



The Shepherd's Tale



A newsletter of Shepherd's Heart International Ministry (SHIM)

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Serving the God Who **ENABLES**

"I really give glory to God for this success. Finally what was a dream has become true; I was able to graduate with my Masters in Organizational Leadership and Management. Glory be to God!" Robert Wafula graduated on Feb. 22, 2013 from Uganda Christian University (UCU) in Mukono, central Uganda.



Robert and his wife Immaculate

After earning a bachelor's degree in economics in 2007, Robert began pursuing his master's in 2008 through Development Association International (DAI), a special UCU program facilitated by lecturers from the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Robert chose DAI because of its Christian perspective and focus on servant leadership – "Jesus' type of leadership."

Because of the training, Robert believes he will be better able to share and reach out to other leaders. His current roles include: Acting President of Shepherd's Heart, chairman of the board of governors for Lingira Living Hope Secondary School, a director of Buvuma Islands Savings and Credit Cooperative and of the Child Development sponsorship program, both operating under SHIM, and as an elder of MissionLink Christian Church in Jinja.

"My prayer has been since graduation to not focus on the award...but (that) it will help me to humble myself more and allow God to use me in whichever way He desires."

At left: Robert, Immaculate, and friend and co-worker Ruthie Howard after the graduation ceremony on Feb. 22.



Remembering seven years of God's blessings and provision, Lingira Living Hope Secondary School hosted a "Thanksgiving Ceremony" on February 16, attended by honored guests, former students, parents and other islanders.

Of the 25 graduates of November 2012, two completed their final national exams with extraordinary Division 1 results, while five students earned Division 2 standings. Such a performance put LLHSS "on the map" as the best secondary school in the entire Buvuma District.

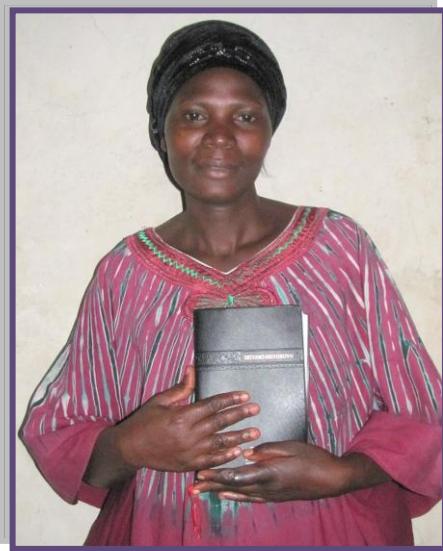


A top 2012 graduate, Fred Danze, right, is congratulated by MP Nantume, while government and school officials look on.

Buvuma's woman Member of Parliament Jennifer Nantume was the occasion's "guest of honor" and recognized the graduates' academic efforts with monetary gifts for them to buy books for their next steps of education. Nantume also promised that any girl who achieves Division 1 in 2013 will receive sponsorship from her for future studies.

Throughout the day's festivities, glory was given back to God for "enabling" the school to grow and flourish. Remembering the school's initial foundation upon Christ, speakers noted that the school's future success also depends on continued reliance on Christ.

Founded in February 2006 with only about 25 students, Lingira Living Hope has since grown by leaps and bounds with the addition of qualified staff, construction of new buildings (including two classroom blocks and boys' and girls' dormitories) and enrollment of many new students, drawing from throughout the islands and mainland Uganda. School enrollment for first term 2013, which began in early February, is at an all-time high of 230 students. *(See more photos of LLHSS on the next page.)*



Oliver Namakoye of Katonga Village

Beaming with pride and excitement, Oliver (pronounced Olivia) clutched and caressed her Bible, the throbbing pain of a recent injury fading as she received her own copy of the Luganda Bible.

Last year the Katonga fellowship of believers, of which Oliver is a part, were told by SHIM that they could each "earn" a Luganda Bible if they memorized and recited the books of the Bible in Luganda, as part of an on-going Bible project.

Because of illiteracy, many doubted they could attempt such a task, but Oliver was determined.

"I would see others reading the Bible and I would feel shame," she says, speaking of her drive to have a Bible of her own since she became a

believer in 2011. Oliver had left primary school in the early 90s and had been reading very little of anything since then.

Knowing her own inability, she sought God's strength, asking Him to help her memorize. At night, she would repeat the books over and over to herself. After months of work, Olivia recited the 66 books - flawlessly and without hesitation to the small group of Katonga believers.

We believe God will honor Oliver's hunger and desire for His Word, causing her to continue to grow spiritually, to teach her family (including six children) and to carry on being an example to the island believers, especially those of Katonga village.

Hope, Transformation are Alive and Active at LLHSS



LLHSS Photos: From top left, students perform a traditional dance at the school's Thanksgiving Ceremony; teachers and other staff are commended at the Feb. 16th occasion, and construction is ongoing for a new classroom block, foreground, while the spacious girls' dormitory, background, was completed in late 2012.



...founded in early 2007, is based on Lingira Island, one of 52 islands in the Buvuma Island chain on Lake Victoria in southern Uganda.

SHIM is working for the *transformation* of hearts and lives of the islanders, through the power of God's love and His Spirit.

SHIM's ministry branches include evangelism and discipleship, family ministry, agriculture, water and sanitation, economic development, women's ministries, healthcare and child/educational development.

SHIM is under Global Outreach International.

To learn more, visit www.shimuganda.com

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Enhancing Trust