KINGSWAY CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

March 2023 Newsletter



Dear Friends of Kingsway Christian High School,

We greet you in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We sincerely thank you for continuing to stand with us in prayer, encouragement and financial support.

This has been a continued season of exciting opportunities and challenging realities. But through them all, the Lord has comforted us with Psalm 23,

"The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want..."

Over the past weeks of February, we have truly seen God's continued care about every aspect of our lives, and of the children at Kingsway. Right now, we feel like we are just stumbling along, but we are certain, 'the Lord is our shepherd."

Last year we had 20 students, and we had optimistically decided to invite 30 more students to enroll 50 children this year. But we unexpectedly received a much higher number than we had planned. In total we may have 70 children this year, 20 more than we were planning for!

We got 25 more orphans in addition to our 10 orphans of last year and 20 more children from financially desperate families in addition to our 10 of last year. We still have the balance of children who applied to join us last year, but we kept them on the waiting list.



(About 50 out of 70 students are above. At the left and back are our teachers.)

Why is there such an overflow of students? This is a result of two things. First of all, many schools closed because of the financial desperation caused by COVID. As a result, the few schools that are operating have hiked their tuition disproportionately so that many orphaned children in schools have had to drop out of school because their relatives can no longer afford to pay their school fees.

Secondly, last year was a terrible agricultural year for Uganda. The whole country had unprecedented drought which affected food production throughout the year. Right now all foodstuff is very expensive. Families are struggling to feed their members to such an extent they cannot keep their children in school.

These challenges caused many orphans' relatives and caretakers to bring their children to Kingsway. It was so painful to see children crying in the office when the children's caretakers were begging us to give their children opportunity to study, when we were unable to take more.

We had planned to admit only 30 new students, but we could not resist taking 20 more desperate children. We still had to turn back many who wanted to come to study with us this year because our available facilities can no longer stretch further. I hurt so much for those orphans we could not admit because we have gone beyond the capacity of our facilities.

We are very busy with this number of children. What comforts us is the fact that we are helping children whose last resort would be to become street beggars and to survive through prostitution! We are also encouraged by the way these children greatly appreciate the opportunity we give to them to be at school, although many are the challenges we face. They are very motivated and eager to learn.

With the number we have admitted, this far the Lord has brought us. One day we shall look back and tell of how God's hand lifted us up throughout these difficult times.

Achievements and Work updates

Class Achievements

Last year we could only teach Junior High (Ordinary Level) classes, but now we are beginning our Senior High (Advanced Level) classes again this year after COVID. We already have 5 students studying the Sciences and 5 students studying the Arts subjects.

Last year ALL our Senior 4 students passed the national exams very well. All of them are going to Senior High. From Senior 1 – Senior 4, students are all in class for their regular class activities.

Senior 5 students are reporting on 5th March. We have admitted 4 more students in addition to our own 3 Kingsway students who have now reached Senior High.

Staff Employment

We have employed four more teachers in addition to our four teachers of last year. This is mainly because our candidate students of last year are now going to Senior High. They need teachers for all their different combinations.

We have also employed one school guard, one school gardener and we are looking forward to employing a second cook.

My adult children Reward, Comfort and Dan are an important part of the leadership of Kingsway, serving as teachers and administrators for the school. They and I live at the school and pray daily with the students during devotional times and worship services.



Last year Reward was head schoolmaster and taught classes. He is overseeing dorm construction and administration this year.



Comfort is now head schoolmaster and is teaching several classes. She and her brother Dan also lead devotions, Bible study and worship with students.

Girls Dormitory Building & Teachers Restrooms

The carpentry work for the ceiling slab for two thirds of the dormitory is complete plus the wiring for electricity. After two months of delays, we were finally able to pour the concrete for the ceiling slab this past week.

We also managed to complete digging a 50-foot deep 8x12 feet septic tank for the girls' dormitory and administrative offices. What remains to be done is to close the open pit and to build a house on it for outside toilets and bathrooms.

By God's grace, we were able to complete the work of building teachers' restrooms before teachers reported to school in February.

Acquisition of more Furniture

Due to the fact that we admitted more than fifty students, we needed to acquire more beds and mattresses. To reduce costs, we did not buy ready-made beds. We hired two men to make 15 double-decker bunk beds. These beds will serve 30 students.

We also asked parents and guardians whose children had mattresses at home to come

with them to use them at school. For those who could not bring mattresses, we bought 30 new mattresses in addition to the 20 mattresses we had from last year. The school now has 70 beds and 50 mattresses.

Kingsway had 45 locker-desks and chairs. We hired a carpenter to make this furniture at school. Making the furniture at school took a long time, but it was the only way to reduce costs, because purchasing ready-made furniture is extremely expensive. In total we now have 65 locker-desks and 65 chairs for the students.



Challenges

Health challenges

The school year started well although we experienced acute health challenges.

When my daughter Comfort started going out to look for students who can pay fees, she came down with Typhoid fever, which led her to be admitted in hospital. This disrupted our plans completely, since Comfort was sick for about one month. Not much time was left for her go round recruiting students who can pay fees.

My son Reward also hurt his already frail back when they were carrying the timber for the school building projects. Reward was in pain for about three weeks. This affected the purchase of building materials of which Reward is in charge, therefore causing delays in the progress of building the girls' dormitory.

Increases Costs for Teaching Classes

Senior High We are happy to return to teaching Senior High classes, but this situation forced us to employ 4 more teachers. We may also need to employ 2 more part-time teachers to take care of specific disciplines in the combinations of these students. This will require some extra money for paying the extra teachers.

New Requirements The Ministry of Education has introduced new requirements that schools offer classes like Physical Education and Swahili. They now also require that all Secondary Schools must introduce one Industrial Subject in school. This is any hands-on subject, such as Welding, Carpentry, Weaving, Soap and Lotion making, Brick-laying, Pottery, Bakery, Tailoring, etc. These subjects require some good money to buy the requirements. There needs also to be money set aside to pay the instructors. This is a serious challenge for Kingsway financially.

Delays in Building the Girl's Dormitory

After our building Engineer left for Christmas last year, he didn't come back to resume building the girls' dormitory in the time we agreed on because he lost his father, and the funeral process took a long time. Because of the delay of our engineer's return, his workers found new contracts and got other employment. It became very difficult for our Engineer to get them back when he returned. So, our Engineer had to wait until some of his workers finished working in the contracts they had taken. Others are still working in those building sites!

This has resulted into the delay we are experiencing now. Few builders have delayed the completion of phase one of the girls' dormitory. The girls will be able to move in for the second term out of the three-term year.

Lack of Adequate Water for Kingsway Community

We thank God for the well He enabled us to dig to provide water for Kingsway community a few years ago. Last year it was sufficient for us, except in very dry times. Now with the increased size of our community, our well water is not sufficient for our use.

Each evening we must send our students to fetch water from the valley about two kilometers away to supplement the well water. This is a very difficult endeavor, but we are thankful for the availability of this alternative.

No School Vehicle

We have no vehicle for transportation. This is a great need for us, but newer and reliable vehicles in Uganda are very expensive. Because of this, every time we need to purchase food and school



materials, we spend a lot of money to hire vehicles to transport everything to school. We also pay hundreds of thousands of shillings on transporting materials when we are building things at Kingsway.

We also always hire motorcycle ("boda-boda") drivers to take us to and around town for errands. This is a very dangerous transport system, which many times ends up in

accidents. My son Reward's back was injured in a near-fatal motorcycle accident. My daughter Comfort was in motorcycle accident just a few months ago. And I have survived motorcycle accidents multiple times!

And very importantly, if we had a school vehicle, we could provide daily transport to students who can come to school from their homes. This would allow us to enroll paying students who live near Kingsway, but too far to walk to school. Our desire is be self-supporting, and to do this we need more paying students to support the school when orphans and needy families cannot. Having no school vehicle makes it difficult for Kingsway to achieve this plan.

Nevertheless, we continue to be amazed at how God in so many ways is taking us through these challenges one by one. And we rest in the certainty that He will continue to do so.

Prayer Requests

Please join us in thanking God and praying for the following:

We thank God for the people He has brought to us for his service at Kingsway. Pray that God raises up the right people and partners as Kingsway Christian High School grows in student numbers.

The Girl's Dormitory

We thank God for this far He has brought us with the construction work. Pray that God helps us to speed up the work of the Girls' dorm, so that, we can register Kingsway as a boarding school. This will help us to avoid problems with Ministry of Education. Please pray for safety for all the construction workers involved.

Finances

We thank God for the new students and teachers who have joined us. However, the increase in number also mean increase in our school expenditure. Pray for us that the Lord will continue to provide the finances needed to meet all the school requirements.

School Vehicle

Without a vehicle, we always hire vehicles to transport school purchases expensively, and we are unable to bring distant students to and from school daily. Pray that God would provide finances for a school vehicle so that transportation of our goods and students can be affordable and the finances necessary to purchase something better for our family.

As always, we thank God for each and every one of you, and all of the ways in which you have encouraged and supported us.

With Thanks,

Milly

Family Update

We have been so blessed with good news and also we experienced some challenges.

Blessings

- 1. I was chosen the Western Seminary's Distinguished Alumna for 2023. This was the most shocking but the most exciting news of my life.
- 2. I am publishing my first book in my life. A publisher approved the manuscript of my first book ever for publication. This is a great achievement for me because I have struggled to publish this book for many years.
- My granddaughter
 Praise passed her
 Ordinary Level (Junior High) examinations very well. This year on March 5, she is beginning her Senior High School.



Left to right: Milly's husband Sam, Comfort, granddaughter Hosanna, another son Hope, and of course Milly.

Challenges

- 1. My husband Sam is now officially a retired minister. This means he falls back on me for his financial needs.
- 2. Our daughter Comfort fell sick with Typhoid fever for a long time. This brought a lot of anxiety on the family because she became very thin and weak.
- Reward injured his already frail back while carrying timber for building the girls'
 dormitory. Reward was unable to walk for two weeks! Reward's situation caused
 delays in the progress of the construction because he is the chief purchaser of the
 building materials.