

Visit Our Partners!

We have two upcoming short-term trips giving you the opportunity to witness first-hand the impact your support is having through the faithful work of our Ministry Partners overseas.

July 2020 - Philippines Missionary Fellowship (PMF)

Come and see how PMF is transforming lives through child sponsorship, bringing hope through Village Savings groups and growing God's Kingdom through their schools for church planters.

October 2020 - Wakisa Ministries, Uganda

Come and meet the young mothers (and their babies) whose lives have been transformed by the shelter, support and love they've received from our partners at the Wakisa Centre.

To find out more or register your interest, give us a call at (02) 9712 8222



A Fortnight in the African Field

Late last year our International Projects Coordinator, Rochelle Nyatoro, spent two weeks in Uganda visiting our African Ministry Partners. She went to provide in-person capacity building and training as well as encouragement and connection. She returned with new-found energy, enthusiasm and stories of hope and transformation:



Every definition of community I've come across has people at its core. So when it comes to developing communities, you have to start with people. That is why capacity development is such an important part of how WorldShare partners with local organisations. I had the chance to travel to Uganda in October to spend time investing into the teams at Christian Fellowship Ministries (CFM), HEAL Africa and Wakisa Ministries.

I started off at CFM and got to see first-hand how they love and care for more than 300 children in their sponsorship program. We are working together to increase the impact of the sponsorship program in the community while working towards a more sustainable model. The focus of my time with them was on teaching and applying methods for engaging the community in planning for the future of the sponsorship program.

Next, I facilitated a participatory needs assessment in the village of Mafudu. Participants shared about the changes they want to see in their community and thought through how they can be involved in bringing this change about. I was joined by Pytchen Kalonda, the WorldShare project coordinator from our partner HEAL Africa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was a wonderful opportunity to facilitate shared learning as Pytchen shared some valuable insights from HEAL Africa's sponsorship program. He was impressed with how CFM has been able to work with volunteers in each community and left motivated to re-engage the community activists who work with the HEAL Africa sponsorship team.

I spent my second week with the team at Wakisa Ministries in Kampala. I had a chance to visit the site for the new Wakisa Centre just outside of Kampala. WorldShare is currently supporting Wakisa as they work through the legal and best practice due diligence to ensure the success of the construction project.

For my entire visit, whether we were trekking through muddy roads to remote villages or discussing the challenges of new Government regulations, I was constantly impressed by our partners' unwavering dedication to sharing God's love in difficult circumstances. God is doing amazing work through our partners and it was my privilege to invest into their lives professionally and spiritually as we work together to see communities transformed, one person at a time.

Photos: (L) Rochelle meets with Geoffrey and Rebecca, two sponsor children with extraordinary stories of transformation. (R) Rochelle, inspecting the new Wakisa Centre site with Ruth and Paul from Wakisa and Moses the lead engineer.



WorldShare 
Restoring hope and life. Together.

Partners Review

Summer
Edition
2020



A Fortnight in the African Field

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- Rochelle Nyatoro, WorldShare's International Projects Coordinator.



Rochelle gets a hand from one of CFM's project staff as they walk into a remote village whose road was impassable by car.

See inside for the full story from Rochelle's recent visit to our Ministry Partners in Uganda...

Ebola Emergency Appeal Update

We are delighted to report that, thanks to your remarkable generosity, we've raised over \$35,000 for our Ebola Emergency Appeal since September 2019!

These funds have already enabled our ministry partners in the Democratic Republic of Congo - Ephphatha and HEAL Africa - to run Ebola awareness and education programs for over 1,000 school children, church attendees and visitors to their respective health clinics. They have purchased hygiene and cleaning supplies and set up hand washing and body temperature monitoring stations that service around 500 people each day. They are currently building permanent hygiene stations that will prevent the spread of Ebola and numerous other diseases well into the future.

We're continuing to support our partners as they work hard to prevent the spread of this horrible disease.

School children at HEAL Africa, washing their hands as part of their Ebola education program.



Get in
touch



Call us (02) 9712 8222



Email us worldshare@worldshare.org.au



Visit us worldshare.org.au

Thanks for
your support!

Parkrun, Partnership and the Power of Togetherness

“Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much.”

- Helen Keller



It's Saturday morning, 8am. I'm surrounded by hundreds of people in a local park. We're all ages and shapes. We start running around the park, but it's not a race. We're just running at our own pace, but we're doing it together. Where am I? Parkrun – an event that takes place every Saturday morning in 22 countries around the world. It's a free running event, where people in the community gather to enjoy a 5km run around the local park.

It's a beautiful community, where everyone is welcome to run or walk together. This movement is inspiring millions of people to get off the couch and exercise. I've already run more in January than I did all last year. I recently read an interview with Parkrun Australia CEO Tim Oberg where he said: "I think most people who parkrun regularly would argue that the run is the least important part of parkrun, the most important thing we do is bring people together."

It's made me wonder and reflect on the power of "togetherness".

Being together with others somehow gives us strength that we would not otherwise have, so we can achieve more than we could have alone. It seems that when we work together the sum turns out greater than its parts.

For us as Christians this might not come as a surprise, God Himself exists in constant partnership – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, together as one. Paul, in 1 Corinthians 12, teaches us that we are all parts of one body, the body of Christ. We have been "put together by God", we each play an important function in the body and we cannot be separated from it.

Here at WorldShare, the importance and power of togetherness is central to our identity. So much so that our mission statement begins with it. *"Together, restoring hope and life to the outcast and forgotten."* We know that we cannot do this alone. The restoration we strive for can only be achieved with us working together with our ministry partners overseas, with you our supporters here in Australia and with God working through us all for His will to be done.

And we mean it when we say "together". In the charity sector it's common to keep supporters and overseas partners separate. But that's not how it is at WorldShare. We delight in our supporters having real relationships and forming connections with the work of our overseas ministries. God works through people across oceans and nations. When His people join together, bringing their own particular gifts and resources and throwing them together in the melting pot, God's beauty from brokenness emerges. We believe that when we do this, it's a reflection of Jesus' prayer for us – to be in complete unity, to the glory of God.

That's why we're big on sharing real stories and real prayer points, why we bring partners here to Australia for ministry partner visits and send supporters over for short-term trips (check out our upcoming trips on the back page). We love facilitating relationships, we encourage our supporters to journey with our partners, to meet with them, to deepen their understanding of our partner's contexts. And we see great things come from this – new ideas, projects and ministries. This is why I'm so delighted to hear that one of our younger supporters, after having met Vivian Kityo from Wakisa Ministries last year, will be travelling to Uganda this year to spend a few months volunteering with her ministry!

Thank you for being together with us. It's not always easy to feel a sense of connection when we're spread out across Australia and the world. So, I hope that reading the stories in this edition of the partners review helps you feel that connection. We are always looking for ways to strengthen our 'togetherness', so I would love to hear back from you in the supporter survey we recently mailed out.

I pray that you know just how important you are in joining together with others to transform lives. Like Paul, we believe that we have all been put together by God for this purpose. So, let us all continue to strive together to love like Jesus!

God Bless,
Joanna Mansfield
Chief Executive Officer

Giselle - Coming From Afar to Find Ephphatha

Giselle was born into an impoverished family in the Masisi territory of the Democratic Republic of Congo. She was also born deaf.

There were no services for the deaf where she lived and no-one who knew sign language. As she was unable to communicate with others she couldn't go to school, struggled to make friends and was treated with contempt by almost everyone. *"I spent a considerable amount of my childhood in suffering", she says, "and alone."*

All of that changed when her brother heard about the

Ephphatha School for the Deaf in Goma, 80km away. Knowing their family couldn't afford the school, he travelled with Giselle to implore the school to take her in. Thanks to WorldShare supporters, Ephphatha was able to cover Giselle's costs and she recently completed her third and final year of vocational training in sewing.

"Thanks to the training and materials I received at Ephphatha I can now work in town with hearing people and I make enough to support myself, my little brothers and my family back home", she says with a blend of thankfulness and pride. "Because I work in town I cannot live near home but I send money and when I can take a holiday I go back to see them."

Giselle can now support her family.



Brought to Faith in God's Perfect Timing

As recounted by Christian Fellowship Ministry (CFM) Director John Wandera.

"Our most recent open-air outreach event was held in an area called Nabweya. A family from the area had been asking us for an outreach event for many months, as the region is predominantly Muslim, and finally we felt God was telling us to answer their call.

Like many of our open-air events, by the time the sermon begun it was dark and you could only see the outline of the crowds in the field. The sermon was powerful and you could feel the Holy Spirit working in that place. However, when the preacher asked people to come to the front

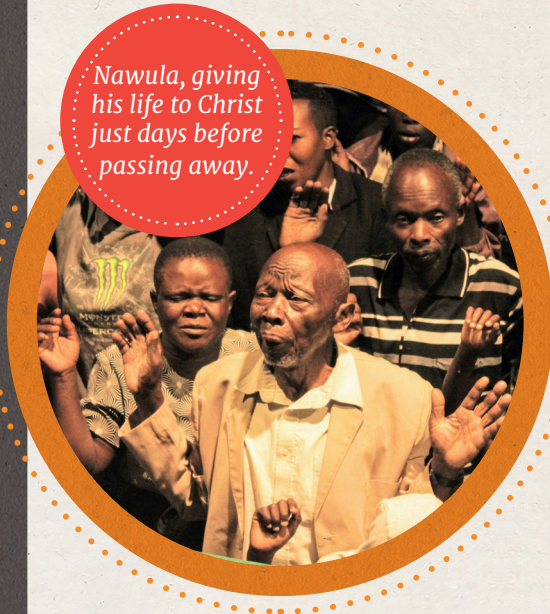
to be saved, no-one stepped forward out of the darkness. He called out a second time and, very slowly, an old man stepped forward. In time, many people came up to be saved but something struck me about the old man and I could only focus on him.

I discovered later that night that the old man was in fact the grandfather of the family that asked us to come. His name was Nawula and they had been praying for him for years to come to know Christ. Their prayers had become even more urgent when he recently developed a grave illness.

Days after his conversion he went to be with the Lord.

At his burial the family praised God for answering their prayers in His perfect timing. Praise God!"

Nawula, giving his life to Christ just days before passing away.



Jane - Sponsorship is More Than School Fees

Jane's story is an example of how our child sponsorship programs provide wholistic support for vulnerable children and their families - it's so much more than just paying for their school fees.

Jane's family are part of a squatter community in Manila, the Philippines. Her home is made of pieces of wood and discarded materials. Her father is unwell and unable to work. Her mother is the family's sole provider and her income from working as a laundrywoman is just enough to survive.

Before Jane received sponsorship through Philippines Missionary Fellowship (PMF), her family couldn't afford to send her to school. As a result, she just completed her second year of school at age 12 (her classmates are six or seven).

In addition to covering her school costs, PMF provides counselling to support her with the challenges that come from her living situation but also from the difficult dynamic of being so far behind her age group at school.

PMF also provides for Jane's medical care and when she was recently infected with Dengue Fever they covered all of her medical costs.

While her father's medical expenses are not covered, PMF is providing training for the family to find other means of generating income and also looking to include them in a collective savings group so they can work towards affording the medical care he needs.

Jane's sponsorship is impacting every aspect of her life.



Christmas Prayers

Thank you so much for sending in your Christmas prayers for vulnerable children! We have been encouraged by all of your heartfelt prayers and have been praying for each of them in our prayer times.

Emergency Philippines Appeal

On January 12th the Taal volcano erupted in the Philippines. Thousands of people have been forced to evacuate their homes and livelihoods. PMF is providing disaster relief for evacuees. To support visit worldshare.org.au/volcano or give us a call at (02) 9712 8222

Supporter Survey

We're always looking for ways to serve you better and to deepen your connection with us and our partners. For that reason we've recently sent you a supporter survey. It's not too late to respond and we really want to hear from you so please do fill it in and send it back to us.