

## *Co-Laborers*

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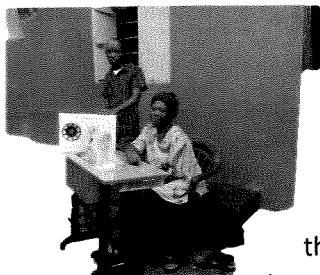
June 2023

Dear Friends,

I appreciated your prayers for me and Doreen, we needed them! Thank you to so many of you who sent funds for Pastor John Bossa and his orphanages. The funds were used to buy mattresses, food for the orphanages, a laptop and phones for the office, clothing, and emergency medical costs. Soon after my last letter I found out that John's wife, Doreen, needed a C-section to safely deliver their baby that was due in May. The doctor told them the baby was breech and the umbilical cord was around the neck. He said surgery was necessary. They didn't have the money to pay the doctor first which in Uganda has to be paid upfront before service is given. Thanks to your generosity, I was able to wire him the needed funds. Baby son Jase is doing well, and Doreen was recovering, but has other health issues. Bossa John said, "Bless you so much...but the good news is that both are alive."

**I have never seen anything like it in my life.**

Bossa John has the biggest heart I know yet has very little financial resources. He carries a heavy load to care for over 300 orphans, many with no parents, some with one parent too poor to provide for her children, some that come from abusive families. He also provides for a few disabled children who need special schools. He rents two houses with limited yard space, basic buildings that are two hours by car apart, he owns no vehicles, takes a bus between the orphanages. He has no home or apartment of his own but lives in the large orphanage in a shared bedroom. He has nothing himself, but provides so much for others.



I asked him if the government had programs that could provide financial assistance. He told me the gov't doesn't care about the orphans and has no assistance for him. I asked him if his local church helped him with support and he told me that his local church was mostly widows and he helped support them. To become self-sufficient, Bossa John negotiated a lower tuition rate at a vocational school for widows to attend a sewing course, and then he buys her a new sewing machine. His heart keeps getting bigger. And so does my amazement at this humble servant of God.

He is well known and respected in the community. They know his children because they are not like many of the youth in the drug and sex business. Every week, he says, the police come with children for him to care for, or someone in the community brings him a child, or children themselves come to his door looking for a safe place. With a broken heart, he often has to turn them away because he has no more room. His 12 year old daughter tells him, "We can take her, Daddy. She can sleep in my bed" and John tells me she is already sleeping with several small ones! He makes hard decisions to accept them into their big family, trusting God to provide for them. He gets as many as he can into homes in the

community, in a foster home situation, and then provides all their needs for food, clothes, schooling, medical needs.

I wanted to get an idea of his needs, his orphanage needs—what kind of kitchen do they have, bedrooms, play area, school needs, etc. I was overwhelmed. The orphanage is a basic shelter with no kitchen except a room with a counter, no running water, no appliances. The two big pots they use to cook brown rice and bean broth is heated over a few charcoal pots, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> orphanage uses an outdoor wood fire. There isn't money enough to pay workers, but he has volunteers that are faithful to the work. His hope is to provide a monthly wage of \$80 for each of the six volunteers.

The finances are so stretched that over the past months I learned that sometimes the food was gone, and the utilities and rent needed to be paid. And yet, despite the meager situation, the children are so thankful to have a loving family, caring adults, and even if there was only one meal a day, or none for that day, they knew it would come eventually and it wasn't for them to worry about.

When we arrived at the orphanage, the children were all eager to give us a program of worship songs on a rented keyboard and entertain us with a Ugandan traditional dance to the tempo of African drums. Each age group had choreographed dances, and a sweet group of primary students recited Bible verses with hand motions. My friend and I helped serve the children their



lunch. The smallest children lined up first and we were so impressed how quiet and orderly they waited for their plate of rice and ladle of bean broth, not too many beans and one or two cut up carrots for the whole pot. No complaining, only thankfulness. The children sat along an outside wall to eat and because there weren't enough plates for everyone, the older children and teens waited respectfully until the plates were washed and then the teens could eat. It was honestly one big happy family with the older kids watching over and helping each other.



The following day Bossa John and a few of his associates took us out into the countryside to a village where they oversee the care of the poor ones there with clothes and food. Gregory, an associate of theirs lives with them. I presented a young boy with soap and a bag of sugar. They were so happy to see us. An old woman sitting outside her hut asked me to pray for her eyes that were blind. We had a precious time together, and I told her I would be back to sit with her sometime when I return.

#### **Bossa John is coming to the USA this July 16-August 14**

I have a six-month visa and plan to make use of it. This July I will be traveling with Bossa John for three weeks in the States introducing him to friends and family. He has received another scholarship to attend the Ministry of Pastoral Care school where I first met him last year in Washington State. I will visit dear friends I have in the Seattle area and he will share with a group there before we fly to Minneapolis on July where he will share the needs of his orphan ministry, The Master Children Ministries. **If you are interested in meeting Bossa John or**



**have a church or group he can share with, please send me an email or call me and we will make a plan!** No place is too far and no group is too small (in fact, one person with an open heart is as good as a crowd, in God's eyes—God does not count money, and neither does He count attendance). You will be blessed, I assure you. I am always reminding Bossa John of all the strangers, yet brothers and sisters in Christ, that the Father God has put on hearts to care for him and his orphan children. He is NOT alone. It is a good message for all of us.

### **These are my plans going forward**

I have witnessed such a great and worthy work of God and I am going to put all my effort to help Bossa John get a firm support network under his ministry so he can be freed from the day to day financial worries of it and let his Father God take over all that. That requires a firm eternal fabric of prayer of many people connecting with their Father God on his behalf. His needs just have to be made known.

When I first met John and found out he had two orphanages, I asked him if he had some brochure or something that I could look at and see what it was all about. Silly me, I assumed so much. He handed me the four pages he had used when he shared with the school that morning (which I had unfortunately missed). It was single spaced with no periods or other punctuation and no capital letters. It amounted to a four-page run-on sentence. His testimony was gripping as he described the tragic conditions of becoming an orphan at the age of 10 when his mother died of AIDS, and left him to care for his siblings, but it was a bit of a challenge to read through.

I soon realized that Bossa John had no tools to give to people interested in his ministry. I will prepare some materials and information for him to give out at the MPC school this year and going forward. He is looking forward to the time he has in the States with me when "we can sit and plan together much."

I plan to spend as much time in Uganda as I can this next year and going forward.

I plan to bring as many of you with me as possible.

### **A most blessed time in Amsterdam to help soften the difficult memories of Larry's passing from us**

I flew out of Uganda on May 13<sup>th</sup> one year after the day Larry died. The children and I had planned to meet in Amsterdam during that time to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of YWAM Amsterdam where we lived during the fall of 1986 which launched our ministry years.



We felt so close to Larry as we walked those familiar streets, holding him close in our memories and making new memories of a place well loved. Grant flew in on Mother's Day and we toured YWAM DePoort and other places while waiting for Anne and Bethany to arrive on Wednesday. It was a special family time for us.



## A Serious Prayer List

1. **Property.** The largest project going forward is to purchase property with or without buildings to be able to keep all the children together with enough land to plant large gardens that will provide food for consumption and perhaps as income. Now they pay \$450 monthly for both orphanages for rent. They have looked at a few properties with buildings and land for \$200,000 and "one of the good ones is \$250,000". Please pray for the right place, God directed in His time. Pray for land with plantain banana trees.
2. **Vehicles.** They have no vehicles, so Bossa John has to pay for a taxi to get the students to school. He rented the van he used to get us to and from Entebbe airport and the days we were there. Of course, I reimbursed him for that rental and gas. A used van is about \$17,000, a new van about \$25,000. A motorcycle would be useful---about \$1,500. It takes John half a day to take the bus between orphanages.
3. **Tuition.** This is the largest on-going expense. There is no free public schools in Uganda. They are currently supporting 72 high school students at \$60 per semester for the cheapest school. They are now supporting 90 primary school students at \$40 per semester, and a required uniform is \$25-30, school supplies \$10. However, there are 110 primary school students who are waiting to go to school until there is available money for their tuition.
4. **Food.** This is the second largest expense, next to school costs. Their monthly cost for food is \$2400. This includes meals that have to be provided at school.
5. **Rent and Utilities.** The big orphanage (3 bedrooms with bunkbeds and mattresses on the floor) rents for \$250 month, no yard, enclosed courtyard, no plumbing. Over 50 children live there with Bossa John and his wife, Mum Bossa. The small orphanage in another city houses 10 orphans and rents for \$200, with limited plumbing. The utilities is \$80-\$100 and electricity \$50-70. These bills some months cannot be paid.



Any donations for Bossa John will be processed by Co-Laborers and wired to his MCM acct in Jinja, Uganda. Make checks payable to Co-Laborers and note which need you wish to give towards.



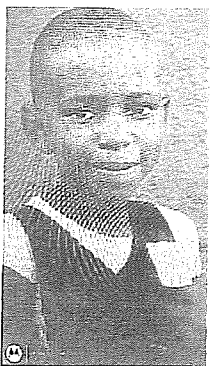
I am Ivan, born in 2007. It's a pleasure to send my sincere greetings to you and I thank God for keeping you alive to date. Allow me to publicly send my heartfelt appreciation to my spiritual dad, Pr. Bossa John who is the director and founder of the Master Children Ministries. He is an exception in this world because of his love, care, generosity and determination in supporting the marginalized like me.

At a young age my mother abandoned me and my father had no means to support me. At the age of seven, I had to survive on my own whereby I had to do house chores at someone's house to get food. At that age, I had not started school because I had no one to support me.

After two years, the person who used to give me food heard about The Master Children Ministries and offered to connect me. Glory be to God, they agreed on accommodating me and promised to take me to school though I was big to begin school.

They have been so caring, loving and committed on providing all necessities required for a happy life. Indeed, I never had any hope of going to school but by the grace of God, I can now access every basic need in life. I can change clothes as I want, which wasn't the case before joining the ministry.

My prayer to God is that He continues providing for this ministry so that people like me are helped and our hope is restored. I know the ministry has a lot of challenges, but I pray for God's intervention that solutions are met. I dream of becoming a life-changing person if provision is there.



I am Prisca, 10 years old and in primary four. My mother abandoned me just because she got pregnant from a poor man who couldn't help her to raise me. She never expected anything good from me and in fact her hope was for me to die that she could be set free. She would leave me in the house starving from morning to sunset.

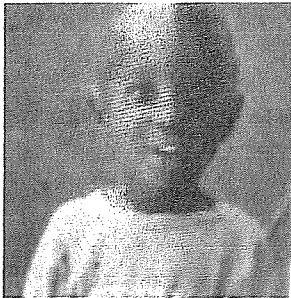
When I was 18 months old the neighbors rescued me from my mother and later handed me over to Pr. John and Doreen Bossa who promised to rehabilitate me since I was in the state of malnutrition. I was told that nobody liked to look at me due to the state I was in but thank God that I am now grown and presentable in public. When I was told how my biological mother treated me, I shed tears but later thanked God for rescuing me and promised myself to believe in Him forever. For the past years I have known Dad John and Mum Doreen Bossa as my parents and indeed they are.

Through Dad John I am supported by the Master Children Ministries, and they have been a good family, so loving and caring. That's why I also work hard in class to please them.



I am Patience, 16 years old. My mother died when I was born. The nurses forced her to have normal delivery even though she had high blood pressure. So after my birth she had her last breath. My father took me to my paternal grandmother to care for me and abandoned me there. She tried her best to support me but when I was six years old, she was hit by a strange disease and became bedridden. I then had to take care of her. Life became so hard and worrying. I would sleep on an empty stomach. I lost hope for education and any happiness in life.

My friend told me about the Master Children Ministries and later I approached them at their home. They welcomed me with open hands after I told my situation to them. They told me that they always wish to help but resources are not enough, especially funds. Glory to God that though they have little, they decided to take me in and have supported me in all aspects of life. They give me housing, clothes, food, medical care, school fees and supplies and many more.



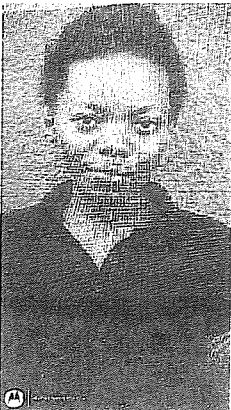
My name is Samuel, 12 years old. In primary six. My father died when I was 3 yrs old. My mother was very poor and wasn't able to support me and herself as she moved from house to house washing people's clothes. By the grace of God, proprietors of the Master Children Ministries came in and rescued my mother from the daily worries of how to raise me and took me into their home. From the age of 3 I have been in the care of their ministry and have provided a good environment for me and always do the needful to see me happy.

The organization fundraises for our school fees and other basic needs so we can also live like other children who have caring parents. Indeed, I don't have anything to worry apart from praying to God for provision of the ministry and its proprietors because I know a lot of things are needed.

Though I am still young, I have witnessed a number of children who are so vulnerable that I pray so hard to God to shower our director with enough to continue supporting such children. I doubt whether I would be alive by now according to the stories I hear from people about my condition when I was still with my mother.

My Almighty God, please connect me to friends who shall be of value to me so as my life becomes a success and the breakthrough of my mother should be through me.

God bless you all.



My name is Catherine, I was born in 2006 and am now 19 years old. I was born in a poor and illiterate family. I grew up in a miserable life and indeed we had no hope for a better future. I couldn't concentrate on academics since I was on and off at school because of school fees and requirements. In 2016 my mother died of AIDS and later my father followed. Being a girl child, my relatives just waited for the time I would get married so they would get my dowry but they never had time or money to support me. I was patient and decided to serve God and it helped me to meet good people who could counsel and advise me at all times.

Though the situation was hard for me, I kept on believing God to deliver me out of the tearful life. I could push on to school though most times I wasn't allowed in class for lessons since I had no school fees. I lived a sorrowful but prayerful life.

During the COVID pandemic, God connected me to The Master Children Ministries. It was my turning point since my life changed and the lost hope was restored. In Uganda when a girl child is illiterate, the only hope option for survival is prostitution. At The Master Children Ministries, we are given equal opportunities to live a happy life and they have provided what it requires to be a child. I got a home away from home and now live a well-balanced and happy life.

If you would be interested in helping sponsor an orphan's educational needs, please send your donation made out to "Co-Laborers" to:

Orphan's Educational Fund, The Master Children Ministries Uganda  
c/o Co-Laborers, 4535 E Robin Meadows Ln, Eau Claire, WI 54701

Primary school costs are \$40/semester for tuition, \$25-30 for required uniform, \$10 for school supplies  
High school tuition is \$60/semester.

The school day is from 6:30 am to 6:30 pm

The Master Children Ministries are trying to keep 72 high schoolers in school, and 110 primary age students back to school or keep them in school. There is no free public school system in Uganda.