

**BUGEMBE WOMEN OF FAITH AND CHILDREN HIV/AIDS MINISTRY**

**NEWS LETTER**

**01-05-2008**



### **Word from the Patron: By Pastor Jane Kisakye**

Have you taken time to think about how you can reach out to people hurting, in need of support financially or morally?

Well, far back before Bugembe Programme was set up, I didn't know what could be done to reach out to Bugembe women and their children who were going through such a situation. Eight of my siblings' died of HIV/ AIDS but it still took me a long time to realize that I could actually make a change in the lives of those suffering as a result of this epidemic.

Despite the fact that the victims were receiving treatment, they lacked spiritual counseling and guidance. This aspect was unknown to many people and yet the greatest hope is to believe and trust in Jesus who came that they may have life, and have it to the fullest (John 10:10).

Later my sister died of the same ailment and is survived by three children, two of which got infected with the same epidemic, thus passing it on to some of their children. Because of the miserable and desperate situation these kids were going through, it occurred to me that many more other families were going through the same situation.

However, as a result was prompted to setting up a fellowship where the victims could meet so as to get encouragement, share their experiences and also to embark on small scale income generating projects in order to empower them financially. This project was started with very little resources at that time, in anticipation that some well-wishers could join the struggle of helping to improve on the victims' lives and families so as to live a meaningful life. The fellowship has been a blessing to so many families and as of today, it has turned out into a bigger ministry that is reaching out to the HIV positive women and children in Bugembe whose parents succumbed to the Aids epidemic.

My appreciation goes to Rev. Daniel & Mrs. Joy Situka of Wings of Hope Ministries, who have supported this ministry financially and morally. It is because of them that this ministry has come this far. I also want to convey my appreciation to Sister Lisa for the time and expenses she incurred in connection with her trip from United States of America to Bugembe just to reach out to the HIV victims and families.

May you be rewarded abundantly!

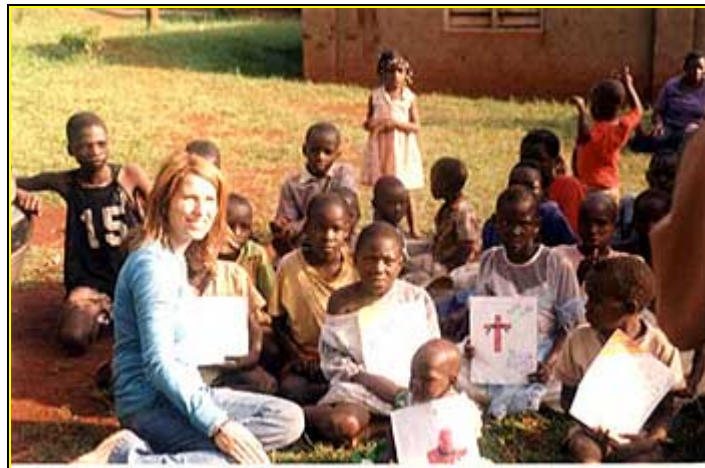


**Rev. Daniel Situka, Pastor Jane Kisakye and Ms. Liza at Bugembe**

### **VISITORS FROM AMERICA**

On 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008, Bugembe women and children's Ministry received a visitor, Ms. Lisa.... from the United states of America lead by Rev. Daniel Situka and Mrs. Joy Situka.

Ms. Lisa Preached the word of hope to the people. To the Widows she said," The Lord is your husband and if he is your husband what else is impossible?"



**Ms. Liza with Children of Bugembe**

During the visit, an out reach ministry was carried out and numbers of individuals were visited including the following:

Ms. Babirye Janet was at her home. A number of individuals were found busy cutting and making paper vines for hand crafts. Her house is used as the office premises as well as a meeting place for those involved in the making of hand crafts

Ms. Namukasa Joy is another individual who was visited; her infected children were present during this visit child.

The late Naigwe was also visited at her home where she was bed ridden and passed away a few days after their visit.



**Ms. Liz leading Bugembe women into prayer**

## **INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES**

Bugembe Women of Faith, make hand crafts like necklaces, bags and bracelets from seeds and paper to get some income to provide for their families. “We select good colored hard paper and cut into a desired length and width,” Ms. Babirye Janat said while demonstrating how the necklaces are made. “The paper is then rolled in a descending order from big to small and at the end we put glue.” She added. After collecting a number of rolled balls, they put them together on a string, varnish them and dried them under sun and come out with a nice necklace.



**Bugembe women making hand crafts out of paper**

## **Raw material**

The raw materials include

- Cyclostyled paper
- seeds,
- beads,
- stings,
- metal hooks,
- varnish
- glue etc

## MARKET



**Sister Joyce Situka holding some of the finished hand crafts**

They have a limited market. However on a positive note, Rev. Daniel and Sister Joy Situka rented a shop in Jinja town to help sell the crafts made by the women. They sell them to different visitors, market days and at whole sale to different markets.

### **Challenges**

- There very limited market for the products
- Low prices
- Lack of raw materials like beads
- Poor health conditions also hinders them to be consistent with their work

## MEMBERSHIP



**Some of Bugembe women**

Bugembe Women of Faith programme is comprised of women, mostly widows, children both HIV infected and orphaned to HIV/AIDS. There are about 100 children.



**Some of Bugembe children and Pastor Jane on the right**

## **CHALLENGES PARENTS MEET IN TAKING CARE FOR THE CHILDREN**

Bugembe Women of Faith programme has a number of children who lost both their parents and are being supported by their grand parents or other relatives but because of poverty many are not in school and are unable to access most basic needs.

Lack of finances for School fees has been the worst challenge faced by most parents and guardians.

Nutrition is also still a problem where some parents cannot afford two meals a day.

To those infect there is still a problem of lack of an appropriate treatment and nutrition required for HIV patients. Some other missing basic needs include beddings, shelter etc.

## **LEADERSHIP**



**Leaders of Bugembe Ministry**

Bugembe faith ministry programme has a number of leaders whose main work is advocacy.

These Include; The Patron-Pastor Jane Kisakye

Mobilizers- Mr.Wanume Wilberforce, Nakato Dorothy, Kisambira Salim

Secretary – Ms. Babirye Janet

## **EXPERIENCE OF SOME BUGEMBE WOMEN**

Ms. Namusoke Joyce 31. She is staying and looking after four orphans, two of them are HIV positive. "My main challenges are not having school fees for my children but we don't have a permanent home," she said. Making necklaces keeps her strong.

Ms. Babirye Janat, 44, lost her husband in 2003. She started taking ARVs in 2005 when she felt so sick and even got bed ridden. However, she is now in good health. She has six orphans. Lack of school fees, transport to access ARVs and nutrition for her family are her main challenges. "I trust in God and this makes me strong because I know in my weakness the lord knows me more than any person and he loves me." Babirye said.

You can support Bugembe ministry as God may lead you> Send your gift through Wings of Hope ministries and designate it to Bugembe Women Of Faith

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