

I Made It!

As all of you know who prayed for me, a long list of challenges were in front of me as I tried to return to Africa. But your prayers opened doors. On Feb. 18, after 4 1/2 days travel, I arrived safely in Kasenga. We had a joyous reunion at Nuru Ya Mapendo with staff, the two dogs, and my grandson Gaston who decided to visit from Lubumbashi. The separation was too long, and we are so grateful for your prayers. Thank you!



Complexe Scholaire Jane Wise

The first visit I made after arrival was to the school. It was such a joy! All the students, teachers and maitresse flowed out of their classrooms to greet me as recess began.

The school had a rocky beginning due to some paperwork issues with the government. I was very happy that in my absence, the problem was discovered and corrected. We are now waiting for the final paperwork to arrive in April so teachers can receive their salaries.

The Wednesday after my arrival, I joined all the primary students in the church for their worship session and religion lesson. Their 280 voices filled the new church with angelic song and brought tears to my eyes. The pastor discussed baptism and having a friendship with Jesus. Nearly all the students indicated they wanted such a relationship. But to my surprise, only about half of those students said that they had been baptized. I'm encouraged that we now have 3 new seminary graduates in our district with young families of their own. This will usher in many positive changes in the church for the children.



Galilee Church

At Galilee Church, we roll from finishing one job into another. We began by tiling the altar area. One photo depicts the work in process and the other, after completion.

The wide-shot photo shows almost all of the pews finished and in place. We have ten to complete in the next two weeks. I provided the photo to show the enormity of the work for the pews. It's difficult to appreciate all the work that went into sourcing & cutting the lumber, then carving & finishing the final product. The adult members and all the school children LOVE the new church and send their thanks for the beautiful pews.



Our current finishing project at Galilee is at the front veranda. Here, a finishing coat of plaster is being applied to the front wall, ceiling and columns.



Many smaller jobs to do. Be watching for our next issue of the "Nuru News" for further updates!

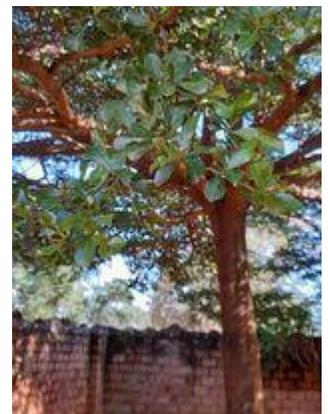
Agriculture

This month we are planting our "dry season" gardens. We are also propagating certain trees and bushes to give away.

I haven't yet been able to determine the variety of the tree depicted, but it is local to our area and provides excellent shade from the hot sun. At our last District meeting, we gave 1 seedling to each church to plant at their property.



The bushes (also pictured) grow quickly and have delightful coloring. The newest growth appears pink, then changes to a mottled white and green leaf. The mature leaves are solid green. We are propagating many of these bushes to plant around Galilee Church.



I Have a Dream

I hesitate to begin with those words, but it's true! About two weeks after my arrival, I visited the Jerusalem Church, located about 4 miles from NYM here in Kasenga.

Bwalya and I were checking on the altar tiling in process. I heard a lot of noise as we entered the church and realized that five elementary school classes were taking place in the church simultaneously. Each group was shouting their responses and recitations over the other groups. The sound was deafening!

After checking the tiling, I approached the school director, introduced myself and began asking questions. There are currently 180 students enrolled in grades 1-6. They lack many teaching supplies. I asked for a list with prices and it totaled \$300. NYM is going to supply those materials in April.

We left and I was greatly troubled by the condition of the childrens' learning environment. That night (and several nights after), I dreamt of building a second Methodist school for the children. I know it's not my idea; when God gives me something to do, it never leaves my mind!

The total cost of the school would be about \$70,000. Would it surprise you to know that we already have \$15,000 on hand for this work? It doesn't surprise me, for I already see God at work in this project.

I would ask each of you to pray about providing a learning facility for 180+ students that will provide an additional 7 teaching jobs in the community. God is always faithful when He begins a work such as this, and I know He will provide.

Our goal is to build the second Methodist school- Mwangaza School- during June/July of 2023. Thank you for sharing in my (God's) dream!

Blessings, Jane

