News from Kisoro

Autumn 2021

HOVC

New mattresses, blankets and bed sheets

Last April, our 100 secondary and tertiary students were each given a new mattress, blanket and sheets set, when we learned that they must take their own to school as boarding students.

These are household items that most of our families cannot afford to buy.

As they are required for the children's continued education, and as previous HOVC Budgets included providing new bedding every two years, the Australian Board decided to provide these items immediately. We intend for primary school children to also receive this help later in the year.

The mattresses were carried the long journey home either on heads or on the back of a motorbike (boda boda).

When is my child's classroom time?

In primary schools:

- P7 students have now finished their big secondary school entry exams.
- P6 has just ended classroom time.
- P4 and P5 are at school from 6/04/21 – 4/06/2021;
- then younger primary grades have a turn.

In secondary schools:

- 4 students have now finished their final exams.
- S3 has just ended classroom time.
- S1 and S2 will be in class from 12/4 – 3/7.

The 2020 school year will be called finished at the end of July. After that, a new school calendar will come in, with strategies for making up lost time.

We're changing our name!

. . . Watch this space!

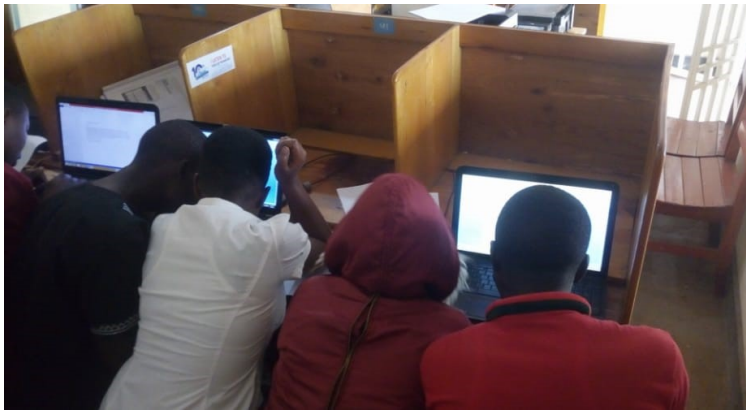
As the Australian Board works to re-establish more of our former range of services and programs in Kisoro, it is important that we are seen in the wider community as completely separate from Innocent and his actions. One very visible way to do that is to change our name from HOVC.

We are also revising policies and procedures and planning our new management structure.

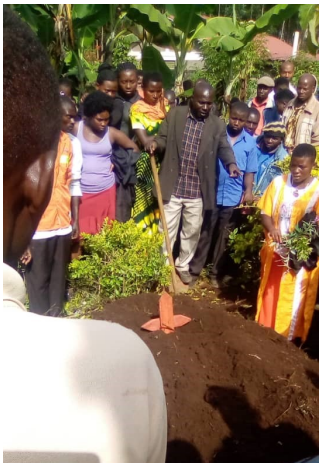
The next step is to apply for registration to operate as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Uganda. This would give us the necessary legal status in Uganda to own property, with accountability maintained through annual external audits.

Computer short course

Productively using the long gap between classroom blocks, Bernard has arranged for 14 of our more senior secondary students to do an introductory computer course for 3 months from 3rd May, run by an IT company in Kisoro. This course will provide skills necessary for the next level of education.



SAD NEWS:



We are so sad to report the death last week of H, a capable student with a promising future, who had just finished the equivalent of our Year 10. He had been ill for a while, but medical personnel had been unable to diagnose the problem. His family and friends take some comfort from the future he now has as a child of God, but he is greatly missed and mourned.

However there is more sadness in the community: on Thursday 13th May W, another of the older teen girls, was struck by lightning during an electrical storm and killed. Earlier in the year she had married and was now pregnant, so there's a double loss and grief. Please pray for all connected with her as they come to terms with her death.
Deaths through lightning strikes are sadly quite common in Kisoro.

On a brighter note, C, who was suffering from typhoid and stomach ulcers, is responding well to the medication given to her and is back enjoying the Computer classes.

Bernard was also diagnosed with typhoid, as well as brucellosis and more. He has been in a clinic for 3 days on heavy doses of antibiotics and is now improved enough to be discharged. He will need to continue the medications for another 6 weeks.

Legal Action

The Ugandan CID's investigation into Innocent's alleged embezzlement has been completed, with files now lodged with the Dept of Public Prosecution. They are now preparing their case, moving closer to obtaining a date for a hearing in court.

Our Ugandan lawyer continues diligently pursuing its progress, maintaining frequent communication with Marion.

Prayer Focus

- **Please pray** for family and friends of H who passed away recently.
- **Thank God, and also pray for**, the continued positive impact of this young man's life.
- **Pray** also for the family and friends of W, killed by a lightning strike.
- **Pray** for the continued recovery of those with serious illness.
- **Thank God** for the students able to do the computer short course. **Pray** for effective teaching and good learning.
- **Pray** for the Australian Board as they work to establish the new organisation.
- **Pray** for health and protection for all involved in HOVC.

"Hope, not in a particular outcome, but in God's goodness and faithfulness, no matter what. Hope, not in an answer or solution, but in a Person."

Sharon Garlough Brown from "Barefoot"

WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT HOVC...

- **Pray**: Use the prayer & praise points in this newsletter; or to join our email prayer group. email your details to: elizabeth.gay@hovc.org.au
- **Become an HOVC Volunteer!** Ask Marion or Lisa about how you can get involved. Email us at: info@hovc.org.au
- **Give** : You can make a donation to HOVC using the banking details below:
  Account Name: HOVC Aust. Inc. BSB: 112-879 Account #: 438 129 386
  Reference: Please use your Supporter ID # plus the donation code for the fund you wish to donate to (eg.AU0088_TANK)