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MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 4, 2019

The Africa Report



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2: 10-11

From our Missionaries, heartfelt gratitude!



Dear Friends,

It is again one of those best moments of the year when we remind ourselves of the many reasons to be grateful. Grateful for the many achievements as well as the challenges that inspired us to grow and better ourselves. Whatever the scenario, let us never lose sight of its lessons. As the year 2019 draws to its

close, we all await with great anticipation the coming of the year 2020 and what it holds in store for us. May it come with all its blessings we crave for.

As always, at this time of the year, most of us slow down the pace of our activities to give way to the jubilations of Christmas and the New year. Let me take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support to our ministry across the vast continent of Africa. With your support, countless communities across the continent were

empowered to read and write. Many more in Burkina Faso, Tanzania or Niger received clean water and solar energy. In southern Nigeria, Uganda and Malawi, women and children got better access to healthcare in rural and remote villages thanks to new health facilities. In Sudan and Mauritania, your generosity helped put a smile on the faces of many refugees who flee from endless and senseless wars. In northern Nigeria, your donations helped train committed peacemakers to reconcile warring communities, restore hope and human dignity to vulnerable populations.

These are among others some of our modest achievements of 2019. Overall, the year 2019 ends on a positive note, and we are indebted to you all our friends and partners.

Blessings,

Best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year 2020.

Rev. Barthelémy Bazemo, M. Afr.

President



Christmas Traditions Throughout Africa

Now that the Christmas season has arrived, we thought we'd share with you some of the ways Christmas is celebrated throughout Africa.

- In **Ethiopia**, Christmas usually begins with a day of fasting, followed by church services and a feast that includes stew, vegetables and sourdough bread. Instead of exchanging gifts, most families gather to play games!
- In **Sierra Leone**, villages celebrate with masquerade parties, extending the celebration beyond the faith community to include the whole village in the holiday spirit.
- In **Ghana**, Christmas starts with a family meal (usually of goat, vegetables and soup) followed by a church service for the whole community and a colorful holiday parade.

Water in Uganda!

Society of the Missionaries of Africa
Washington, DC 20009-1003

Dear Friends:

Thanks to your financial support, we have been able to purchase three plastic water tanks, two of them with a capacity of 10,000 liters each Besides the purchase of the tanks, we were also able to buy other equipment and materials which enabled the installation of the tanks! Thanks to you, our children have safe and clean water."

**Sr. Juliet Asiimwe, DST
Project Manager**

**Workers lay
bricks to support
the new water
storage tanks at
St. Cecelia's
School in Fort
Portal, Uganda.**

**Photos provided
by Sr. Juliet
Asiimwe, DST.**



Because of your kindness and generosity ...

NEW COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN UGANDA!

St. Stella Maris Bunena Girls' Secondary School in Ibanda, Uganda

Thanks to your financial support, the students at St. Stella Maris Bunena School in Ibanda, Uganda, now have the computers they need to get the education they deserve. "Thanks to your generosity," writes Sr. Anastasia Asiimwe, "we have been able to purchase brand new computers as well as a projector and disc drives for our students! We cannot tell you what a difference this will make in the education of our students. Thanks to you, they are getting the education that is critical for every child. God bless you for everything you are doing!"

**Sr. Anastasia Asiimwe, DST
Head Teacher**



**Students attending a computer class.
Photos provided by Sr. Anastasia Asiimwe, DST.**

Thanks to your financial support ...

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Literacy Project

While it is difficult for many people in the 21st century to comprehend, there are men, women and children in remote regions throughout the world who still struggle with literacy. “One of the biggest problems,” writes Mr. Bruno Bado, project manager for the Our Lady of Fatima/St. Camille Parishes Literacy Project, “is that not being able to read and write means that people cannot read the New Testament. The Bible is being translated into the Lyele language — so the translations have been made, but people cannot read it.”

“Reading and writing is also essential for social and educational development,” he continues. “Thanks to the Missionaries of Africa, the lives of many people are changing!



With the funds you provided, we have been able to hire skilled teachers, purchase books and other educational materials, as well as a black board, desks for the students and teacher and, even work on the renovation of a shed being used for the classroom.”

“Thus far, we have instructed about 60 men and women. They come twice a week to learn. The program is obviously free of charge since the people here have no money to pay for such a program. Because of you, their lives have been changed!”

Mr. Bruno Bado
Project Manager for the Literacy Project



ABOVE: FIRST YEAR STUDENTS ATTENDING LITERACY CLASSES (PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MR. BRUNO BADO).

Iganna, Oyo State, Nigeria

New Classrooms!

Iganna, Nigeria, is a very rural farming community in Oyo State, Nigeria. The community — comprised mostly of children and the elderly — lacks basic amenities, but by far, education is the biggest need within the region. Sr. Juliana Opeifa wrote to the Missionaries of Africa explaining the need for a new set of classrooms. Because of your financial support — we were able to help!

“We needed to build more classrooms for the poor children here,” Sr. Juliana writes. “St. Anne's Primary School provides quality basic education for the children. But we have run out of room! Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to complete six additional classrooms as well as begin construction on an additional one.”

“The people of Iganna are indeed very happy and incredibly grateful to you all. Words are truly inadequate to convey the depth of their joy and gratitude. Their humble prayers and that of the little angels of the school are constantly with you. Thank you again for all that you continue to do.”

Sr. Juliana Opeifa, CP
Project Manager



Above: Six classrooms finished and ready to go! Bottom: Students at St. Anne's School.





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Help us continue our mission in Africa!

What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70 ½ or older to make a tax wise gift to non-profit organizations, including the *Missionaries of Africa*.

Benefits of Charitable IRA Rollovers

- Satisfies requirements for annual minimum IRA withdrawals.
- Avoids federal and in some cases, state income tax.*
- Provides vital and ongoing support to the Missionaries and their missions in Africa.

Guidelines

- Donors age 70 ½ or older at the time of distribution.
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- Charitable gifts up to \$100,000 can be given each year.

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Society of Missionaries of Africa, Inc.

Development Office
1622 21st. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003

Any questions, please call our
Development Office:
1-877-523-4662

**The Charitable IRA Rollover is a federal law.
Consult your tax preparer for your state regulations.*



WAYS TO GIVE TO OUR MISSION

- Join our **Friends of Hope** Monthly Giving Plan.
- **Memorial Gifts** in memory of a loved one.
- **Celebrate** a birthday, wedding or anniversary with a donation to our works in Africa.
- Donations of **stock**, appreciated **securities**, **bonds** or **annuities** provide the same benefit as a cash gift.
- **Life Insurance** - consider naming the **Missionaries of Africa** as a beneficiary.
- **Bequests** – an estate gift to the **Missionaries of Africa** will continue our mission works.

For more information, contact:
1-877-523-4662

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