

# UGANDA NEWS UPDATE

## SPRING EDITION 2023

### **Greetings from Pastor Robert**

God is with people suffering from disaster the refugee, the earthquake survivor, the children facing famine, and struggling families. God calls us to follow Him in offering hope to the most vulnerable in their hour of greatest need. Following Jesus' example, we seek out the lost, injured, and threatened, providing care and protection when everything feels hopeless. Matthew 25:35.

The Lord has been so good to us since we started the Karamoja mission souls have been so much blessed and touched lives have been transformations. These are the just few of the testimonies from Karamoja.

Samantha who has 5 children, two daughters and three sons, she is 25 year old her husband is a day laborer. The entire family lives in a single grass thatched mud house that the father built. "The roof was leaking every time it rained but thru the help and advice of Free Life, we have been able to erect a conducive house for my family."

### **Testimonies from the Clinic Project**

Sofia is 3 months old and was severely malnourished. The Doctor mentioned, "When I held her, I could barely feel her weight when she was brought here at the clinic for treatment. I could hardly believe what my eyes saw but as a doctor I administered the necessary medication together with nutrition the baby has greatly improved. Since the inception of the health clinic here in the Karamoja region we have had numerous cases to deal with, but much have been sanita-

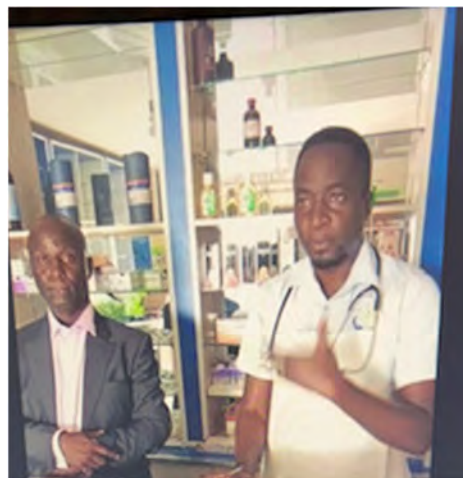
tion related many involving Malaria and Typhoid, but we have managed to reach out to the population teaching them on how best they can protect themselves and it its indeed achieving positive results.

One of the greatest achievements we are really appreciating God for is that we have been able to receive some medicines from the Government urgencies which have come in to support the work that is being done in the Karamoja, we got mosquito nets which can help the people to be shielded from mosquito bites.

On average the doctor attends to almost 32 people per day.

Since we are in a rural setting no power there is need of a solar equipment system to aid in lighting up the clinic when it darkens because currently we use torches and candles which is quite dangerous.

As per now we are in need of at least 2 more hospital patient beds. We also need some hospital equipment that can help us do some specialized treatment so if God wills we shall be grateful.



Pastor Robert with the Senior Doctor of the Karamoja Clinic.

## The School Project

*“The intelligent mind acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.”—Proverbs 18:15*

“I felt like a horrible mother,” she said. “I always wanted to give my kid whatever they needed. This is one of the comments given by one woman who has a child that was not schooling, but we largely thank Free Life and the partners who have made it possible for our children to attain education, she said she was grateful for the help she received and felt it was imperative to be blessed,” she said. “I’m happy.”

Since the school started and provision of desks, chairs and other furniture’s were made available the school enrolment has increased superficially people from surrounding areas have made camps near the village where the school is located just to make sure their children attain education. They have decided to do so in a way of shortening the foot (walking) distance for their small children, when I heard of this I was baffled of how the illiterate communities desire their children to be educated.

When we started our mission in Karamoja we found out that the people that had volunteered to teach were lacking some training so we took them for some training that is necessary and am proud to inform you, our partners that they went thru the training effectively and right now we envision positive academic outcomes

“Free life now provides psychosocial support to children with their families. We have been able to find positive ways that we have engaged these children together with their parents to help them to cope with their trauma through drawing, singing, dancing, and playing games

*“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”—Psalm 34:18 (NIV)*

The boys and girls who were more vulnerable to abuse, labor, exploitation, and trafficking are now very safe since they now spend most of their time in school.

### A mother’s testimony

“Since Nalumansi started school she has learned to pronounce her words better, knows the letters of the alphabet, and now can easily

count to 10. She’s also more courageous and even dreams of becoming a doctor one day”

## The Challenges

One of the challenges we now have at Karamoja School are uniforms to help the school children differ from the rest of the community a standard procedure for all schools in Uganda.

The porridge provision is also something that still is unavoidable if the children are to have a healthy study atmosphere

Like any other children at school the English proverb that goes “work without play makes jack a dull boy “ so the Karamoja School needs some play swings especially for the nursery section.

## The Karamoja Children’s Home

Due to the long insurgencies that have been in the Karamoja region for quite a long time, many children in the Karamoja region have no parents. Famine, diseases and insecurity are the causes of the many numbers of orphans in Africa.

So when we went to Karamoja we found lots of orphans who were vulnerable and needed help so we started providing them with food, clothes etc., but still there was a need for us to have a place where we gather them for good supervision, with the help of our partners we have been able to build these vulnerable children a house to shelter them from rain and other health hazards.

The orphans no longer live in grass thatched huts that leak, they now sleep on mattresses and cover themselves with blankets, something never dreamt of.

We dearly thank God for such blessings. The only challenge we have is that some of them fear sleeping on the bunk beds because they had never seen one in their life but the people at the house are slowly teaching them. Then the other challenge is to upkeep and daily maintenance, we have planted gardens to help feed our people in Karamoja, but right now the food is not yet grown so we have a challenge to sustain the children at the Karamoja children center.

## **Karamoja Garden Projects**

Due to food scarcity in Karamoja region we won't and can't provide food packages as we have been doing forever, we decided to start up gardens to grow food and this we thank God we are doing right now.

These gardens are at the same time acting as sample gardens to help the locals attain a heart of gardening in order to sustain themselves without depending so much on food gifts.

The gardens are flourishing as the rains are on so we expect a good big harvest of corn, beans, soya, and vegetables.

## **Sanitation Welfare**

When we started our Karamoja Mission, the sanitation issue was so cruelly, people there never knew what toilets meant, never thought of ever getting water wells that could help them attain clean water, but as I write to you right now everything has completely changed, including the life style of the people and their mindset.

One man came toward me and confessed, "I am now approaching 76 yrs. but never in my life have I ever seen what I now see. "I wish I would become young again so that I too can enjoy what God has done for us."

In response, I told him that he can and he will enjoy the projects because now since we have provided almost everything that suits a healthy life he now has a guarantee for a long life, to this he gave me a toothless smile!

Toilets and Water Wells have been created and made so the life of Karamoja people may attain a nice and good life. They are so blessed and happy to have all these projects done for them.

## **Community Wellness Project**

As a way to keep the work we started in Karamoja region still shining and growing, a proposal was raised to start up a wellness project. This has a committee that looks after every service we have initiated to see that they don't fail.

One of the issues that the committee looks at is the teachers welfare, soliciting some help from able people who can stand in to help making sure that all school going children within the community use the opportunity.

This wellness project also overlooks the sanitation issues within the community with a plan of holding some health lectures to the community people.

Amongst the wellness project we have delegated 2 people to oversee the children' home and make sure that weekly reports and information concerning the welfare of the children is passed on to us in a timely manner.

## **Congregational Tent**

On our very first trip to Karamoja we hosted a meeting of elders in the Grass Thatched Church structure that people congregate from while worshipping God.

As the meeting was moving on, suddenly a snake fell down from the grass thatched roof and fell on the mud floor, the meeting was shortly disrupted, the snake was later killed. This is something that happened in my very presence and scared me a lot.

The good news is that Free Life together with your partnership support we have been able to avail the people of Karamoja with a Tent structure for their congregation so there is no longer fear of snakes or rain disrupting the church services anymore.

We have lots of salvations happening and the word of God is speedily taking ground in the hearts of the local people of Karamoja. The only challenge we are now having is the written word of God. There are multitudes in the village who don't have a Bible, which we hope to offer in their own local language.

## Karamoja School



As you read earlier in this edition, families are camping near the school, because of the far walking distance, desiring education for their children which has caused the enrollment of student Nursery—P 5 to 515, with 120 of that number being Nursery children.

There are currently 6 teachers for all these children.



## Karamoja Orphans Home



## Collecting Daily Water



## Sunday Worship



Worship the Lord in Spirit and in Truth

Hallelujah

## **Being a Hand Extended**

Because of your sacrificial love and giving to the Karamoja Mission Outreach, with the Gospel being presented for the first time, souls are gloriously being saved. The people are experiencing new life. New Life in Christ, and new life in actual living each day, with the clean water provided, a new sanitation program, a Clinic and Doctor on staff 24/7, A Gardening Program, teaching them to plant and harvest their own crops. An educational program for the children, a place to Worship and a Home for the Orphans.

The people have learned how to step up and find a place of service, working along side of Pastor Robert, who is leading them in their walk with the Lord and serving others. He is fulfilling the mission God called him to, because of you, he is working out God's plan for this community, with your support.

God has given us an amazing opportunity, although being 10,000 miles apart, we can be there with Robert doing the work of the Ministry. Taking care of the starving, widows and orphans, giving a sip of cool water, putting clothing on their naked bodies. Giving them life! A New Life in Christ.

There is still much to do, if you can join in and help this assignment for our Lord.

**Food, Robert will buy in bulk form.**

**Porridge for the children**

**Clothing Bundles for adults and children**

**More Nursery tables and chairs**

**More Desks for level P1-5**

**School Uniforms**

**Solar panel for the Clinic**

**Bibles written in their native tongue**

If you have a desire to give support in any of these areas, designate it on your check.

Checks are payable to:

***Immanuel Baptist Church***

***1413 SE 16th Street***

***Mineral Wells, TX 76067***

***For Karamoja Mission Outreach***



Your generosity will not go unrewarded. Lives will be literally saved from hunger and thirst, and saved for eternity through the Gospel message being presented through your loving gift.

With a thankful heart,

*Mitzi*