

# EWCV Newsletter February 2010

## **THE SUCCESS STORY OF SUSAN NALULE**

**by Social Worker, Allan Kisakye, EWCV**

A girl who spices up Eagles Wings' official functions the most through her wonderful voice and creative dancing is none other than Susan Nalule. Susan is a thirteen year old, cheerful, and creative girl who wears a smile always on her face. She is friendly, generous and diligent at work. Susan is a very determined, optimistic girl and she has a positive attitude. At school, she is an influential leader, serving as a prefect for Music, Dance and Drama. Her dream is to become a Midwife. In her free time Susan enjoys making crafts, playing netball, and singing gospel music.

However, Susan lost both her parents four years ago due to HIV/Aids of which she was also found to be infected. In February 2009 when she was enrolled in Beth Pipe Nursery and Primary School, Susan's health was greatly deteriorating due to the fact that her C.D 4 blood count was below 100. She was extremely thin with many sores on her body. She was extremely stigmatized.

Susan was not getting the treatment she deserved because she had no money for transport to the hospital. She had lost hope for living, but her teachers committed themselves to love, care and counsel her. She was subjected to a monthly food program of which she has quickly responded by putting on 12kg weight within an eight months period. She was also able to get her Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARV's) which she so desperately needs to take regularly every day. Susan is a delightful girl whom everyone is pleased with. Our thanks to Calif Berkley of Ottawa who is sponsoring Susan financially, prayerfully, and through encouragement. "Not to us, not to us, but to God be the Glory, Praise and Honor".

## **Two New Arrivals at EWCV**

We are presently looking after a two year old boy, Elisha, who looks like a nine month old child because of malnutrition. He sleeps between Ann and me at night, but we are having him sleep in the little playpen/crib which we purchased for him. When he was brought to us to our church at the property and we saw his condition, our hearts went out to him as we found it

hard to believe that anyone could let him starve like this. We had him admitted to the clinic for one week for proper treatment which included proper feeding of high protein foods and vitamins to begin building up his little body. Then his care giver had to go back to looking after her own children. Elisha needed a place to stay to receive proper care. We had no choice but to take him into our home. When his temperature went up to 40 degrees celcius, we took him to our doctor. He had malaria and typhoid. He also has kwoshikor and marasmis, two diseases common in the tropics wherever malnutrition is present. Today Elisha is doing much better. When we feed him he will eat and eat and eat like you wouldn't believe. He had a huge open wound on the top of his little foot which reached deep to the bone. With proper feeding and anti-biotic salve placed on the wound with clean bandages, this wound is healing nicely. Please pray for little Elisha as he adjusts. Ann is a marvelous nurse and I am so proud of the love and care she is showing this little guy. We didn't plan to personally be looking after a child so small at this stage, but I believe that God put Elisha into our path to love and care for. For how long, we aren't sure. We are truly being blessed. Elisha is now smiling much of the time as he feels more security and loved. He has a winner's smile.

Another newcomer for Family #3 is four year old Moses Kukiriza. He is the younger brother to Dan and Caleb in Family #3 as well as brother to Stella Kisakye. We now have all four children from the one family together out of five children after their both parents died of HIV/AIDS. The mother died four years ago when Moses was born and the father died two years ago. The children arrived back from visiting their auntie's home north of Kampala with their brother Moses where they spent five weeks of holidays. The auntie couldn't look after Moses any longer and asked if we would bring him to live at EWCV with his siblings. Our volunteer, Belinda Burnett from Toronto, Canada, has chosen to sponsor Moses. He has begun his classes here at Nursery level. We are also looking after a second baby, four months old, that belonging to Stella Kisakye. Little Grace Deborah is left with us each morning when Stella heads for the Senior Secondary School where she is taking Senior Two level, equivalent to Grade Nine in Canada. The father, Sam, comes early each morning to take over with the baby. We also have the help from our office staff when things get hectic and we have two babies crying at the same time. These little ones are getting lots of TLC. Stella is rooming at our friend's housing unit nearby us where there are other young teenage moms with babies. We appreciate this help from our friends from the UK, Alan and Beryl Went, for them allowing us to have Stella stay there.

## **Back to School**

Most of the children in Uganda began their classes in their schools on February 1<sup>st</sup>, but we at EWCV started our classes on February 8<sup>th</sup>. The children in the three families of EWCV returned from spending their five weeks of holidays with their former guardians on February 6<sup>th</sup>, two days before school. The staff had all returned from their holidays on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. Groceries were purchased by the House Parents for beginning the feeding of the

children upon their return. The teachers of Beth Pipe Nursery and Primary School spent the week, prior to students returning, in meetings as well as planning for the return of the students. This is the beginning of the new school year. We have a new teacher, Dennis, who is teaching Primary Five and we added one new Primary Six class. In 2011 we will add another class of Primary Seven students giving us the complete range of a Primary School ranging from Nursery of Baby Class and Top Class to Primary Seven.

Please pray for the licensing of our school as the application was turned down over a year ago due to the fact that our roofing is made of grass thatch. Now we have the new school with proper iron sheets on the roof and our application binders were accepted by the Ministry of Education as we had everything required in them. We now have to wait until the Commissioners review our files for approval.

We delayed opening our school one week to give us extra time to complete the plastering of all the rooms. This work has been done, but we can't move in until we have our new ECOSAN Toilet facilities completed and ready for use by the students and staff. We are very grateful to the efforts of the Rotary Club of Mill Bay (Cowichan), B.C. in Canada who have partnered with the Masaka Rotary Club here in Masaka, Uganda to apply through the International Rotary Club for funding this important project. Due to delays, the work on the toilet has begun today and will likely take three weeks to complete. In the meantime, the staff and students are using the older temporary structure as well as the dining hut of family #1 for the nursery class. The Rotary Club has also assisted our schools with funding for other items as well. This makes such a big difference in our budgeting. Perhaps in a month or two we will be able to begin construction on the kitchen for the new school with two energy efficient stoves. We need to complete the plastering of the outside of the new school first.

Our Canadian volunteer, Belinda, reported the other day that when she visited the classes which were underway at the temporary school, a cow wandered into the Primary Six classroom from outside. She said that it was perfect timing as the class was studying agriculture and had a picture of a cow on the blackboard for discussing the proper care of cows. It was an experience she won't soon forget. We were sorry that our other visitor, Dr. Haris Macris, from the USA left us a few days before for Tanzania as he would have certainly enjoyed seeing the cow in the classroom. Sorry you missed this, Haris!!! However, thanks for your visit and spending time with us at EWCV. We appreciated your encouragement so much as things can become overwhelming at times. With God in charge, everything is possible. We also appreciated your phone call, Haris, from Tanzania letting us know that you are okay. Belinda left us yesterday and will be missed by the children and staff. She also was an encourager with great flexibility for the many things she was faced with.

The congregation of Blumenort Mennonite Church along with Walter and Marilyn Dyck will be happy to know that the 68 boxes of books which were shipped to us from Manitoba, Canada are being transferred finally to the new library of the new school at the property. Paul Ssekinjako said that he is ready to begin building the cabinets with shelving for the books. We will be having three cabinets made whereby the books will be sorted out according to

readability levels. What a treasure this will be along with new books which were sent from Canada thanks to Lynda Norton in B.C. and Pat Parish in Winnipeg for their contributions sent through the mail. Our children are very privileged and blessed to receive such wonderful gifts. Our new library will also serve as a computer room with solar computers as God provides.

Needless to say, these past few months have been the most hectic since we began this project with many children coming and going from schools and universities plus the various projects which are underway or getting started. However, God has seen us through everything and to him be the glory.

## **Agriculture at EWCV**

Our work in agriculture continues under the direction of our Farm Manager and the Assistant Farm Manager. They have completed the harvesting of beans with the help of people from Lubumba Community along with some of the children. There was a good harvest. They have now started the harvesting of maize corn with the promise of a fine harvest before us. Once again the children and others from the Community will help with the harvest. The produce helps us to keep prices down, but we are still not self-sufficient. This will take some time. It is our goal to have the families and farming in general become self-sustaining in the food department. We now have one cow which produces some milk for the families to mix with their porridge each day. We are in the process of expanding the corral and shelter for up to six cows in the future. We are also learning about the use of bio-gas from the manure of the cows to provide gas for cooking purposes in the kitchens of the families. We are into the dry season by which we need to hire a tractor to come and plow six acres for the next planting season. Our farm managers have also developed a horticultural area where they are now growing tomatoes, water melons, and egg plants to feed the children. We still also need to develop a poultry project sometime in the future after the school project has been completed. We can only do so much as the Lord provides. He knows our every need.

## **Thank You**

Our thanks and appreciation go out to everyone who has provided donations towards these various projects, praying for us, writing letters and sending cards, etc. to the children, for sponsoring children and staff, and for your encouragement. We apologize once again for the delay in getting out this newsletter with updates. Thank you for bearing with us. We also send out thanks for the volunteers who have come to be with us and for the work they have done while here. You all have been most encouraging. Thanks for the calendars received from

Canada and the UK. We hope you received the sets of pictures we sent out earlier of the Christmas celebrations. If you did not receive them, please email us and let us know.

### **Prayer Requests:**

- 1) For our Brother-In-Law, Lloyd Bassett, for strength and healing as he undergoes chemo treatment for bladder cancer over the next six weeks.
- 2) For our new children, Elisha Kyanja and Moses Kukiriza, as they adjust in their new homes. We are not sure if Elisha will be with us permanently.
- 3) For the completion of the ECOSAN project and the completion of the plastering of the new school for opening by the end of March, 2010.
- 4) For our EWCV staff and children plus children from Lubumba Community still undergoing malaria treatment.

### **Contact Information:**

Please use our new email address: [bapeckham@gmail.com](mailto:bapeckham@gmail.com)

EWCV Website: [www.eagleswingschildrensvillage.com](http://www.eagleswingschildrensvillage.com)

New mailing address for the Canadian Head Office of EWCV:

Eagles Wings Children's Village

c/o Pat Bates

300-404 Desalaberry Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Canada, R2L 2G3

Phone: 204- 254-5309 for financial information (Pat Bates)

Phone: 204- 257-2483 for information about sponsorship

or other programs including volunteering (Francie Humby)

Please note that we can provide contact information for those of you who live in the USA, UK, or Europe for making donations or sponsorships to EWCV if you wish. Just contact us here in Uganda and we will get back to you.