

"Providing basic human needs and dignity for all through prayer and acts of love."

Share the Blessings, Inc. is a recognized non-profit organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the International Revenue Code, FEIN 14-1882445

Share the Blessings, Inc.

P.O. Box 3024

Cary, NC 27519

Thanks to your support Share the Blessings will be completing our 18th and 19th clean water wells in 2012.

These words, help in driving us to do the work we do:

It helps now and then to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom of God is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete ... No statement says all that should be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. NO program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything.... We cannot do everything, and there is liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results ... we are workers and not master builders, ministers and not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.

Attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero, of El Salvador



New well brings clean water to Bunamweri, Uganda

"... whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:13



share.

Lent 2012

Dear Friends,

It has not been long since I came into this country – the great America – as thought of by many outside of it. But in all measures, one is not wrong to think about this country as being ‘great’ given its resources, technological advancement, military prowess, population, and many others measures. As I walk on the road, I watch these big automobiles racing at high speeds, stores full of people massively shopping, and those on the streets are running up and down. Everything and everyone goes so fast, no wonder people in this country are able to accomplish a lot through their systems – it is a culture of efficiency.

Share The Blessings (STB) will soon celebrate ten years since its genesis and I am proudly happy to say that I have not only witnessed its birth and growth, but I have also shared immensely from its many blessings. STB however stands out as a sign of contradiction within the culture and country of its inception. Looking back on the path trodden, I realize that the story started somewhere, with a few dreamers touched by their first experience of a place and people. It started with one clean water well and then another and another and on and on, one computer and then hundreds more, one orphan in school and then many more, one friend and a friendship cup that overflows. This is not the way the culture of speed and efficiency operates. This is slow and does not seem to produce quick and significant results. Is it worthy being part of? The temptation here might be to suggest a massive fundraising effort so that there is enough money for 50 wells at once, or to quit and abandon the matter to God – there is nothing we can do to change things. As I think of the STB journey, I am reminded of our salvation story that begins in a very humble way especially at a time of very high expectations. It began somewhere, with a few people and has grown ever bigger until now more and more people are getting into the journey. I also think of the biblical story of the mustard seed that is so small but which later grows into some big tree to give shelter to birds and other creatures.

We often light candles in church, as small dim lights against a world that often seems forbidding and dark. But we light them because we are a people of hope, a people whose faith is marked by an expectation that we should always be ready for the coming of the Master. Let the joy and anticipation of our faith invigorate all who support STB in its mission, to continue to light that one candle at a time so as to dispel the darkness. It is not our work but the Lord's and we need not fear to just do our part and let the Lord complete the rest.

Fr. Sebastian Bukenya, on sabbatical from Diocese of Kampala & studying at University of San Diego

Share the Blessings new Student Sponsorship Program

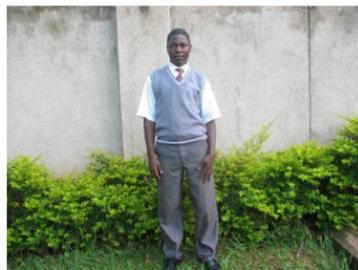
Since 2002, Share the Blessings (STB) has committed itself to two major goals in Uganda: providing clean water and raising funds to help children stay in school.

The February 2012 issue of Christianity Today included an article by Bruce Wydick, an economist at the University of San Francisco. Wydick asked 16 development economists the following question, "What are the best ways to help the poor in developing countries?" Specifically he asked them to rank poverty interventions in terms of impact and cost-effectiveness per donated dollar. The number one intervention, according to Wydick's study, was building clean water wells. Ranking #4 (behind de-worming treatments for children and providing mosquito nets) was sponsoring a child. In Wydick's rankings, child sponsorship was the highest-rated long-term intervention. Sponsored children were far more likely to complete secondary school and obtain gainful employment after graduation.

Over the past decade, STB has witnessed the impact that education can have on the life of a child with limited opportunities for climbing out of poverty. Armed with this knowledge and the desire to connect our supporters with some of these amazing young people - STB has initiated a child sponsorship program. The most exciting aspect of this program is the opportunity to interact through letter exchanges with a student in our school support program. You will be forever changed by building a relationship with a child living in a world so different than ours. Knowing a name and seeing a face connects you in a way that no other opportunity, short of going to visit yourself, can give you.

Please consider joining us in this new venture.

To read Bruce Wydick's article, go to - http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/article_print.html?id=95068



One of our students:
Ssebwatale Paul, Senior Four at St. Kizito Minor Seminary

Share the Blessings Sponsorship Levels

- Non-Boarding Primary School Students:
\$150/year \$12.50/month
- Non-Boarding Secondary School Students:
\$300/year \$25/month
- Boarding Secondary School Students:
\$450/year \$37.50/month
- Boarding Tertiary/Seminary Students:
\$450/year \$37.50/month

Other Options:

- I want to make a one-time yearly donation of _____
- I want to make a one-time monthly donation _____
- Can't sponsor right now but would like to make a general contribution to STB Education: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ City, State, Zip

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please complete and mail with tax-deductible donation to:

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Clean Water Funding - Thanks to RetailROI, A Word From Our President, Ed Collupy

Share The Blessings is very thankful for the recent grant from **The Retail Orphan Initiative (RetailROI)** at **The Giving Back Fund** for their substantial gift supporting our clean water projects in Uganda. As a result of this funding, work is underway in seeking applications from priests in Uganda who will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary of their Ordination this summer. What a wonderful gift they will be able to provide to their parishioners in honor of their steadfast service to the priesthood. We plan to have 2 wells completed by August 2012.

The Retail Orphan Initiative (www.retailroi.org) invited Share The Blessings to their annual retail technology event in New York City this past January. My wife, Debi, and I had the opportunity to bring the stories of how being connected to our many friends in Uganda makes a difference in responding to their needs.

RetailROI's 3 primary goals are:

1. To raise awareness to the needs of 400 million vulnerable children, orphans throughout the world,
2. To work with and encourage retailers, vendors and manufacturers to create programs to help with orphan/foster care,
3. To fund existing charities that are on the forefront of orphan/foster care worldwide.

Our connection with the Retail Orphan Initiative is certainly a blessing and one we are glad to be collaborating with.

A New Dorm Room - Through your support, Share The Blessings (STB) has been able to help our friend Sr. Mathias Malumbo rescue and educate girls at the Maria Goretti Girls Vocational Training School. At this school, 150 girls from a number of different backgrounds in which they were abused or orphaned have the opportunity to create a prosperous life for themselves through training in a number of different vocational tracks including catering, tailoring, and office support. The students spend 18 months in coursework and 6 months doing an internship. When they have completed the program, they are certified to go out into their chosen field. Recently, STB was able to give significant support towards the completion of a new dorm facility that will comfortably sleep up to 96 girls. The current dorms are in such a state that the Ugandan Health Department had threatened to remove girls from the school. We thank our supporters for helping us to help the school!

New Dorm at
Maria Goretti



Other Opportunities to Partner with STB

___ I would like to share the gift of clean water

___ I would like to help the Maria Goretti Girls Vocational Training Center

AMOUNT: \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to: **Share the Blessings**
And mail to: **PO Box 3024, Cary NC 27519**