

## Electricity for Mwerka Junior School



The lone “telephone” pole in this picture will soon have electric lines attached to it. Placed next to the playground at least four years ago, it has represented the promise of electricity, someday. A recent, encouraging report from the school administrator, Godfrey reads,

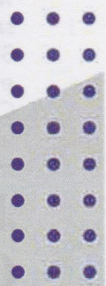
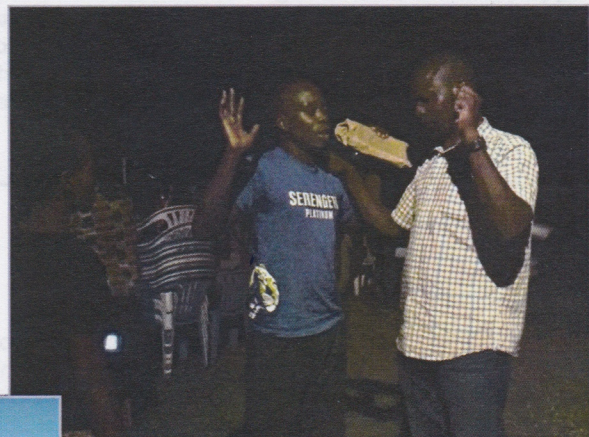
*“June 12 - The status of the electric utility bringing power to school is promising. It’s on the third last stage of installing the transformer, then after its installation, connecting to the main and then commissioning the line will take place.*”

*June 24 - The installation of the earth system where the transformer is going to sit from is done plus other small minor issues, like back soil filling, so the process is any time reaching its final ends, probably it might be next month/August.”*

Just imagine lights, computers for learning, printers, television, water pumps, refrigeration, and more. This will be such a blessing for Mweruka Junior School children, teachers and staff. Pray that electricity will come to the campus soon and that sufficient funds will be raised to bring electricity

Solomon, and his son Abraham travel to Uganda this month, August. As founder and director of Blessings of Joy and Mweruka Junior School, Solomon returns to Uganda at least once a year. He will be meeting with Godfrey, administrator MJS, and with his brother, Benon, Chairman of Blessing of Joy -Uganda and treasurer. There will be at least one meeting with the MJS teachers and staff, usually over a meal. He will spend time visiting with the MJS children and meet over a meal with their guardians and parents, an important time of sharing and listening. Solomon will travel to Masaka and meet with the sponsored children attending Africa with Love High School. Solomon was a teacher in Uganda and cares deeply for the children. Staying at the Blessing of Joy House Orphanage, Solomon will spend a couple of days at Blessings of Joy Church where he will preach and teach.

## Solomon to Visit Uganda



# Joyce's Journey: 2014-2022

Joyce's journey, 2014-2022: from Mweruka Junior School, to Africa with Love High School, to the Kiterrede Vocational Institute where she studies fashion and design. Graduation is set for January of 2023

In 2014 a Medical Mission Team sponsored by Power of a Nickel, returned to BOJ's Mweruka Junior School (MJS) for routine yearly checkups. A special percussion musician, Arthur Thompson, went along that year. An extraordinary drummer, Arthur also loves working with and teaching children – how to feel the beat, listen for new sounds, understanding the energy of different rhythms.

Arthur writes: "I remember seeing this little girl dancing to the drum rhythms in the school yard. Her movements were very good. She caught my eye immediately.

After the dancing and drumming, I had a conversation with Joyce about school and her future wishes. She loved singing and was a worship leader at MJS. I spoke with Carrie (Sponsor Liaison – BOJ) and another team member about sponsorship. I decided to sponsor Joyce and her brother George.

It was a blessing to be able to sponsor them. They helped me more than I could ever help them! My life is forever changed because of this amazing experience. My prayers are with Joyce."

In the Fall of 2015, as Joyce took her Primary Leaving Exams from MJS, Arthur turned sponsorship over to another BOJ supporter, Cheryl, who continues to sponsor Joyce to this day.

Cheryl writes: "It was so good to meet Joyce when we were in Uganda and even though it's been 6 years, the memory of Joyce and her Grandmother is still fresh in my mind. They are such grateful people who love Jesus.

What a great opportunity to learn about education in Uganda by supporting a student. Joyce has been faithful to write to me with very neat handwriting and creative colorful pictures every few months. She always asks about my family, and thanks us for the support in addition to letting us know how she's doing and what's happening in school. Her pictures show her beautiful smile and I've watched her grow into a beautiful young woman. She has been dedicated and persistent to complete her studies even though some have been difficult. She also pushed through Covid to continue her schooling.

I know this is in part from our financial support, but there's more from the leadership and encouragement provided by Benon, Solomon and the BOJ board members, showing what amazing things can be done in Jesus' name. Thank you Blessings of Joy!!"

God continues to watch over the Blessings of Joy children of Mweruka, Uganda



## Jenks Church: Christ's Love in Action

From the beginning until recently the Blessings of Joy sponsorship model was one of sponsorship of individual children by individual sponsors. Jenks Church has provided donors & sponsors with a group sponsorship model.

As Kim describes it, "... the idea started with BOJ Board member, Vicki Karney, sharing a BOJ newsletter with Kim at work, no pressure for involvement, simply with joy and passion. This got Kim interested in BOJ so she shared it with her husband, Rod. They decided this is the right mission to support because of their friendship and trust in Vicki and Carrie Duran (Sponsor Liaison for BOJ) also a BOJ Board member and friend. One Sunday morning as Kim listened to Jenks Church Pastor Dave Winn's message, she felt the nudge to ask if Jenks Church could get involved in BOJ. With thought, prayer and patience, Dave and Kim met with Jon Calvert, Vicki and Carrie to learn about the

mission and how Jenks Church could be involved. God moves us and works in our communities.

Jenks Church has a passion for missions, near and far. It is our goal to involve the whole church – children, teens and adults. When the JC learned that BOJ needed sponsors for 5 students, each ministry group was assigned students. The Children's Ministry is sponsoring 2 BOJ students, the Students' (teens) Ministry is also sponsoring 2 BOJ students and the church at large is sponsoring one student. Children loving and helping children!! God at work.

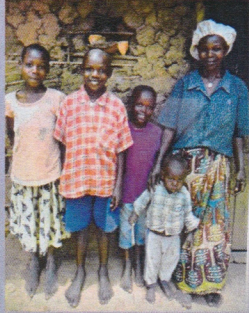
Recently, Jenks Church children were challenged at Vacation Bible School to raise money for another mission in Africa. They exceeded the goal by nearly four-fold and joyfully celebrated their success. Children loving and helping children!!"

Thank you, Jenks Church, Pastor Dave and Kim for sharing your story. Such a wonderful gift of love and support for the children of Mweruka Junior School, Uganda.

(Jenks Church sponsored kids)

# Growing up with Edward

In 2016 Blessings of Joy – Uganda identified several children who, based on their social and financial situation, were eligible for sponsorship. We asked Benon, sponsorship director in Uganda, to identify two children, one boy and one girl, who most needed sponsorship. We began our sponsorship of Edward and Immaculate. This is Edward's story.



The sponsorship announcement with Edward's picture told us that Edward was 10 years old. "Edward is living with his mother and father with three siblings. He is well disciplined bright boy in the school. The family is struggling to send the four children to school at once."

As a sponsored child Edward and his family began receiving monthly "rations" (food, soap, toothpaste, Vaseline, school supplies). Each

year Edward received a school uniform and a pair of shoes and socks. Each trimester his Mweruka Junior School tuition was paid.

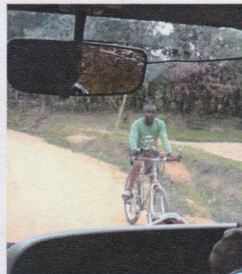
Edward enjoyed school and did well academically. He ranked first or second in his academic class standing in grades 5, 6 and 7. In November of 2019, Edward graduated from Mweruka Junior School. Graduating first in his class, he received a graduation award, a bicycle. Though bicycles are a primary mode of transportation, children having one is beyond the means of most villagers. There are not many bicycles in the village.



Our sponsorship obligation ended with Edward's graduation from Mweruka Junior School. Edward has a promising future and desired to go on to high school. We chose to continue to sponsor Edward through high school. Then Covid hit and Uganda high schools were closed for school years 2020 and 2021.

In September 2020 Benon was driving in the village area and took a picture

of Edward riding his bike. We received the photo from Benon with the comment, "Seeing Edward riding his bike made me smile" (rear view mirror).



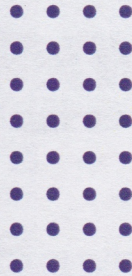
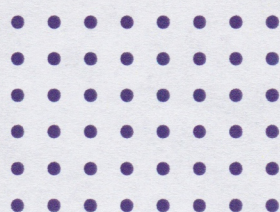
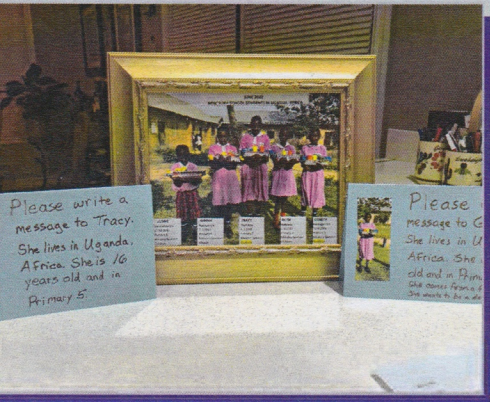
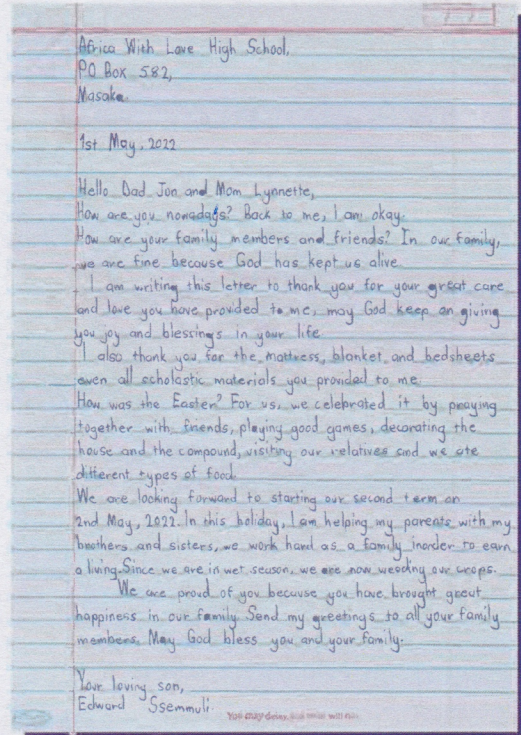
During the two years of school closure, sponsored children received a gift on their birthday and at Christmas. During Covid lockdowns food became scarce and expensive due to fewer crops and high transportation costs. For the sponsored children Christmas gifts during these two years was food, a Christmas dinner for their family.

In January of 2022, happy, excited and a little anxious Edward began high school at Africa with Love High School and Clinic in Masaka. We received a picture of Edward with new high school supplies, a mattress, which sponsorship provides along with tuition, room and board.



Recently, we received a letter from Edward. His primary education at Mweruka Junior School has prepared him well for high school. His End of First Term Assessment Report is impressive.

"We are thankful and humbled that God has allowed us to help two of God's children fulfill their hopes and dreams in Christ." J and L, BOJ sponsors



# Mom Liz's Girls

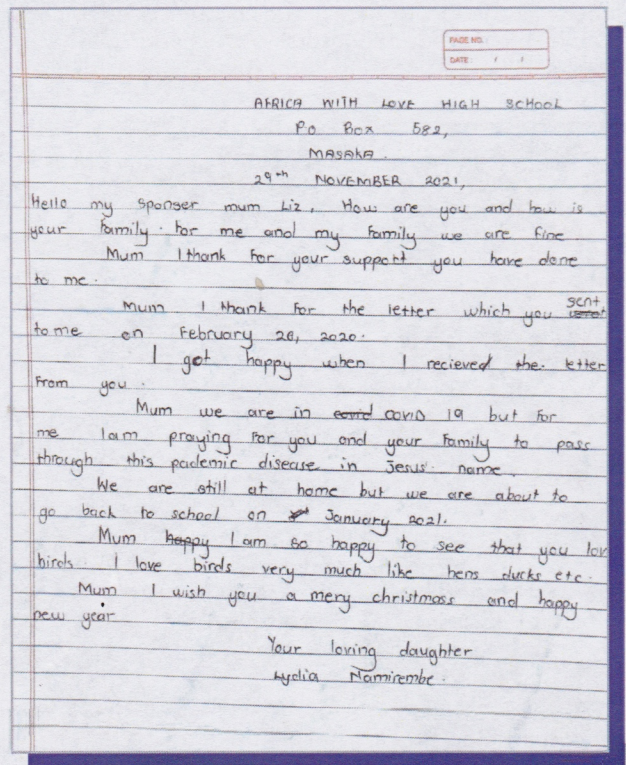
Mom Liz is an early sponsor for Blessings of Joy's (BOJ) primary school (P1-7) children. Sponsorship of four young girls attending BOJ's Mweruka Junior School (MJS) began around 2014. Each girl eventually graduated MJS P-7. Now in 2022, three of the girls are among 19 other MJS grads at the Africa With Love High School and Clinic in Masaka. Sponsorship for all continues. Joan, Liz's youngest girl is now Level S-2. She lives at the BOJ House/Orphanage when school is not in session. Maria is Level S-4 and will graduate this year. Lydia, Level S-3 is progressing well. Judith, the oldest of the 4 girls, advanced to extended high school (A Level S-5 of 6), following the Stream of Study for Science at the Archbishop Kiwanuka Secondary School - Kitovu Parish, Masaka. Judith is on track for university studies.

God has been at work through Mom Liz over the years and He continues to be through many sponsors and their wonderful BOJ students, Sharing God's love, one child at a time.



L to R: Joan, Maria, Lydia, Judith

Mom Liz has given permission to share letters recently received from her girls



## You've got Mail...

The staff of Mweruka Junior School have sent thank you letters. To access the letters, go to website and click on "you've got mail".



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## PRAYER & PRAISE

**Lord, thank you** that the beautiful children are able to attend school again, enjoying being with each other, learning, receiving a nutritious meal once a day, and being loved by their teachers.

**Thank you** for the gift of child sponsorship. There remain children in need of the love and caring manifest in sponsorship. Lord, we pray that you will continue to guide the selection of children and their sponsors, that your love will abound, that both sponsor and child will know your peace, your love and your grace.

**We praise you Lord** and thank you that Mweruka Junior School will soon have electricity on campus.

**We ask for your protection** from covid for students, staff, teachers, and families.

**May your hedge** of protection surround Solomon and his son Abe as they travel to Uganda this month, August. Guide, direct and protect them.