



October 2023

Dear friends of Orphans Light,

We are able to do all because of God and your generous support of all forms! We are forever grateful for you and your dear families.

Yes, we continue to bring education, hope, faith, and economic solutions to orphans and widows in Uganda only because you decided to walk alongside us. Please know that you are impacting so many lives and I believe the God in heaven is taking note of everything. I know and believe this because **Matthew 25:31-40** says so! I love verse 40 of that text;

"The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'..."

So much has been happening and we are so grateful to God, especially for His continued provision. Again, we are so thankful for you dear friends and family who have been a great encouragement to us and the entire team on this journey. We are honored to merit your support; to be the ones you partner with instead of other initiatives and organizations around the world.

In this issue, we are highlighting the impact of child sponsorship on one of our young men. His name is Allan. Sponsorship by one of our friends has positively impacted him and his family. We glorify God for that. We hope it will be an encouragement to you, for your continued support to a community dear to our hearts, the Rakai Community, through Orphans Light. Many often wonder what their support through various organizations does and as much as we cannot guarantee what happens with other organizations, we can assure you that your donation through Orphans Light is put to very good use. Allan's story is just an example!

Please look out for other programs updates and prayer requests.

Please consider speaking to those in your circles to consider Orphans Light and the Rakai community for a year-end gift to help with our current needs or a specific program.

Blessings to you and your loved ones.

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Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world ~ James 1:27

Meet Allan Mutaaya

Allan is in his last year at University studying a Bachelors degree in Education. When he graduates, he will be qualified to teach at the High School Level in Uganda. Part of his training includes doing teaching practice in various schools at the end of every academic year. He was recently doing his Year 2 teaching practice at Act High School when I caught up with him asked him to share some of his thoughts about child sponsorship in relation to his own life.



I am very thankful to my grandpa Paul for accepting to live with us when I lost my father at the start of 2014. I never saw my mother because she died earlier than my father. Like many, I lost both parents to HIV/ADS. Grandpa Paul allowed me to come and live with them. He looked after 4 other orphans, my cousins.

On my first night at his home, he told me I was not going to back to school. Although I had been attending a near quite poor government school, grandpa could not afford to buy for us the books, pens and other requirements. My cousins who stayed with him before weren't attending any school either. That night was too long but finally morning came. I discovered grandpa was very serious! We just went to our small garden and planted different crops. We returned around noon to cook food and in the evening went to the bush to collect firewood. The next day we went to dig in a neighbor's garden for food, returned home to cook and went to fetch water in the evening. Before I knew, it was week 1, 2, 3 and 4 in a new life; digging in various gardens, fetching water and collecting firewood. Grandpa was also sickly and sometimes we just took care of him, making sure he gets something to eat. I was already missing school and my friends.

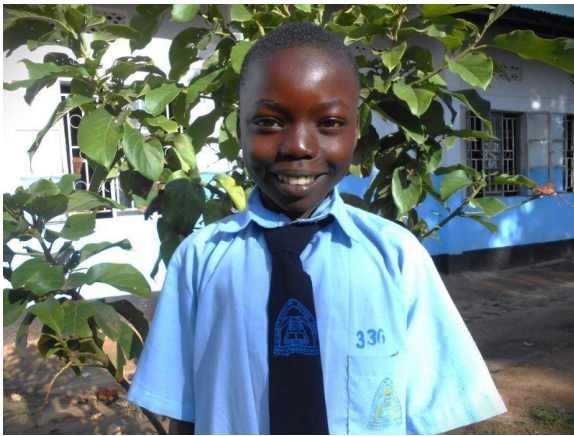
At the end of that year (2014) I was supposed to write my national tests but after 5 weeks out of school, I decided to go to my school

and explain my situation to see if I would get any assistance. As I stood at the veranda; worried, crying and confused, one of my teachers walked over and asked me "have you heard about African Children Today?". I told him I hadn't. He told me its office was in a nearby village, 10 miles away from our school. He advised me to try them and see if they could help me to at least stay in school and write my national tests at the end of 2014. At this point in time a university degree was not my dream. I just wanted to at least finish Grade 7.

Today, I am so glad I made the decision to take my teacher's advice! African Children Today found a sponsor for me and my family, one who became my mother in another country. I wasn't just able to write my Grade 7 tests but I was able to complete my 6 years of High School. I excelled in all my High School national tests and was given opportunity to join university. My American mother has been able to walk besides me all along, writing me letters of encouragement and praying for me. I do believe that I am who I am because of her financial sacrifices and prayer.

I am so thankful for African Children and all its partners and sponsors. The ACT staff are my other parents in Uganda. They have been so committed to my life, offering advice and giving me assurance of God's power. From them I have come to trust in God all the time and in every situation. I also have great brothers and sisters from African Children Today and together we are so determined to impact other lives.

When I graduate and start working, first I want to help my cousins and their children. They were not able to get an opportunity for school but I would like to give their children an opportunity to acquire quality education. I would like to help other people who are not from my family.



Allan is one of the many young men and women whose lives and those of their loved ones have been greatly impacted and are now change agents themselves. There are many children like Allan and guardians like Paul that check with our office in Uganda every week, looking for a sponsor to be able to guarantee them a brighter future. Please contact me on kathi@orphanslight.net to [Sponsor a child today.](#)



Orphans Light is connected to many charity organizations who keep us listed on their sites and keep us accountable. I was on one of the sites this week and they said that most charities have a retention rate of 60% or less. We have a retention rate of 99%! That's incredible! That shows the heart of all of you who sponsor, donate, and pray. You are truly a special group of people and we are humbled by your faithfulness.

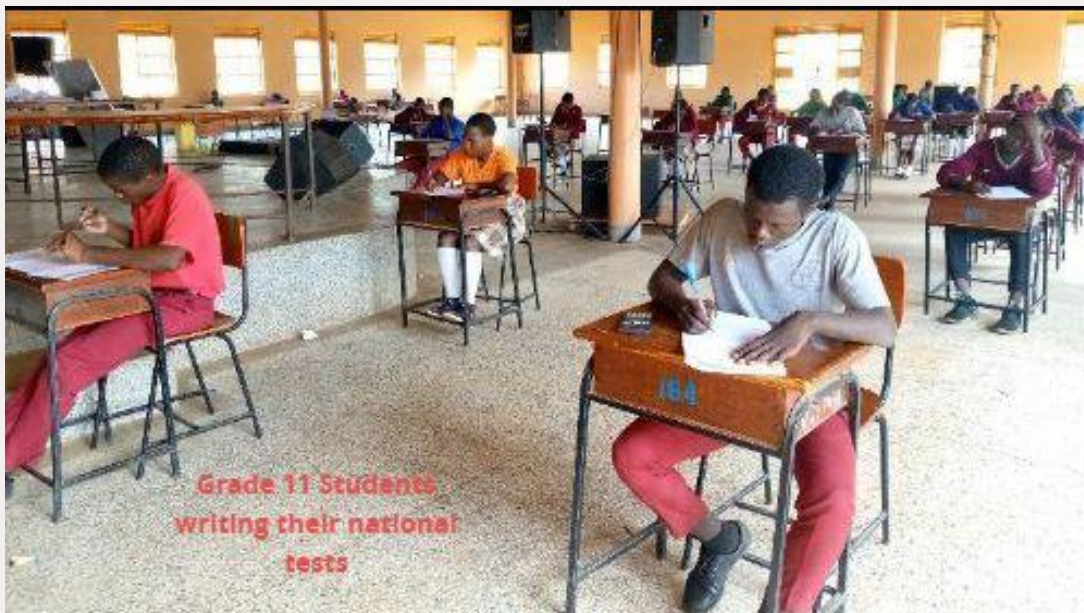


END OF 2023 SCHOOL YEAR

Our children safely returned to school the last term of the 2023 academic year in Uganda. An academic year is divided into three term, separated by short breaks. We are intentional about children maintaining safe relationship with any of their living family members. While there is so much to learn from them, children need to appreciate these conditions and backgrounds to be encouraged to work hard for a better future. They know that when they have a better future, they can help their family.

During the breaks, children get involved in a range of activities including digging in the garden, fetching water from distant wells, collecting firewood from the bushes, weeding around their homes, looking after younger siblings, weaving mats, caring for their animals and preparing family meals. This is also an opportunity for the children to share about what we teach them with their family members. Many guardians confess that our children lead prayers in their homes.

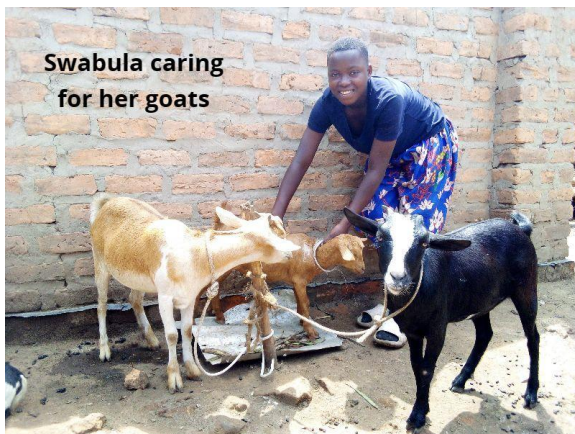
This term is always special as children are working to be promoted to the next grades. There are also 3 groups of children that are writing national tests at different levels - Grade 7, 11 and 13. Grade 11 national tests have already commenced while those for Grade 7 and 13 will be starting early November. Grade 11 and 13. All children need our prayers.



I hope these pictures help you to get to know more about the environments where our children come from.



Sarah and sister
peeling
potatoes for a
meal



Swabula caring
for her goats



Cathy washing
clothes at home



Josephine
collecting
firewood



Agnes from the
water well



HIGH SCHOOL WALL FENCE MATCHING FUNDS

You may remember we have needed to build an extra security wall around our school which costs \$43,000. We are so very thankful for how so many rallied around this need, though we are still in need of \$20,000. We just received an offer of matching funds up to \$10,000, that if we receive donations for 10,000, it will be matched by this

generous donor by end of December. We are putting that challenge out to you in hopes of completing this much-needed wall to protect our children and staff. We have already started making blocks using the donations already received.



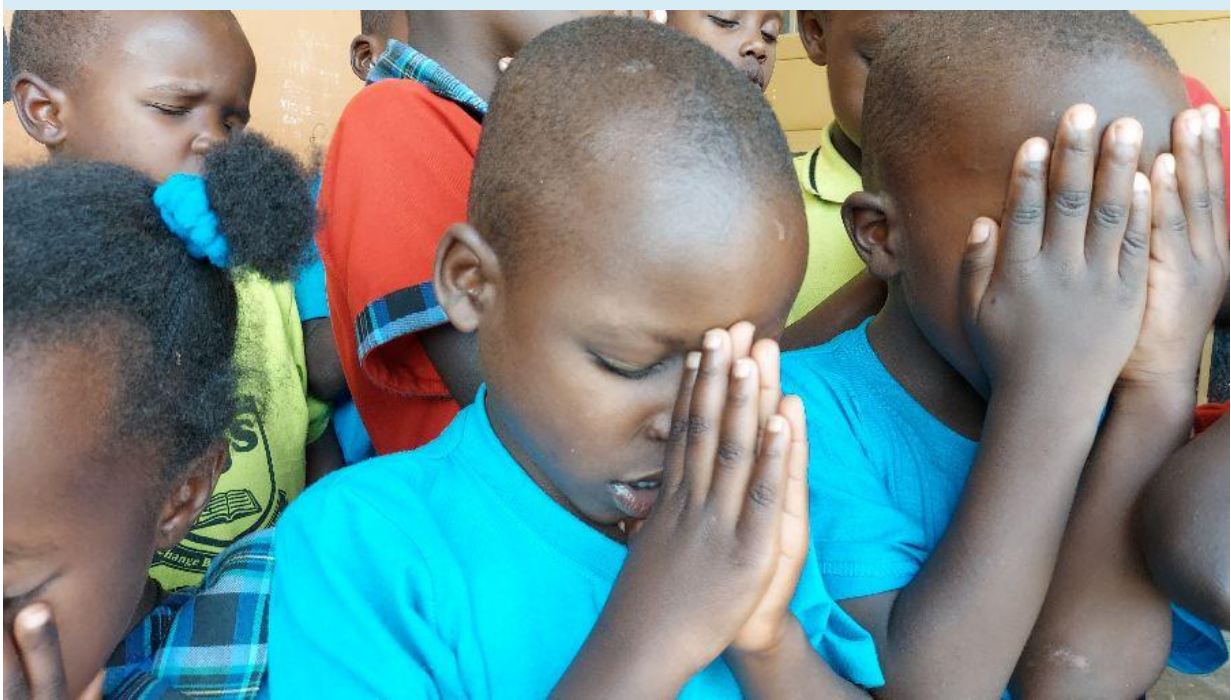
Christmas!

Yes it is coming, ready or not. If you are planning to send a gift to your sponsored child, now is the time so the staff has time to purchase what your child needs or desires. You can also donate to the staff so that they might have a good meal for Christmas. Children enjoy shopping! We encourage children to buy something that multiplies, like animals in addition to something they very much love and share with their close family. Every gift matters! You can also send your child a birthday gift! You will always hear back from your sponsored child about what they will be able to buy from your gift.



Please pray

- 1. For the safety of our children & staff,**
- 2. For the needs to be met for the ministry,**
- 3. For those going to Uganda with us in February 2024. Many still need to raise funds for the trip, pray for provision as prices have gone up. You can go to Uganda by investing in their trip and it is tax-deductible as all your donations are.**
- 4. For all the students who are writing their national tests this year. The Grade 11 tests have already started. Grade 11 and 13 will start early November.**



Donations are gratefully accepted through the web page, Zelle, PayPal, Venmo or by mail to: PO Box 1967, Auburndale, FL 33823.



If you have question and/or suggestions. Please contact Rick or Kathi Palmer at 863.815.3453 or 863-660-2262. Email: kathi@orphanslight.net

Facebook: [OrphansLight, Inc](https://www.facebook.com/OrphansLight,Inc)

Website: www.OrphansLight.net

Our mailing address is:
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For more information about ACT, please contact:
Kathi Palmer (kathi@orphanslight.net)

or

Richard Mutaawe (richard@orphanslight.net)

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**Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this:
to visit orphans and widows in their distress *and* to keep oneself
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