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## GOD'S WORK NOT STOPPED BY COVID-19 !!

THOUGHTS FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PASTOR BRUCE.....

May 2020

Covid-19 has significantly affected life throughout the entire world and Uganda is no exception. The country has been under mandatory restrictions that closed schools, churches, the airport, the land borders and made motorized travel illegal without a special government permit. In many cases, people could not leave their homes to get food, so hunger has been a serious problem in the country, because of both availability and unusually high prices for food.

Even with the restrictions, the work of ChristAid has continued with necessary precautions. After receiving special permission, the staff excitedly moved into their new office space on April 25<sup>th</sup>. (However, most are currently working from home at this time.) Construction on the Office Building has slowed because it is not possible to purchase and get delivery of necessary materials. Additional work is scheduled to begin as soon as travel restrictions are lifted.



Other construction has continued where materials were available. The Secondary School project had materials on site so work continued there. (See article on page four). An additional Grandma house has been constructed as seen in the picture below. This house is a hybrid house made of local materials instead of blocks because it is in a remote location. It was built by workers living on site because of the lock-down. It will belong to Grandma Sefina Kisebo and is ChristAid House #29 !!! **God is so good!!**

The monthly Grandma fellowship times have been cancelled which would normally be the time they would gather to receive their support payments. They are now receiving their support through a "mobile money" system. Although schools are closed, our ChristAid Academy teachers still receive their salaries.... made possible by your sponsorships! (Thank you for that- and praise God for the blessing that is for the teaching staff.) We continue to seek information on the status of tuition requirements for our secondary students who go to schools other than our own ChristAid schools.



Even through this pandemic, God is blessing the work of ChristAid. Thank you for your participation in this ministry that is positively touching the lives of so many in such amazing ways!!

## CHRISTAID ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BANQUET - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2020

GREAT "AUCTION SHOPPING" ON YOUR COMPUTER ???

OR GREAT FOOD ON YOUR PLATE ??? (WHO KNOWS???)

Plans for the 2020 ChristAid Annual Fundraiser Banquet WERE well underway, and then life changed for all of us because of the Covid-19 virus. Now it is hard to plan for ANYTHING! As of this moment, the Board is working on the possibility of EITHER an in-person banquet **or** a virtual one!

If we are safely able to meet in-person, we will do so. Space at WaterStone Community Church is reserved for Friday, October 2, 2020, the caterer is planning another delicious African meal and auction items are being gathered. We do realize, however, that we may not be able to gather together to celebrate all that God continues to do through ChristAid to help the desperately poor of southwest Uganda. We pray we will be able to meet together because we have so many exciting ministries, new and old, to report to you.

We will be making a final decision on the banquet in the next six weeks and will keep you informed about that decision. Just know that either way, we will provide a forum for sharing the exciting events of the past year, and there are MANY!!

We are investigating a number of options for a virtual banquet that will enable us to share recent successes like construction of the ChristAid Secondary School and the sustainability of the ChristAid ministry as seen by the Uganda staff moving into our new office building. Also; the creation of a "Grandmas Village" for our homeless Grandmas and our very own ChristAid Primary Academy being the NUMBER ONE RATED SCHOOL IN THE ENTIRE DISTRICT!!!

A virtual banquet will still provide the opportunity for you to support the continued work of ChristAid through personal contributions, purchasing auction items and sponsoring Ahadi Kids or Grandmas for Jesus. We depend upon your financial support and the banquet has always been an important event in securing the funds that are needed to continue and expand the work of ChristAid.

We thank you for your support and commit to you our continued vigilance to use the funds wisely in our mutual efforts to provide hope for some of the "least of these brothers and sisters of mine".

## CHRISTAID SCHOOL KITCHEN GETS AN UPGRADE

The kitchen where food is currently prepared for the Preschool and Primary School children feeds 660 kids and the teaching staff each and every school day. The cooks work in billowing smoke from the wood fires, making their jobs difficult and dangerous to their health. A nearby area is being measured for the building of a new kitchen with good ventilation and better equipment, so the cook staff are better supported and cared for. This is an example of sponsorship fees at work. God bless you for supporting an Ahadi Kid!!





## CHRISTAID OFFICE BUILDING – INCHING US TOWARDS SELF-SUSTAINABILITY.



Half of the ground floor is complete in the ChristAid office building in Rwengoma. A delighted Uganda ChristAid staff moved in at the end of April, with the office equipment being delivered from our former offices by our own ChristAid lorry.

The next step is completing the rest of the main floor which will be a banquet room, rentable for local events and meetings.

Work continues there to finish apartments on the next level to be rented out and become income producing for ChristAid.

We welcome donations to this badly needed self-sustainability project!!

[Tinyurl.com/christaid-donate](http://Tinyurl.com/christaid-donate)

## CHRISTAID'S "GRANDMA VILLAGE" COMES TO LIFE THIS SPRING

Some time ago, ChristAid Board members, Rick and Nancy Hollis, learned that their sponsored Grandma in Uganda was essentially homeless; living life from a small room rented from a church because she could not afford anything else. Since ChristAid can only build homes when the Grandmas own land, they prayed about how to help their Grandma.

They started wondering if there was a need to build a place where "homeless Grandmas" could live close together on property owned by ChristAid. A place where they could help each other and enjoy each other's company. The Board began to discuss modifying the current Grandma house floorplan into a duplex and building several duplexes on a single ChristAid property. The name "Grandma Village" has been given to this idea and it is quickly blossoming into reality.

During a 2019 mission trip, the Hollises also learned that it is customary for deceased family members to be buried in the yard of their homes. Since homeless Grandmas do not presently own property, it is a weight on their hearts that they have no burial site for themselves. Therefore, we also need a location that has plenty of room for a designated burial ground which will be a relief and a blessing for the Grandmas who will one day be living there.

Director Grace has spent considerable time looking for the perfect place to shelter our homeless Grandmas. Money has been donated to purchase the land and we are waiting for God to show us the right property.

ChristAid has received donations to fund the first three duplexes to be built. ( Now all we need are some rocking chairs and a little gossip to keep life interesting for the Grandmas!!) Simply amazing! Thank you to all who have donated to this wonderful project!! May God bless you for the great love you have shown our Grandmas for Jesus.

# “CHRISTAID SECONDARY SCHOOL” (BIG DREAMS SHOWING UP IN BRICK AND MORTAR)

Construction recently began on the “ChristAid Secondary School”. (See below) This building project is funded by our partner in ministry, “Cunina”, an international organization founded to assist underprivileged children with education. They are funding and managing the construction of this two-story school building for us on ChristAid property and will give us the building, with a proposed opening date of the school in January, 2022. **Thank you God for this amazing gift!**

Notice ChristAid Director Grace, (in the yellow shirt and stylish Covid-19 mask) on the second floor of the structure inspecting the progress. The building is being made of native red bricks and will have a stucco finish to match the color of the Teacher’s Housing building that ChristAid built several years ago, which stands next door. (middle picture)

We have recently learned the water requirements for the school make it necessary for us to raise funds to dig a well near the school. (At capacity, there will be approximately 440 students, some of which will be living in dormitories on the premises.) **Join us in celebrating the building of this amazing high school in the rolling hills of Uganda!** If you would like to contribute to our water project, connect to our website: [Tinyurl.com/christaid-donate](https://Tinyurl.com/christaid-donate)

If anyone is aware of organizations who might be able to support our efforts at providing clean water through grants or other means, please contact Pastor Bruce through the ChristAid office. We appreciate your input and assistance.



## OUR MOST HEARTFELT CORE VALUE – SPONSORSHIP LET THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BEGIN!!



Meet two preschoolers who are turning five this month! At left, **Patrick Muhereza** is part of a household of five that has only a small garden plot to feed their family. They are very poor and cannot afford the fees for the three children to attend school. Patrick’s jobs at home are to fetch water, sweep the house and wash plates. At right, **Alice Kabarokole**, lives with her mother and three siblings since her father has died. The mother works in other people’s gardens to earn enough food for them to survive. Alice wants to be a teacher. The preschool fee for these kids is \$40 per month which provides for their uniforms, school lunch and the opportunity for loving teachers to impact their lives forever. Please see our website for information to sponsor one of these (or other needy kids) to attend our ChristAid Preschool. It would be a birthday gift they will never forget!! [Tinyurl.com/christaid-donate](https://Tinyurl.com/christaid-donate)

