



Via CARITAS

Through God's Love

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Felix visits some of our children in class.

News from Haiti

by Arnold Lezcano

Felix, our Sponsorship Coordinator in Haiti, explains that after the August 14th earthquake, the country's situation is "very heavy and bad." He tells us his heart is heavy for the "issues of insecurity, the loss of many lives, the current mode of governance, and the absence of basic needs."

The insecurity problem in Haiti has been the most troubling as armed groups are

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multiplying everywhere, control many sectors, and some even work for Haitian leaders. **"The gangs know that they are big and strong,"** says Felix, and **"they are conquering more territory, taking taxes from the hands of people, especially business owners, companies, at the ports, on the roads, and they made me suffer too."**

Over a month ago, on his way to visit children after the earthquake, **Felix was robbed at gunpoint by three gang members!** They stole his motorcycle, phones and the wifi router he uses for internet. He had no choice but to surrender because "they get very aggressive and jealous, they kidnap, they steal, they do sexual violence and even kill for money!" After this awful event, we lost communication with Felix for several weeks.

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After those weeks of worried confusion, we were very grateful that Felix was able to communicate with us and let us know that he was still safe. **We recently purchased him another phone and wifi router so that he can send us updated pictures and letters from our Haitian children.** We are also in communication with a few religious sisters to see if they can help Felix gather these items while he does not have steady transportation. In addition, we are also trying to help Felix to purchase another motorcycle.

Felix assures us that **“as for my commitment, I would like to tell the sponsors that I always want to work with CARITAS because I love working with children, but there are these problems here that disturb me.”** He asks us to please **pray for Haiti.** Very soon, he will be sending our sponsors updated letters and pictures of the children who are currently going to school.



Felix is committed to CARITAS and our children.



Schoolgirls with one of the Sisters.

Before he was robbed, Felix was luckily able to visit several schools: **“Thank God many children are there, however some of them were forced to leave the area where they live fearing for their safety.”** We now know that many schools are functioning as normal. Unfortunately, in more dangerous areas such as Martissant, La saline, Village de Dieu, Belle-Air, and a part of Croix-des-Bouquets, the school doors are closed. Felix tells us that “no one can frequent these places apart from the armed bandits.”



A Haitian boy walks to school.

This is a very difficult time for Felix, our sponsored children, and for all the inhabitants of Haiti. **We greatly appreciate your concern and support for them and will keep you informed about new developments.**

Jackie's Graduation

by Genevieve Steigerwald

Despite the difficulties faced by many educational institutions due to lockdowns and restrictions, we have been fortunate to celebrate several graduations for our sponsored children in 2021, the most recent of whom is

Jackline (Jackie) Nandege. **Jackie, who has been sponsored in our program since 2007, graduated in October from the St. Francis Hospital Nsambya Nurse Training School.** Not only did she finish her training, she was also recognized as the best academic student for her class – which she achieved while also spending time as a student leader and a member of the students' guild council.



Alon (UG ministry coordinator), and Jackie's mother attended her nursing school graduation.



Jackie pictured during nursing school.

Jackie has had several different sponsors since beginning primary school. Like so many other young girls, she was raised by a single mother who couldn't afford to send her to school. Her enrollment in our CARITAS program began her relationships with her loving sponsors who have walked with her through the years. Jackie values their love and commitment, saying **“My sponsors are really my heroes and heroines! I have always had a good parent-child, communicative relationship with my sponsors and have been able to talk to them, even during difficult periods in my life.** I immensely value their words of comfort and encouragement as they helped me appreciate the depth of love and help heal my spirit. Communication with my sponsors has given me encouragement to push harder, and study harder to perform well in school. **They have always told me that they believed in me and that I would succeed in life.”**

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Jackie has big plans for her nursing career and is highly motivated to care for the sick and suffering. After she becomes a registered nurse (God willing, in two more years), **she plans to open her own medical clinic and hopes that it will one day grow to a medical center or hospital!** She is excited to help others and to be able to support herself. **“Were it not for CARITAS, I would not be this far along in my goals and dreams - I am now living to serve the suffering Christ in our nursing patients, and I am part of the healing ministry of Our Lord Jesus Christ.”**



Jackie displays her well-earned diploma.

Sponsor a Seminarian Program Update



Some sponsored brothers and new candidates.

As you know, this year we formally launched our **Sponsor a Seminarian** program. **Thanks to our collaboration with the Capuchin Franciscans in Uganda,** we were introduced to several young men who needed support on the path to the priesthood.

We are delighted to report the wonderful news that we now have **3 fully sponsored seminarians** in our

program: **Brs. Justo (Jubilee), Simon and Robert - and Br. John Martin has a partial sponsorship.** We are so grateful to their generous sponsors for their love for the priesthood, which has inspired them to help these brothers respond to the Lord's call!

Full sponsorship for our seminarians means that they are finally funded to pursue the final stages of their formation in theology. They had completed their philosophical coursework, but the Seminary's lack of scholarship money made it too difficult for them to support all the candidates. *(Cont. on page 5)*

With the help of their sponsorship, they are now on the right track to complete their formation and be ordained priests!

Our ministry coordinator, Alon, visited the seminary last week and was able to visit with all of our sponsored brothers. They are all doing well, and send Christmas greetings and messages of thanks to their sponsors - [you can click here to view a little video from several of the brothers!](#)

Alon was able to tour the seminary and see the garden where they grow food for themselves, and even got to sit in on Br. Robert's piano practice! He also **enrolled two more brothers in our program**, and we hope you [visit our website to read about their journeys to the priesthood.](#)

Sponsors of seminarians are in the beautiful and unique position of enabling young men to respond to God's special call. They are giving the Church a beautiful gift, "laborers for the vineyard". **These soon-to-be priests will spend their lives in service of the Church, and will always pray for those who helped them on their way.** Thank you so much to our generous sponsors who are making all of this possible!



Br. Justo (Jubilee) Madira.



Br. Simon Muyunga.



Br. Robert Bwambale.



Br. John Martin Opio is only partially sponsored - [see his profile on the website to read his beautiful story!](#)



By making your year-end gift to CARITAS, you can shine the Light of Christ in the lives of so many needy children and adults who simply need an opportunity to reach their God-given potential.

Your donation will make it possible to promote Catholic education, support vocations, carry out corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and break the cycle of poverty around the world!

[Donate to Shine a Light today to make the world a better, brighter, more love-filled place.](#)

Want to see what our kids are up to?

CLICK TO FOLLOW US!



Spotlight on Children in Need

These two girls are in desperate need of sponsors to give them a chance at a better life!

Josephine's mother has been suffering from a mental disorder for over 10 years which sometimes causes her to run away and live on the streets. Her condition makes her husband very sad, and though he tries very hard he cannot make enough money to sustain the family as well as pay for the medical bills and treatment of his wife.

Josephine and her siblings are innocent children who have dreams but their parents are in no position to support those dreams and send them to school. Josephine loves music and would like to become a musician in the future if she gets a chance to complete her education.

Rashidah's father left before she was born and her mother passed away when she was 6 years old. Rashidah was homeless but luckily an old lady in the village took her in. At age 7, Rashidah walked a very long distance to their former area of residence to live with her late mother's friend who is currently taking care of her as a foster mother.

Her foster mother is a single mother of two children, unemployed, and unable to support Rashidah in her education. She feels like a burden to her foster mother but tries to help around the house and pray that they all have enough to eat.

Rashidah is a very intelligent girl who wishes to attend school but her situation is making her feel desperate. She prays to God to enable her to receive an education and become a nurse.



[Josephine Nakigozi, 3](#)



[Rashidah Nalubuuka, 9](#)



Please visit Josephine and Rashidah's profiles on our website if you are interested in sponsoring them!