

Aringa Mission Activity Report for Month 12, Submitted by Benon Katumwa.

We received an amazing answer to our prayer about Hirmina Burden (Queen Saluwa). Our connection with her was absolutely beautiful! And the best part? Three girls accepted Jesus during Aringa mission month 12 at the VBS (Youth Fest) held at HIL!

We were thrilled to see Hirmina, she had dusted herself off and put on her school uniform to join her classmates at the Youth Fest. Despite not successfully registering to redo the Primary leaving exams this year, she made it a priority to be at the Youth Fest. When Brother Nuru asked why, she replied, "I knew you people would accept me as I am." Hirmina had given birth to a baby girl three months ago. Before her pregnancy was publicly known, we had promised to pay her school fees if she wanted to redo P7 this year. Despite her community's shame-oriented culture causing many to give up on her, we did not withdraw our offer. Hirmina was afraid we would, but our kindness moved her so much that she woke up early and joined her schoolmates at the waiting point to participate in the youth festival.

Meanwhile, Flavia, Prosy, and Vanessa were so inspired by the message Brother Charles shared at the Youth Fest that they boldly stood up to receive Jesus. Their classmates watched in awe as they made their commitment. Flavia was the first to stand up and receive the Lord, and her decision was the result of a long process that involved the support of many individuals and the continuous prayers of Joyce Lewis. Flavia came to feel the love of God through the many letters and gifts from Joyce, and we are so overjoyed that she has decided to follow Jesus for the first time.

We want to thank NUBF for the construction of the youth Centre at HIL. It is an incredible space that could allow children to reflect and focus on the bible away from the heavy non-Christian community. Month 12 was truly an exciting time, and we can't wait to see what God has in store for Month 13!

1. MISSION UPDATE:

In month 12, we hosted a children's VBS program in the Youth Center at HIL. The event was attended by 62 people, including 45 children from Wolo, St. Daniels, and Eleke primary schools, as well as children who had transferred to different schools. The attendees also included 4 facilitators from LF, 5 from BGM, 2 teachers, and 6 from HIL.

Canon Barnabas was the chief guest. He shared a sermon on raising a child to instill good values. All the students listened attentively, clearly inspired by his words. We thank NUBF for making it possible for us to bring the children together with someone who embodies integrity, responsibility, and perseverance. Canon Barnabas directed his words towards shaping the children's attitudes, values, and beliefs. All children now know that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Brother Charles, the team leader of BGM, spoke to the students about God's love for each one of them. Charles also challenged the students to turn to the Word of God during difficult times, such as when they face financial struggles or the loss of a guardian. He emphasized that the Bible can meet all of our needs. This was the time the three girls Flavia, Prosy, and Vanessa were moved by the Spirit of God and boldly stood up to receive Jesus.

The principal of St. Daniels Primary School shared his life story with students from Wolo, St. Daniels, and Eleke. He talked about his experiences as a young person pursuing a career in education and offered wisdom on the issues raised by students during a question and answer-session held at the youth center. We see the Centre as a place where people who have faced many of life's challenges already can share useful experiences with the young generation and sing their thoughts and feelings. despite the shame of culture perpetuated by non-Christian beliefs.

Each child had the opportunity to shake Canon Elly's hand, and he offered them kind words of encouragement. Our hope for this center is that it will be a safe place for children to learn and grow, where they can feel confident in being themselves and expressing their thoughts and feelings. despite the shame of culture perpetuated by non-Christian beliefs.

2. PRAISE REPORT

We give thanks to God for the commitment of Flavia, Prosy, and Vanessa to follow the Lord. We also express our gratitude for the wonderful collaboration we had with Canon Barnabas. He is a highly respected fatherly figure who is a former leader of the team in translating the Bible from English to Aringa. Additionally, he is a self-taught medical practitioner who is greatly admired for his bravery in fighting diseases using a medical guide booklet. During the exile of the entire Aringa community to a refugee camp in South Sudan, after President Amin was overthrown in the 1980s, Canon Barnabas played a vital role in providing medical assistance. Spending the entire day with the children and speaking to them was a fantastic experience.

We also give thanks to the Breeze of Grace Ministry (BGM) and their incredible work. Betty, Sharon, Justine, and Brother Charles worked alongside us on the Vacation Bible School (Youth Fest) event. BGM's focus on reaching out to secondary schools in Aringa is commendable. They have collected information on our children who have moved on to secondary schools, as well as the three girls who committed to following Jesus during the Youth Fest. BGM plans to continue nurturing their spiritual growth by inviting them to a weekly youth fellowship where they can hear God's word. It's exciting to know that our children are in good hands with such an experienced outreach ministry beyond our service boundaries.

We give thanks for the letters that NUBF families wrote to the children, which helped them get closer to Jesus. The children who received the letters had big smiles on their faces, and it was evident that they felt loved and valued. The older children were vocal about their gratitude towards us for delivering the letters, and we extend our thanks to Brother Craig, Anne, Amanda, and Alex for their significant role in making it possible for the children to receive them. Additionally, we appreciate Brother Dick and his wife for personally delivering the letters. Writing letters is an enjoyable activity for children, and it helps them maintain their cognitive abilities. It's worth highlighting that the first child who chose to commit to following the Lord was one of the children who frequently corresponded via letters and received uplifting and motivating replies. Kudos to Joyce!

We give thanks to God for using NUBF to provide all the finances needed for the VBS event (Youth Fest 2023). Our youth experienced joy in accomplishing their goals, celebrating friendships, and receiving recognition through the Bible and computer competitions. This would not have been possible without the prayers, financial support, and guidance from NUBF families. We extend our gratitude to Brother Craig, the Elder team, and Canon Elly for their exceptional vision and for allowing me, my wife Mercy, Aaron, Levi, and all our young Evangelists to be part of this incredible and divine story.

We are also grateful to God for the joy that the children experienced through the gifts they received at the VBS event. These gifts included books, pens, and other school supplies that Brother Ssensiti spent the entire day beautifying. The goal was to make the gifts look attractive and to show the children that there are people who care about them and want to be kind and loving. While driving the children back to their school, Brother Charles of BGM noticed that they kept looking at the gifts, smiling, and reminiscing about the Youth Fest. All of the items given were for school use, which was starting in just a few days. These children have needs, and we are grateful to NUBF for allowing us to meet some of them. We hope that the gifts lightened the load for the parents and brought a smile to their faces too.

3. PRAYER REQUESTS

We would like to ask for your prayers for a team of three young evangelists who will be serving children in month 13 this November. Led by Brother Aaron, we pray that the Lord will use them as He pleases and grant them good health. We ask for opportunities for them to have deep conversations with the children and share words of hope with those who are taking primary leaving exams this year. We also ask for confidence from Okello Andrew Festo, Asianzu Consulate, and Mafu Yaphet (Aliga) as they sit for the exam, with hopes that they pass and move on to secondary school.

The team will also take a success card for each child sitting for the Primary leaving exam, please pray that the cards will allow the children to feel loved and cared for. Let us remind them that there are many Christian families out there praying for them and cheering them on their journey at school.

We also ask for prayers for Himina Burden (Queen) and Faiza Saffi, so that they may find the courage to return to school next year. Additionally, please pray for guidance and support for Flavia, Prosy, and Vanessa in finding a local church in their community, with Brother Charles leading the way in follow-up.

Let us also pray for children who may be held back by fear in deciding to follow Jesus. May they find boldness and courage to commit when the time is right.

Lastly, we ask for blessings upon the youth center at HIL, with opportunities to attract many youth and children who will feel the love of God and see the need for a savior.

4. NEXT STEP: MONTH 13

- a. Work on more role play videos
- b. Teach Foundations of the Christian faith in Aringa
- c. Teach Computer Literacy Classes in Aringa
- d. Write out success cards to P7 children
- e. Post re-ply letters to NUBF families

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you what God is doing through the Aringa Mission