



December 2017

Latest Happenings - Fr Bruno

It has been a very busy six months. I have settled into my new Mtwango parish assignment, which is close to Ibumila Village. The construction of the 3 planned family UPENDO houses was begun. Much progress was made during the dry season at both locations. The 2 houses at Ibumila Upendo Village are about 75% complete, and the new house at Mafinga Upendo Family Center is at 50%.



2 New Ibumila Family Houses, with Common Bldg.

The fish pond was stocked in the Spring with the first baby tilapia, and then they had to survive a difficult period of drought. Water from the wells had to be pumped in to keep up with evaporation, but the fish survived. All enjoyed a much anticipated first harvest. The first milk goats were another new addition to life at the village, and they are providing fresh milk daily.



Stocking the New Fish Pond

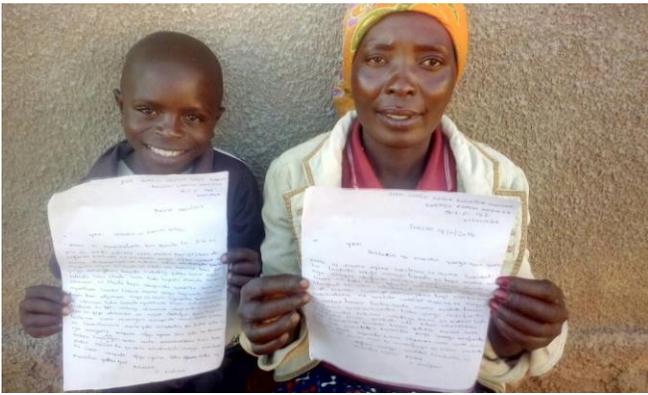


Chillin' with the Goats



All Saints Day – Full Church and Two Choirs

The new church has had pews installed, and both children's and adult (village) choirs have been formed. Videos of the choirs singing are now on the TOUCO.org website.



Timothy and Felista, Mafinga.

My Life Story: Timothy Kaduma

I am a second-grade child, ten years old and an orphan. The story is that my father died but what I know is that my mother is mentally challenged, and I am her only child. Life has always been a struggle for me. If I had anything to eat, then it was my mother's relatives who provided it. Before I joined the Yerusalem Upendo Family in Mafinga, I hardly had any regular meals. I wandered with my mentally sick mother from one place to another and at night, from one local beer club to another. This was the norm till I was five years old and it was then that one of my relatives send me to Yerusalem Upendo Family, which is very close to my village, just a walking distance. Life changed. I had regular meals; I started attending a kindergarten and had a cloth over my body. I remember one day when social workers came here and told me that this place was not good for me and they would be sending me home to Changarawe village and I told them I will never go there. Yerusalem Upendo Family was my place and family.

Since I came here my mother or relatives have never visited me. I do not want to go home either as I do not want to see my mother in that poor state, it is painful. My grandma who used at times to take me with her has already died due to old age. I love living here with Mama Felista and my other friends with whom we go to school together. I try to work hard at school so my life may be better, so that I can help myself and Mama Felista too in her old age.

I love Mama Felista Mwigani, she is so good to us and me and all children here tend even to forget that we are orphans. She really cares for us. She with father Mgaya are our parents. May the Lord bless them and all those who come here to see us at times.

THANK YOU.....ASANTE SANA. Timothy.



Timothy (center) with his New Family

My Life Story: Felista Mwigani

I am a widow who come from Ikingula, almost 60 kilometers from Yerusalem Upendo Family in Mafinga. I got married in 2001 and had a child thereafter, Ahmed Mohamed. In 2004 my husband got ill and after a few months died, leaving me with the child to struggle on my own. I had to work different tasks to support myself, my child, and my mother who also raised us as a widow. I have worked at times as a maid and farm worker. During these times I met children who also struggled, and had no parents or stayed with their grandparents. These children reminded me of my own childhood experiences and problems and so their plight pierced my heart.

While in Dar es Salaam, working as a house woman; my friend Esta told me of a Catholic priest in Njombe who cared for orphans. She also said that this priest needed a woman to help raise these kids, as he cannot most of the time stay with them. I thought about this for two years and a half then in 2013 I finally decided to help Fr Mgaya, with these orphans in Mafinga. Since then, my child and I live in Mafinga and I have no plans on leaving this place. I feel helped as I help. My child Ahmed Mohamed has finished his seventh grade and is going to enter high school next year. I hope to raise him as I raise these other kids. I love what I do. I am grateful for this opportunity to help others as I am helped. God willing, I hope to die here.

I want to thank God and all people of good will who help us with items and support to make us live better; those who inspire and encourage me to do what I do. My only wish is not to leave these children as orphans again but to remain with them always. Yerusalem Upendo Family is my home and I am here to stay. Asante. Thank you! Felista Mwigani

THANK YOU to all of our TOUCO's supporters. You have been instrumental in turning this dream of helping these struggling children find new loving family homes, with education and opportunities for a bright future, into reality.

Please check out the new **Christmas gifting cards** included in this mailer, and continue your prayerful and generous support.

We hope you can join us next July for an evening of fun and thanksgiving, when **Fr Bruno returns to Idaho** for a few weeks. Events will be planned for both Boise and Northern Idaho.

May you and your family have a joyful Advent and Christmas, and a blessed new year.

Make donation checks payable to:
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