

St. NICHOLAS Uganda CHILDREN'S FUND Newsletter

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"Bread for myself is a material question. Bread for my neighbour is a spiritual one."

—Nikolai Berdyaev



Bread is the staple food of many cultures throughout the world. In both sacred and secular literature, it symbolizes the nourishment that is essential to sustain life. In Deuteronomy 8:3, we read that "Man does not live by bread alone," but it's also true that man cannot live *without* bread! In James 2:16 we are told that if we say to our needy brother, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without providing for his physical needs, what good is that?"

In the gospel of Luke, we learn the story of the rich man and Lazarus, the beggar who lay at the rich man's gate. Lazarus longed for no more than the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table, but that man entered and left his own home every day oblivious to his poor brother lying there in full view.

Experiencing as we do both the poverty of Uganda and the affluence of America, we are struck by the relevance of the story of Lazarus on a global scale. Television and the internet bring the plight of Africa's poor to our very doorstep. How do we respond? Elie Wiesel said, "The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference." May God give us eyes to see and hearts to care!



Twins!

From the day she gave birth to Rosemary and Musa she was called Nnalongo, mother of twins. Never mind that prior to that moment, she was known as Nakitto Aisha; for the rest of her life she will be Nnalongo.

The birth of twins is very special in Uganda and all of sub-Saharan Africa. Beliefs and rituals surrounding twins go back to the semi-mythical origins of the various tribes throughout the continent. The significance of the event manifests itself outwardly in the naming of the children. Among the Baganda people, each twin receives a special "twin name," in this case, Babirye, as the first-born girl, and Kato, as the second-born boy. The mother and father receive special names, as do siblings born both before and after the twins.



Babirye Rosemary & Kato Musa

The father of these particular twins did not live long enough to receive his special name—he died in a car accident seven months before they were born. Nnalongo found work cooking at a local "takeaway," Uganda's version of a fast-food joint. When the twins were old enough to sit, she'd take them to work and place them in a plastic basin or on a blanket while she prepared food for her customers.

As the children grew, Nnalongo struggled to provide for her family. Earning the equivalent of a dollar or two a day, she managed to feed and clothe them, and to pay the rent on their one-room flat. When the twins reached school age, she asked for

our help and we welcomed them into our program.



Kato Musa

Babirye Rosemary

Today, Babirye Rosemary and Kato Musa are eight years old and in Primary Two (second grade). Rosie ranks 2nd in her class and is inquisitive and quick to learn. Kato also performs well and impresses his teachers with determination and hard work. It's been a joy to watch our "babies in a basin" grow and become happy, confident schoolchildren.

Completing high school is a milestone in the lives of our students. After thirteen years of shaved heads, school uniforms, and rigid discipline, they're ready to move on to the next phase of their education. Whether they go to university or vocational school, this is the beginning of their transition to adulthood. The prospects are both exciting and a little frightening. They're leaving behind the predictability of high school routine and entering a new environment of opportunity and freedom.



Our current group of high school graduates

Phiona and Hilda were our stars, achieving near-perfect scores on the Uganda national leaving exams. Phiona joined our program in Senior 1. Her mother had died when she was eight and her father disappeared shortly thereafter, never to be seen again.



Phiona

Hilda

Hilda and her two sisters came to us after losing both parents when Hilda was in seventh grade. Now she will be pursuing a B.A. in Economics, and Phiona is going for a Bachelor of Business Administration degree.

Through your donations and your prayers, we are able to provide our kids with bread that manifests itself on every level: symbolic, in the education that will sustain them throughout their lives; physical, in the daily food that nourishes their bodies; and spiritual, in the love, care, and guidance that we give to each child. Thank you for being an indispensable part of this ministry.

With love and appreciation,

Peter & Sharon

We welcome your donations.
Checks may be sent to:

St. Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund
P.O. Box 285
Chardon, OH 44024-0285

Or you can donate online at
www.ugandachildrensfund.org

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