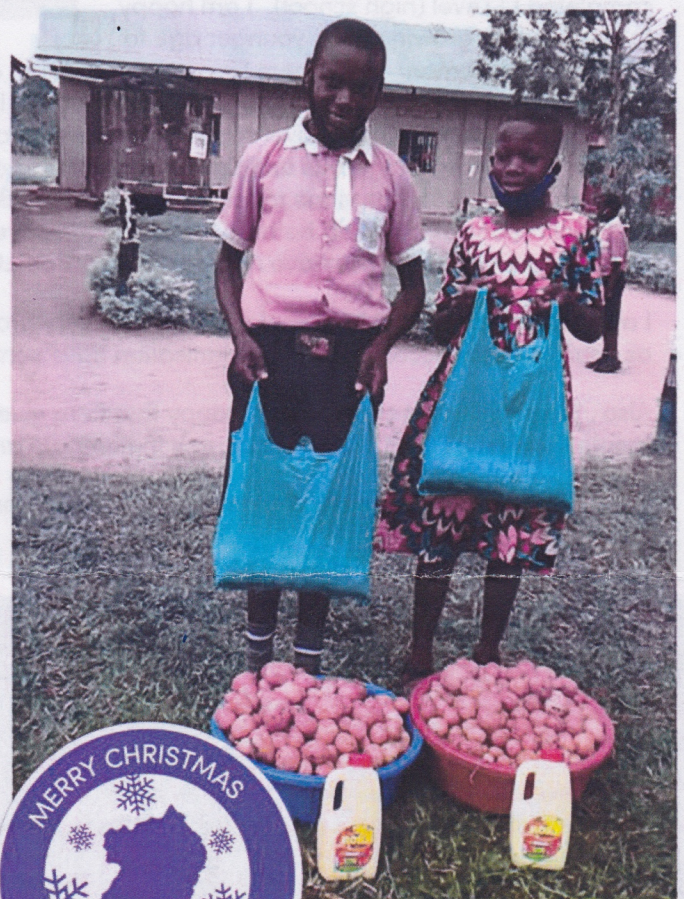
Jesus gave gifts of food and drink to many during his ministry. He fed 5,000 from 5 small loaves of bread and 2 small fish (John 6). He celebrated at a friend's wedding by changing water to the best wine (John 2).

BOJ students and their families/guardians look forward to a special Christmas meal – similar to the Thanksgiving we celebrate in America. Ugandan's look forward to simple but more costly rice, chicken and fruit. A tradition of sending \$10 from the BOJ special needs fund for a Christmas Meal for each sponsored child was started in 2020. The Christmas meal for each sponsored child and their family lets the child and family know that they are special in the Lord's eyes. It provides a family meal with which to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

A SPECIAL NEEDS DONATION of \$10 or more for the Christmas Meal will help feed several in a family and help them continue to know that they are valued and cared for. GOD IS LOVE.

Thank you, Father for sending your Son. Merry Christmas everyone!

If you would like to donate to the sponsored children's special needs fund, please see enclosed donation card.



Thank you for your generous support! Blessings of Joy, Inc, is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. All gifts are tax-deductible.

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