

AMAKA*

The Newsletter of Africa Renewal Ministries

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Next Generation Leaders Set Sights on the Future

All children possess a unique potential given to them by God to fulfill their calling in life. In the United States, it is reasonable to say that 80% of students will go on to develop their talents and find their life's purpose. In Africa, that percentage is much lower due to the lack of education, high levels of poverty and limited resources. Fortunately ARM has answered the call by stepping in to find those students who show great promise, turning them into the leaders of tomorrow through the **Next Generation Leader Program (NGLP)**. The mission of the NGLP is to enhance the holistic development of young adults through support systems that will ensure next generation Christian leaders. These young men and women will in turn change both the face and future of Africa.

ARM's Next Generation Leader Program began in 2006 with 20 students entering university who were identified as having leadership potential through an interview and exam. These students are participating in a three-year leadership development program that coincides with their university degree program. Each year an additional 20 students will be added, bringing the program to full capacity at 60 participants over the next two years. NGLP students are sponsored at a higher rate of \$200 per month which covers their university tuition, books, lodging and cost of the NGLP program. One of ARM's partners, Rock Harbor Church in California, has stepped up to help kick-off the program. Members there have sponsored a number of the NGLP participants.

A complete curriculum has been developed for the three years—each month the program participants will have an educational fellowship covering a wide variety of subjects. Additionally, each July during the semester break, they will undergo two weeks of intense training. Areas of study throughout the year include socioeconomic issues, spiritual development, cognitive and management leadership training and basic skill development. Students

will cover topics from group dynamics, team work and social graces to the character of God, stewardship, time management and life planning skills. Ongoing assessment is part of the program, and each student's progress will be measured and evaluated.

"We are already seeing the benefits of the program in the first year of our Next Gen students," reports Fred Sekywa, ARM-Uganda Executive Director. "They are more confident, taking their studies seriously, showing more promise each day. One such student, named Geoffrey Kyazze (pronounced chi-a'-zay) is already giving back to the community. He was a rascal in his youth, yet in high school he straightened out his life and passed the Next Gen interview and exam. Now he works with troubled youth, mentoring and guiding them. He is already one of our success stories."

Geoffrey, now 22, is an orphan born out of a tragic situation. He never knew his father and lost his mother to HIV/AIDS 15 years ago. He explains, "NGLP is like a parent to me. I have found a family. Whenever we (NGLP) meet, I feel like I belong. I see that I have something to contribute, and I want to know the Lord more. I am improving

in reading my Bible. Before I never read the Bible regularly, but now I read at least three times a day. I never had hope of going to university, yet now I am in my first year of a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering. My goal is to become a systems engineer. I am also already developing my leadership strategies at university where I am the Assistant Class Representative. My hope is to help my community and as part of that, I am a leader in AWANA (a church-based discipleship program for children and young adults). In the future, after I am married, I want to adopt three children who are less privileged to bring hope to their lives."

Please contact our office at 210-979-7441 to sponsor an NGLP participant at \$200/month; a new class of 20 will be entering the program this fall!

See details of the program at africarenewal.org under Ministries, then Education.



NGLP students at a retreat.



Geoffrey Kyazze



Grace Namirimu, a first year student at Makerere University studying Information Technology "This program is training me to become a servant leader. I want to be a servant wherever I go in the work that I do."

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* AMAKA means "family" in Luganda, the tribal language used in Gaba, Uganda, where ARM is headquartered.

A Word on Christian Education from Pastor Peter



Pastor Peter Kasirivu
President and
Founder
ARM-Uganda

In raising up the next generation of leaders for Africa, education is key. By providing a Christian environment for learning, we lay a solid foundation for the future, one supported by godly principles and Christ-like character.

Education is the hope for Uganda because it opens up a world of opportunity for the child—to become responsible, earn a living and in the long run, break the vicious cycle of poverty. This program has allowed us to impact the lives of those who had no prior access to education because of their impoverished backgrounds.

And Christian schools are desperately needed in Africa. By modeling Christian values in the classroom, the child is transformed and character is instilled which spills over to the family. In fact, many a family has been saved through the Christian education of a child. It is also important to note that the strong influence and purposeful strategies

of other religions to draw children away from Christianity are thwarted by bringing the Christian perspective into the classroom, thereby saving future generations from being deceived.

The Next Generation Leadership Program is the final step in our educational strategy before young Christian leaders are released to the nation. We are already having amazing success under the guidance of ARM USA Board member Karl Zeile and ARM Uganda's Henry Muguluma, who together manage the program. Read more on NGLP on the cover of this issue.



ARM Prayer Requests

- For additional training for teachers
- For all students as they study for exams
- For ARM's school leadership team
- For housing for teachers
- For additional sponsors to help children go to school
- For teachers from other countries to come to Uganda to help train our teachers
- For school supplies and teacher materials
- That students will have uninterrupted time to study and prepare for class
- For construction of additional classrooms and furniture
- For God's guidance and wisdom for the Next Generation participants

The ABC's of Ugandan Schools

If you sponsor a child through ARM, you might be curious to know about the Ugandan school system and your child's educational opportunities. Not surprising, there are vast differences between Ugandan and American schools.

First, Uganda, having once been a British protectorate, follows a year-round British system. Children enter nursery school (equivalent to pre-school or kindergarten) at age three and attend for three years before the seven-year primary school program, comparable to our elementary and early junior high years. Once completed, there are six levels in secondary school, called S1-S4, or O-Levels, and S5 and S6, called A-Levels. These are similar to junior high, high school and a year or so of

college. Beyond that, students may attend university or vocational school based on aptitude.

The second major difference is we pay taxes to attend public schools in the U.S. Not so in Uganda; every school charges fees and requires a uniform. Many students cannot afford school past primary and drop out as a result. According to statistics from 2004, only 57% of Ugandan children complete primary school. Only 36% go on to secondary school. In 2005, statistics showed 62% of students dropping out because they could not afford fees.

While U.S. students take the SAT to get into universities, Ugandan students face national standardized tests between O-Levels and A-Levels. These tests determine which secondary school students may attend for S5 and S6, assuming they can afford the school fees. After S6, students take an end-of-year exam to determine if they have qualified for university.

Sponsorship removes many of the obstacles these children face by covering school fees and supplying them with a uniform, without which they would not be allowed to enroll.

The next time you write, ask your sponsored children about school, and encourage them in their studies and dreams for the future. With your help, these children will go far!



Prayer Requests from ARM School Children



Emmanuel Mukonjo, 13, Primary 7
Please pray that I can be a doctor when I grow up, so I can treat those who are in need.

Jackie Namaganda, 9, Primary 3
I want to be a teacher when I grow up. Please pray God will help me do this.



Viewpoint: A Vision Becomes Reality

Before there were ARM schools, there was a vision. For many of us, we came into this ministry work with the program already having a solid foundation of schools, teachers, and leadership. But it has not always been this way. Not too many years ago, the Gaba campus was a church building surrounded by fishing village huts, witch doctors, and open pastures; but still there was the vision.

As Pastor Peter Kasirivu and his church family saw the needs of the underprivileged children, he began sharing with others a vision that would open up educational opportunities for those living in poverty. Through the mentoring and support of Pastor Rander and Darlene Draper and the Maranatha Church family in San Antonio, the first ARM school was begun in Gaba in 1994. Additionally, Maranatha began the original child sponsorship ministry to provide funding for children to attend. The name “Maranatha Christian School” is a testimony to the vision of the Drapers and Pastor Peter.

From this beginning, the school grew to include a high school, completed in 1999. Recently a vision for a Gaba campus library and dining hall has been realized through the support of a visionary family. It is now occupied and in use by the staff and students in Gaba.

There was also the need to establish a “Model Rural School” that could be reproduced in rural communities where ARM pastors serve. The vision was realized with the construction of the primary school at Bethany Village in 2003. This model has been repeated in many villages now. Our church partners have come

along side us, beginning to build schools in other areas of Uganda where like-minded village pastors share our vision.

We are thankful to these pioneers and the vision goes on! Today they are transforming the ARM schools into a model of “Christian World View” studies. The process will take some time, but Abby Nakku’s trip to the U.S., the 2007 ARM Education Mission Team, and donations to purchase Christian reading books and curriculum are moving the schools in the right direction.

There is an emerging vision at the Bethany campus to provide a Christian high school for the increasing number of students who have completed their primary training. This ambitious endeavor will provide on-campus housing, a godly environment for the young people and room to develop skills, trades, and life experiences that will serve the them into adulthood.

It is a great blessing how the Child Sponsorship Ministry continues to deepen its roots into the lives of its children and their families, through agriculture, medical care, social work and the Christian influence of local pastors and leaders.



Don Jones
Executive Director
ARM-USA



Dining Hall and Library
on Gaba Campus

1st Quarter Sponsorship Stats

| | |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Sponsorships Added | 149 |
| Total Sponsorships | approx. 5,000 |



The Past, Present, & Future of ARM Schools

The hopes and dreams of ARM staff came to fruition in the mid-nineties when the first schools were built and child sponsorship became a life-changing reality. Built through the faithfulness of churches in the U.S., Maranatha Christian School, our first primary school, was completed, and the second, Maranatha High School followed a few years later.

God continues to bless the ministry; currently ARM runs six primary schools and one high school which serve an astonishing 2,776 students at last count. And the number is steadily growing with many of the schools already having to adjust to increases in enrollment.

Once the expansion of Maranatha High School is complete, it will accommodate more students in the classrooms and dormitories. More dormitory space will allow students who commute a great distance to attend classes on a daily basis.

ARM schools are considered private schools but must adhere to national curriculum and must administer national testing. Curriculum can be supplemented with additional materials at the teacher’s discretion. For example, all ARM students receive

Christian instruction through special Bible studies and group worship, strengthening their personal relationship with Christ.

The schools are 100% funded by U.S. sponsorships and donations, without which they would be unable to operate. Please pray that God will provide the means to finish construction projects and support the tremendous number of students who would otherwise never have an opportunity to attend a school.

Help Finish the Maranatha High School Expansion!

We are working to complete the construction and furnishings, but could use a little help. If you feel led to assist with this project, please call our office or donate online at www.africarenewal.org



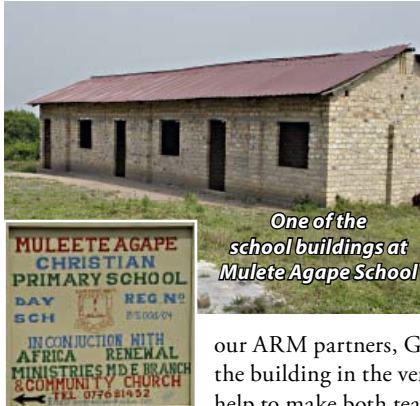
Timothy Lwanga, 8, Primary 3
Please pray for God to bless me and keep me and to protect our world.

Margaret Nakirrija, 13, Primary 6
For wisdom, for protection from home to school and back, for our teachers to teach well.



Step Inside Mulete Agape Christian School

In the town of Mubende, God is doing an awesome work! One can see a rather primitive building with children running about. But do not be fooled; this building has a most modern mission—education. It is the Mulete Agape Christian School, serving over 435 students each day who formerly met under trees in the area. Approximately 55% of these students are able to attend this school because of ARM sponsors who are faithful with their monthly support.



One of the school buildings at Mulete Agape School

The students of Mulete Agape Christian School are coming each day and meeting for classes in their new building. Basic construction of the school's walls and roof were completed in 2005. The staff and students were grateful to be able to meet inside of a building for classes instead of outside. Currently the school still lacks windows, doors, concrete, a stucco façade and desks for the students. Fortunately, with the faithfulness of our ARM partners, God has provided the funding to finish out the building in the very near future. The finishing touches will help to make both teachers and students more comfortable, facilitating the learning experience.

Partnership funding has also provided a new well in close proximity to the school so the students and their families have access to safe drinking water. In addition to classes, the students are given a mid-morning snack each day as well as a vitamin. This summer an ARM medical mission team will visit



the students of the community to provide routine exams, basic medical and eyeglass fittings.

Continue to pray for the Mulete Agape Christian School. Even with all the exciting things planned for Mubende, there remains great need. The teachers have to walk many miles each day as there are no rooms to rent close to the school and no



means of transportation. The teachers lack chairs to sit in and desks of their own for organization. They must teach many subjects to very large classes in crowded rooms with limited supplies. Continued support is needed in both prayer and finances. It is amazing what God has done in this community and exciting to see what is yet to come!

A Day with Joshua at Maranatha High

Hello, my name is Joshua Wasajja and I want to tell you about a typical day at Maranatha High School in Gaba, Uganda. My day usually begins at 4:30 a.m. In my dorm room, I start the day studying and catching up on some of my subjects. Today it is biology. I'm in Senior 4 (the 4th year of high school), and my end-of-year exams will determine my placement in Senior 5. So I study for exams every morning, which is compulsory. But some days, like today, we have a power outage, so I slept until daybreak and then caught up on a few pages of a subject.



Joshua Wasajja is a promising student at Maranatha High School; he plans to attend university and study engineering.

At 6:00 I shower, have breakfast and then walk to school. My first class, physics, is at 7:30. I like this class because I want to be an engineer, and physics, which is my best subject, is very important. It is practical and easy to understand. I really like the teacher, Mr. Justus Turiho, because he explains the lessons in a way that makes it easy. My next class is English. Today we read to practice our skills in speaking and understanding English. Then we get a break at 10:40 when we go outside and hang out with friends. We're back in class at 11:00 when I study fine arts

and commerce. I especially like fine arts because I like to draw. We break at 1:00 for lunch which consists of posho (a hearty dish made from ground corn) and beans; we sit and chat with friends as we eat. After lunch, I have two more classes—biology and mathematics. On alternate days, my classes include chemistry, literature, geography and history. I also like my chemistry teacher, Mr. Gerald Nkonge, because he uses interesting exercises to help us grasp the concepts he teaches. I like Maranatha High School because, unlike my former school, teachers work very closely with students and help them really learn the things they do not understand. I also like the academic discussions we have after classes.

My school day ends at 5:00 p.m. Today we rush to a Christian fellowship at the church. I really enjoy these because they have helped me develop a closer walk with Jesus Christ. We sing praise songs, have teaching from the Bible and memorize scripture. My favorite verse is Luke 10:19, "And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you." (NLT). On other days, we sometimes play sports like soccer or listen to music after school.

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Because of ARM programs and support, Joshua has a promising future. With goals of attending university and becoming an engineer, he is clearly committed to excelling in his classes and growing in his faith.

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Two Women Impacting Education in Uganda

Abby Nakku Takes ARM Schools to the Next Level

As ARM's new Supervisor of Schools, Abby Nakku Makubuya brings a wealth of experience along with uncompromising principles and a commitment to better the lives of the children she serves. Abby has accomplished much, facing many challenges that have shaped her into the caring individual she is today.

Her educational background is immense and an invaluable resource to ARM - from a Diploma and Bachelor's Degree in Education, to her Masters in Counselling and Post Graduate degree in Human Resources. "Because of my academic achievements,

people have always expected me to want a high profile career; instead I have found fulfilment in serving with humility," explains Abby. After twelve years working for the government, she trusted in God for a new career, one of integrity with the opportunity to reach out to people in need. "I

received my dream job when I came to ARM in 2006," says Abby. She explains how ARM helped her appreciate others for who they really are. "People are beyond value and have the potential to make a difference in Uganda. When I see a sad, sick or broken child, my heart bleeds."



As the supervisor of the seven ARM schools, Abby sees that each is running well and that curriculum is consistent in the classrooms. Through regular visits to all the schools, she acts as ARM's steward, seeing that funds and supplies are being distributed and used properly. She is also responsible for hiring teachers, monitoring their performance and arranging workshops to improve teaching skills.

As one of six children and the daughter of a highly respected educator, the late Kezekia Makubuya, Abby was sent to the best boarding schools available in Uganda. As a result of the love and mentoring she received as a child, she is now raising five girls from desperate circumstances along with her 14-year-old daughter, Rachel Nanteza. Rachel's father died when she was only three. One of the girls Abby cares for, Fortunate Damulira, overcame a family history of witchcraft and became a Christian. She is now preparing for university only three years after coming to live with Abby.

Don't miss the highlights of Abby's spring visit to the U.S. in AMAKA's next issue.

Did you know...

In Uganda, it is mandatory that schools provide staff housing for teachers. At this time, no ARM school is able to provide living quarters, meaning staff has to arrange for their own lodging, generally a great distance from the school requiring a long walk on the teacher's part. Please pray for the funding necessary to provide the staff with convenient housing. If you would like to give to this cause and make a direct impact on the learning experience in the classrooms, call our office at 210-979-7441 or visit www.africarenewal.org to make an online donation.

Kathy Jones – One US Teacher Going Beyond the Classroom

Meet Kathy Jones—a woman with dynamic vision and a heart filled with compassion for both children and teachers in Uganda. Her enthusiasm is catching!

Kathy has served in education most of her life. She has taught for twenty years in both public and private school environments.

In addition to regular education students, Kathy has worked extensively with special-need students and those whose second language is English. This vast educational background served as the foundation for what God had in store. As the wife of ARM-USA's Executive Director, Don Jones, Kathy was naturally drawn into ARM's ministry.

On her first trip to Uganda in 2003, Kathy's life was changed forever as she saw first-hand the great need for better education in Uganda. The lack of school buildings and teachers was obvious, and the local illiteracy rates were high. She also found those who were teaching were very discouraged, lacking basic supplies as well as any sort of curriculum to follow. As a teacher herself, Kathy's heart hurt for them. She knew something had to be done.

After Kathy's return to the US, she could not forget what she had seen. "Trying to teach without the basics such as paper and

pencils is like trying to paint a house without any brushes," she explains. Wanting to help those so far away, she came up with a plan.

U.S. schools have a lot of unused or barely used items that get discarded at year end. So Kathy began contacting schools in her area to see what might be of use to her Ugandan friends. Expecting to gather a few crayons and writing tablets, the huge response from the local teachers was far more than she had hoped. Kathy drove up to the campuses to find the hallways stacked with books, unused workbooks, supplies and even reams of butcher paper. Thanks to a shipping container headed to Uganda, courtesy of Children's Hunger Fund, the ARM teachers in Uganda were soon blessed!

Since 2003, Kathy has returned three times and is going back this summer to provide professional training and support for these teachers who face enormous challenges. Kathy knows if she can help them better meet the needs of students, both student and teacher will be more successful in the classroom. Her vision for education in Uganda continues to grow as God leads her. Kathy has already been a blessing to so many teachers and students; her faithfulness and dedication will continue to bless many for generations to come.

If you are interested in participating in ARM's Education Ministry, please call 210-979-7441 or [visit our website](http://www.africarenewal.org).





PO Box 781671
San Antonio, TX 78278

(210) 979-7441
www.africarenewal.org
armusa@africarenewal.org

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Making a Joyful Noise, Mwangaza's Henry Kawooya

Henry Kawooya, a first-year Maranatha High School student, is no ordinary child. At only 14, he has gone through so much in his short life that one might question the sincerity of his bright smile. But sincere he is...about his faith, his studies and his ministry work through Mwangaza Children's Choir.

Tell us a bit about your background.

I have five brothers and one sister. My father and two brothers passed away in 2006. I live with my mother.

Why do you like singing?

Singing draws me closer to God. It brings joy to the hearts of people and also sends a message to them.

How does singing in Mwangaza Children's Choir make you feel?

It is exciting because the songs are uplifting and energetic.

How long have you been singing in Mwangaza?

For two years.

Tell us about your experience in the United States on the 2006 Choir Tour.

It was exciting! I felt so welcome and a part of the people there. We visited about 12 states over a period of eight months. We were there to raise funds for Maranatha High School and orphanages, as well as

find sponsors for children. When Mwangaza shares the Gospel of Christ through music, people contribute to our cause and sponsor children in need.

How did you cope with studies while you were away for that long?

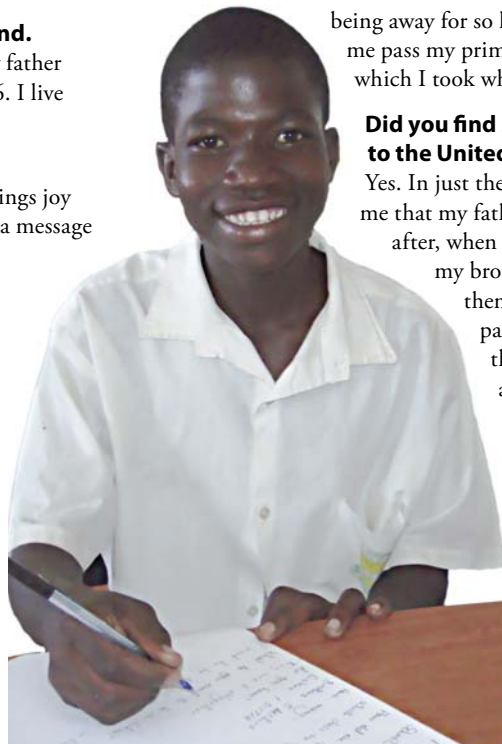
We had teachers and books for studying while on tour. After being away for so long, I really thanked God for helping me pass my primary school graduation examinations which I took when I returned home.

Did you find some difficulty adjusting to the United States?

Yes. In just the first week of our stay, news came to me that my father had passed away. Just two weeks after, when I was still mourning my father's death, my brother of 22 years also passed away. And then eight months later another brother passed away. What kept me going during this time was the singing and praying, and I really got encouragement from my friends and leaders. Still I sang, knowing that God would comfort me and help me deal with what had happened. God also protected the rest of my family while I was away.

Do you have a message for an ARM sponsor or sponsor-to-be?

You are giving a future to a child and are helping him or her to become well-equipped to handle whatever the future holds.



Sign up to receive AMAKA electronically at www.africarenewal.org!

Fun Facts about Henry!

- Wants to be a pastor when he grows up.
- Favorite song: "Days of Elijah" because it tells people to rise up, praise the Lord and that Jesus will soon return unexpectedly.
- Favorite memories of 2006 U.S. Tour: Making an impact through music, making new friends and going to Disneyland!