

The School at Mfuta

The idea for a school in Mfuta came about late in 2022. The pastor from the village came to visit me and explained the great need for a school. Mfuta is an hour's drive from Kasenga on a motorcycle. As one of the most remote villages of the District, the pastor told us that Mfuta has never had a school! Each day he watches the young people linger there with nothing to do. "They can't read or write. They have no skills. They can't get a job. Please, can't we build a school so that our children have a future?" I was greatly affected by this information; however, we were already in the planning stages of the Mwangaza School in Kasenga. The Mfuta School would have to wait a little longer...

Through God's grace, the Mwangaza School was completed in August 2023. This allowed us to share the vision for the Mfuta School during my furlough at the end of the year. The plan, the structure, the materials are all the same as Mwangaza School. Some funds came in quickly and we moved forward by purchasing all the bricks and truckloads of gravel necessary for the project.

The devil commonly works to stop us every time we do our work for the Lord. The Mfuta school project was no exception. The distance to Mfuta and the poor infrastructure already presented some unique challenges in getting materials to the work site. Additionally, the cost of materials went up as much as 15% during the four months while I was in the USA! The small house on the church property was to provide sleeping quarters for the work team, but it collapses in a heavy storm just before we started. We were told water would be readily available to mix the cement however the situation had changed not long before we started work. It would have been easy to become discouraged. But the staff and I always have great faith in God leading us forward. The challenges described above delayed our start. This, in turn, caused transportation problems. The low spot on the road to Mfuta always floods during the rainy season; we missed our opportunity. Tools, workers, water cans – and even our motorcycle – now had to be loaded into a small boat each trip in order to continue along the roadway. All for a "toll", of course.

Finally, on January 15, the District Superintendent and the pastor from Galilee Church came to talk about the great gifts that God has given to the District and to offer prayers for the work. We began work and completed the footings in two weeks.



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African Proverb

“You must act as if it is impossible to fail.” –from South Africa

An Interview with Bwalya, NYM Mgr.

Nuru Ya Mapendo’s Mission/Vision

“Nuru Ya Mapendo is a ministry growing the community of faith where Jesus Christ changes lives. We welcome the Holy Spirit so all will discover their God-given gifts and delight in sharing the love of Christ in their community and in the world. Grace so pervades the atmosphere of the ministry that questions, doubts and fears can be honestly expressed and every person is loved, respected, nurtured and celebrated.”



Jane: We continue our interview that we began with the December newsletter. Bwalya, how do you see NYM sharing the love of Christ in the community and the District of Kasenga? (The district covers 1900 square miles.) how do we encourage others to share the love of Christ?

Bwalya: As staff of Nuru Ya Mapendo, we begin each day with prayers and ask God to use us to be a light to the community and the district. We are filled with love because of what Christ has done for us, and we want to share his joy with others. It takes many forms – offering smiles and kindness, acts of service, encouraging words, and hosting evangelism events. Mama Jane does some teaching on this subject. We want to live as an example for others.

Jane: How does NYM create a ministry of grace?

Bwalya: NYM receives many people at our ministry center each day. We also interact with many in the community who do not attend United Methodist churches. We are blessed to have staff members who have strong personal relationships with Christ. People of all levels of life feel comfortable to come to our doors – the hungry, the sick, the homeless, the disabled, as well as students, church members, and pastors. We know that all are precious to the Lord. They come, knowing that they are received with love and that we will listen to their concerns. Our desire is to treat them as we would want to be treated in the same situation. God’s grace allows us to receive them and respond as we are able. One of the things I enjoy at NYM is how we celebrate people. It may be for the completion of a big project, a birthday, a task well-done, a new baby, overcoming a challenge, or the recovery of someone who was sick. All these and many others are reasons to celebrate God’s goodness.

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Jane: Thank you, Bwalya, for sharing with us. We pray that those who read your interview will see that God is working and is at the hearts of all that we do at Nuru Ya Mapendo.

2024 Projects

In our last newsletter, we provided a list of our projects for 2024. As you can see below, we are making good progress to date!

1. ~~Construct a toilet building at Mwangaza school for 280 children \$4,800. Completed!~~
2. ~~Construct a new school foundation in Mfuta, a village one hour from Kasenga that has never had a school \$3,600 Completed!~~
3. ~~Raise walls for the Mfuta school \$8,400 Completed!~~
4. Partner with Peniel church in Kasenga to construct their new foundation. \$3,500
They have outgrown their current location and need a new building (a good problem to have!)
5. ~~Windows frames for the Jerusalem church and the pastor's home \$1,900 Completed!~~
The bldgs. cannot be secured without windows. (27 window frames, glass, paint & labor)
6. Assist a single mother with a home \$1,500. Completed!
Babra supports a daughter and a nephew. After food and school expenses, there is no money left to pay her rent. We'd like to provide a parcel of land with a mud brick house so she doesn't have to worry about rent. Completed!
7. Support poles for the roof at Galilee church. \$2,500. Purchased, just need to be installed!
Although the church building is completed, we've determined that the heavy metal roof needs steel poles at each corner to provide more strength/support.

Answered Prayers/Prayer Requests

- We praise God for his healing power. Jane has recovered, regained her strength, and is so happy to be working with the churches again!
- We praise God for Bwalya and the staff. They've worked through many difficult challenges on the job this spring.
- Pray for the students of the Jane Wise and Mwangaza schools who will be studying for final exams through May.
- Pray for God to provide the financial means to complete the Mfuta School in 2024 (\$50,000) and to replace our dying motorcycle (\$2,000)

Connection



Jane is enjoying having opportunities to work with the churches again. She gave a message to the district in January and was asked to speak at Peniel Church in February. She also attends some of the religion classes at the who schools to interact with the children.

Blessings, Jane

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Poor internet connection prevents us from posting frequently, but we try to place new information each week.

Tell your friends about the work we are doing by sharing our posts!

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