



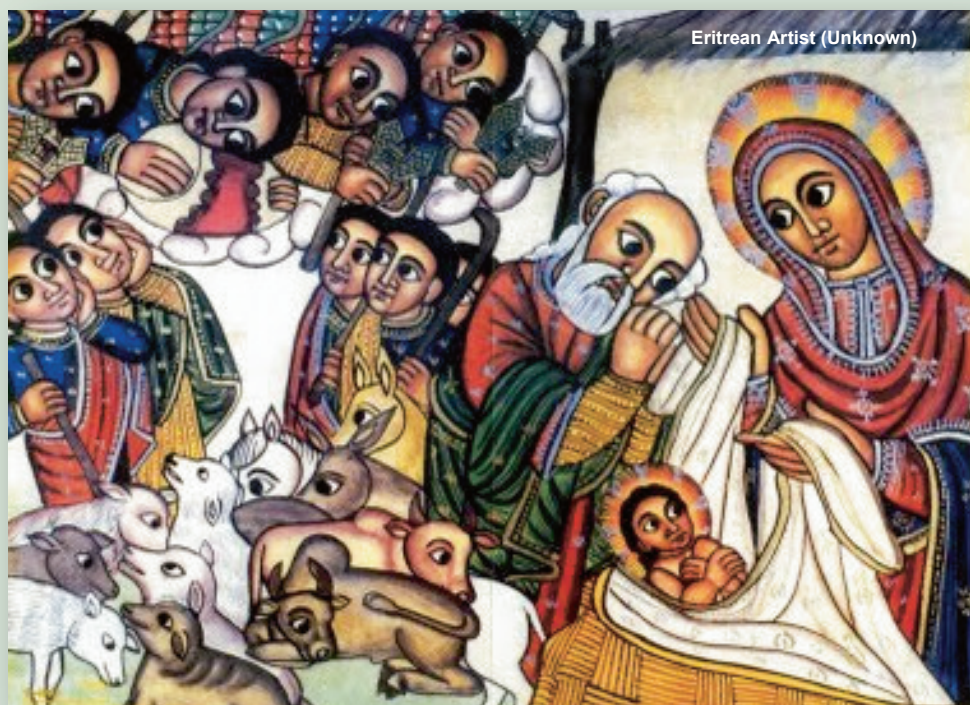
Since 1868!



MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA

No. 4, 2020

The Africa Report



"Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and his name shall be called Emmanuel." Isaiah 7:14

Looking forward to 2021!

Christmas 2020

Dear Friends,

The holiday season is fast approaching, and we look forward to embracing a promising and happy 2021. By all accounts, 2020 has been an eventful year with its many challenges for all of us. Although we are not out of the woods yet, we anticipate with great hope a year that will open new opportunities away from the specter of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In these times of crisis, when our resources are strained, we continue to extend our generosity within and beyond our borders to those disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. Let me take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued support to our ministry across the vast continent of Africa. With your assistance, communities across Africa weathered the

storms of the economic downturn. Many people in Malawi, Tanzania, or Ghana received clean water. In Mali or Nigeria, peacebuilding programs have produced tangible results. In South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Malawi, women got access to healthcare, especially in rural and remote villages. In Burkina Faso and Niger, your help provided relief for refugees and families running away from violent extremism in the Sahel Belt. Again, thank you for your support!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021.



Sincerely,

Fr. Barthelemy Bazemo, M.Afr.
President



Kyotera, Uganda

New textbooks for children!

"I have the pleasure of writing to you to say that your generous grant has provided much needed textbooks for our school!" Sr. Leah Kinyua wrote recently. She is the headmistress of Mary Immaculate School in Kyotera, Uganda. "Thanks to your generosity, we were not only able to purchase new textbooks but other reading materials as well! With more than 360 students in our school, we are always working to improve reading levels and skills -- and your financial support is making that possible. God bless you!"

(Photo courtesy of Sr. Leah Kinyua, SMI)

Sr. Leah Kinyua, SMI
Kyotera, Uganda

Christmas Traditions in Africa!

Here in the U.S., it can be easy to get lost in the busyness and clutter of the holidays. With that in mind, we thought we'd offer a glimpse of how Christmas is celebrated less encumbered throughout Africa.

In **Egypt**, Coptic Christians celebrate Christmas on January 7 -- after 43 days of fasting! On Christmas Day, families share a meal which consists of meat and rice, and spend the day visiting friends and neighbors. **Ethiopians** also celebrate Christmas on January 7. It begins with a day of fasting, followed by a church service and a family feast. On this day, Ethiopians wear a Shema, a handwoven garment made of white cotton with different decorative embroideries. On December 25, **Ghanaians** not only celebrate Christmas but also honor midwives. According to folk tales in Ghana, a midwife named Anna assisted at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem and also helped save Baby Jesus from King Herod!

In this newsletter, we also share with you updates from those who have benefitted from your kindness. For more information about our work, **please visit our website at:**

www.missionariesofafrica.org

Your continued kindness and generosity help change lives!

Bwari, Nigeria

Borehole well provides new life for people of Bwari!

"Our goal at the mission here in Bwari is to establish a new pastoral center as well as provide assistance for the people in need," Fr. John Olayiwola, M.Afr., writes. "But without a source of fresh water, our efforts could only go so far. Thanks to the grant from the Missionaries of Africa, we have been able to drill a new borehole as well as install a pump, pipes, and faucets so that everyone in the nearby community can have access to clean water."

"We have also been able to install two large water tanks so that everyone will always have water for their needs. Thank you for your love and kindness!"

Top: New water storage tanks.

Bottom: Community water stations!

Photos courtesy of

Fr. John Olayiwola, M. Afr.

Fr. John Olayiwola, M.Afr.
Director



Thank you for your continued generosity and caring!

Rutunguru, Uganda

New school desks for children in rural Uganda!

The Little Shepherds Nursery and Primary School in Rutunguru was founded by the Daughters of Our Lady of Fatima as an outreach to help children of poor families begin to get the education they need. But the community was so poor that no one could help the Sisters purchase desks for the students. As a result, the boys and girls were sitting on paper and plastic bags to do their school work. Needless to say, when bugs and insects began crawling on the children, focusing on studies became increasingly difficult.

"The families here were too poor to buy anything for the school," Sr. Jacinta Kasande explains. "But thanks to the generosity of your benefactors, we were able to buy desks and chairs for the school! What a difference this is making in so many lives. Thank you for all that you are doing!"

Sr. Jacinta Kasande
Administrator

Top: New desks and chairs arrive at Little Shepherds School.

Right : Pupils excited to have their own desk!



Top photos courtesy of Sr. Jacinta Kasande. Bottom photo courtesy of Fr. Simplicie Traore, M.Afr.

Kigali, Rwanda

New school building is making a huge difference for children in Rwanda!

"Families in the surrounding villages kept asking us to build a school for their children," Fr. Simplicie Traore, M.Afr., writes. "There was nothing here for them and they needed an education! We could not afford to build a new facility and the only place big enough was an abandoned structure. Also, the community is very poor so we did not have the funds to make the necessary renovations. But thanks to the generous support of the Missionaries of Africa, we have been successful in making the necessary renovations and have now opened the school. Please let your friends and benefactors know that none of this would have been possible without their generosity and love."

Top: An old building converted into new classrooms for the primary school. **Left:** Students in their new classroom!

Fr. Simplicie Traore, M.Afr.
Pastor





Support our mission when you shop on Amazon! Simply pick the Missionaries of Africa as your charitable organization and Amazon will give us .05% of your eligible purchase. amazon.smile.com

Help us continue our mission in Africa!

Charitable IRA Rollover

What is a Charitable IRA Rollover?

- Charitable IRA Rollover is a permanent provision in the U.S. tax code for donors age 70½ 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 70½ or older at the time of distribution.
- **Gifts must be transferred directly from your IRA account to the Missionaries of Africa.**
- Charitable gifts up to \$100,000 can be given each year.

How to make a Charitable Gift?

- Donors should contact their IRA Bank or broker/administrator to request an IRA distribution transfer to the *Missionaries of Africa*. Instruct your administrator to issue a check to:



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.*

Protecting Your Privacy

The *Missionaries of Africa* do not sell, rent, or exchange donors' names nor donors' contact information.

We are very grateful to you and cherish your commitment to our mission and service among the people of Africa.



WAYS TO SUPPORT 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 support 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.

The Africa Report is published four times a year by the

**Society
of
Missionaries of Africa, Inc.**

1622 21st Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009-1003
(202) 232-5995

Series 11, Vol. 93
No. 4, 2020