

# The Shepherd's Tale

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

Spring 2011

*"Change can be there - when God is on our side."*

## Sharing the Message of "Living Water" Among the Islands

Namakeba village's response was unlike many of the island villages the SHIM team had visited. This camp actually seemed eager to receive the message of clean water and good sanitation. And the people proved it with action.

Within days of an initial visit in November by SHIM's Lake Victoria Pure Water and Sanitation Team, the people of Namakeba had already purchased some of the items needed for them to receive their own water purification system. Within a month, a letter was received from the village chairman urgently asking SHIM to return with the system, so they could enjoy safe drinking water.

"Indeed, we have never given out a water system in the whole of Buvuma so quickly," says SHIM team member Julius Twali. "We wondered how this camp was so joyous in buying the idea. It is one of the cleanest camps in all of Buvuma."

When the SHIM team returned to Namakeba in February to present the portable chlorination system, they found the people had also taken action on the sanitation front. After formerly having only one pit latrine to serve 1800 people, they had built five new latrines and were digging 20 others.

Namakeba is located on the southernmost end of Main Buvuma Island. The southern islands, located four to six hours beyond SHIM's home of Lingira Island, are the new "frontier" for the team as it spreads the message of safe water and good sanitation.

As the SHIM team has visited approximately 30 island villages in the past several years, they have encountered varying responses to their message - apathy, resistance, anger, and also receptivity. But Namakeba's enthusiasm was previously unmatched, as they even gave the team a goat and rooster to show their immense appreciation!

Eradication of ignorance and poverty is a key reason the water and sanitation branch of SHIM is important, say team members Julius Twali and Geoffrey Oryagi. SHIM Director Samson Mumbya oversees the team.

The team's message brings awareness to the islanders of their "disservice to themselves" by spotlighting the lack of concern for clean water and good sanitation, notes Julius. When they are taught that consuming dirty, parasite-filled lake water is the cause for various waterborne diseases, they can

change their ways, and use funds previously spent on medicine for food and school fees, he adds.

"Touched by the dangers they are in" and "moved by their suffering," Julius finds strong personal motivation to be a part of the team that is spreading the news about safe water and good sanitation.

Despite the challenges of the islands, "change can be there because of our presence - when God is on our side," he says.

As the team travels the lake to visit the various villages, they carry not only the messages of pure water and good sanitation, but the underlying and most important truth - that Jesus is the Living Water. This is the essence of the team's mission:

*"Use the provision of safe water in island communities to promote health and to practically share the 'water of life' in Christ Jesus."*

This eternal and life-changing fact is made a reality when the island people taste safe and purified water that has been transformed from filthy lake water.

With assistance from U.S.-based ministry New Life International, SHIM has given 10 portable water chlorination units to various island communities. Powered by a battery charged by a solar panel, the unit uses table salt which is changed to chlorine to purify the water. Thank you, New Life, for the 8 new systems (worth \$1100 each) given to benefit more island villages.

To encourage ownership of the systems, each community must establish a committee to oversee its operation.

The Namakeba committee intends to not only serve its own people with the pure water, but also to sell the water to neighboring villages and islands.

In 2011, the Lake Victoria Pure Water and Sanitation team will work toward providing water purification systems to six island villages, educate six new sites regarding water and sanitation, visit the churches in every village which the team assists, and follow-up past sites.

**Photos, from top:** 1. Namakeba village; 2. Old pit latrine serving 1800 people; 3. Geoffrey, water project engineer, shows the water purification system to the community's water committee; 4. Community members gather around as the system is used for the first time; 5. Samson and his wife Joy; 6. Geoffrey and his wife Immaculate, and 7. Julius with his wife Ruth and their son Andrew



# Praising God for His Blessings



was founded in early 2007. It is based on Lingira Island, one of about 50 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, educational development, water and sanitation, economic development, women's ministries, and child development.

SHIM is under Global Outreach International.



To learn more, visit [www.shimuganda.com](http://www.shimuganda.com)

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## A New Hope

Lingira Living Hope Secondary School's **classroom block**, top photo, was completed earlier this year and features classrooms for each of the four grades, offices, a staff room, and a laboratory. The building was also recently wired by Andrew Smith for solar power (see panels on the building's roof in top photo).

A **new boys' dorm**, lower photo, is quickly being constructed on the Lingira Living Hope Secondary School (LLHSS) campus on Lingira Island. Funds are still needed to fence the school property, build a girls' latrine, and construct a girls' dormitory.

With an **increase in enrollment**, from in the 80s last year to 106 students so far this year, the school is working hard to accommodate the influx of students. LLHSS has attracted students from about 12 island areas, eight mainland regions, and from Kenya. But there are hundreds and hundreds of island youth still waiting for funds and a place to learn.

Many embraced the school's new **"cost-sharing"** program, which was introduced in the school's first term (Feb.-April). More than 90% of the students paid their school fees on time to receive a 40% discount, which is being covered by SHIM. A big thank you to those of you who helped with this program.

It is our prayer that the school will continue to become more self-sustainable as it fulfills its vision of **"Hope for Transformation"** on the islands and beyond.

## A New Attitude

An excitement and thirst for God's Word and for learning has characterized the LLHSS students this term. Continuing the "Bible Project" begun last year, students can receive a new Bible by memorizing and reciting the books of the Bible. After giving away about 30 Bibles the whole of last year, that total was quickly exceeded as **41 students** eagerly recited the books - just in the first term! We continue to be grateful for the generosity of Westport Community Church, and others who have given toward the "Bible Project." Some of the students are shown below holding their new Bibles.



## A New Life

On March 16, **13 new believers were baptized** in Lake Victoria, near Kyoya village. More than half are students at LLHSS, including Danze Fred, the school's "head boy." Construction began last fall, below, on a **new building for Kyoya Deliverance Church**. After a break of several months, building recently resumed and the church is anticipated to be ready for use by the end of the year.



## Upcoming SHIM Ministry Events

### April

**11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>** - Women's Crafts and Economic Development Training with Women of Kyoya and Katonga villages

**12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>** - Family Ministry Seminar for Island Pastors, Church Leaders and their Wives; Attendees from about 14 area islands will be invited; Theme: "The Christ-Like Family"

**13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>** - Women's Crafts and Economic Development Training with Women of Lingira village

**14<sup>th</sup>** - Final Morning Star Ladies' Study for the term

**18<sup>th</sup>** - Discipleship Training of Local Church Leaders

**27<sup>th</sup>** - Ruthie Howard returns to U.S.A. on furlough

### May

**2<sup>nd</sup>** - Approximate arrival of Johnathan Michael Smith

**16<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>** - Lake Victoria Pure Water & Sanitation Team visits southern islands for training and follow-up

**21<sup>st</sup>** - Family Ministry Seminar for Area Christians on Jaguzi Island

**Throughout month** - Women's Crafts and Economic Development Training continues in Kyoya, Katonga, and Lingira

### June

**7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>** - Family Ministry Seminar for Island Pastors, Church Leaders and their Wives at Namiti; Attendees from 5 area islands will be invited; Theme: "The Christ-Like Family"

**Throughout month** - Women's Crafts and Economic Development Training continues in Kyoya, Katonga and Lingira