
BLESS THE CHILDREN MINISTRIES

2020

ANNUAL

REPORT



A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear BTCM Family,

In a year that has been defined as chaotic, challenging, and exhausting, we see that God has offered us a rare opportunity: to walk in relationship with others in their greatest moment of need. With government mandates forcing millions of children to be placed in unprepared families, we held to our mission deeply and our methods loosely - we adapted.

Through two pilot initiatives, Family Strengthening and Child Champion care, God gave us a platform to “rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15),” tethering ourselves to children and families in a year that spared no hardship. Isn't it a wonder that in those moments the light of the Gospel seems to shine the brightest?

We walk into 2021 with vision and confidence as we build on the relationships and initiatives God has put before us. Thank you for sharing in the adventure of equipping Uganda's orphaned and vulnerable children to become Godly leaders that transform generations. Let us remain steadfast in pursuing this mission, and look back this time next year with joy in our hearts knowing that God is working all things together for our good and His glory!

Blessings,



Taylor Cochran, Executive Director



Table of Contents

Pg 3: Family Restoration:
COVID Relief

Pg 4: Family Restoration:
Family Strengthening

Pg 5: Education

Pg 6: Discipleship

Pg 7: 2021 Vision



FAMILY RESTORATION

Helping children and their guardians thrive in chaos

COVID-19 RELIEF FUND

As COVID-19 swept through Uganda, government mandates forced children's homes to reintegrate as many children as possible into homes off-campus. We rapidly responded by launching a COVID-19 Emergency Relief fund to provide unprepared families with basic material needs.

Our Bless The Children Ministries' family from all over the world came together and donated \$17,500 to provide for our families who were suddenly taking in children whom they may not have been equipped to care for beforehand. This was such an encouragement to our ministry and a true testament to God's faithfulness.

This \$17,500 provided food, mattresses, mosquito nets, medicine, and hygiene products to 40 families.

FAMILY-STYLE TRANSITIONAL CARE

Children who had no family that we were able to locate stayed on campus with our house moms and lived in our family-style transitional homes. We are thankful all of our staff are still on campus and able to pour into the children relationally and spiritually. Although churches were required to temporarily close because of Covid-19, BTCM was allowed to continue having chapel on campus so children would have an outlet to study scripture and worship.



40

**FAMILIES
PROVIDED
EMERGENCY
RELIEF**

\$17,500

**RAISED FOR COVID-19
EMERGENCY RELIEF**



FAMILY RESTORATION

Family Strengthening Program

With both scripture and research supporting that children flourish best in families; we saw the need to make a deeper investment in the family unit. Thanks to a grant from Christian Alliance for Orphans - which could not have come at a more God-ordained moment - we were able to launch our Family Strengthening Program for 20 families. This effort strengthens biological or foster families so children in our transitional homes can be reintegrated into a safe and permanent home.

Through this, our social workers have modeled the love of Christ by working hands-on with guardians, by assessing their needs, providing basic resources, establishing trust, teaching Biblical parenting skills, and crafting solutions to keep families together.

We have seen significant changes in the families who are a part of this program. Guardians, many for the first time, are taking real ownership over their families. Children's needs are being heard and met by family, which is so healing for them. In all of this, we are seeing everyone in the family learn more about the character of God. We are so thankful!



Meet the Talemwa Family

Our social workers have walked alongside the Talemwa family, encouraging them to join a local church, as well as finding income-generating activities to support their family. This family took this advice seriously. Not only are they now attending church, but the father has begun sharing sermons on Sundays! They have also launched a small income-generating activity that has been supporting their family during this time of crisis. We are so thankful to play a part in their success story!

This is only one of the many stories of God providing for and restoring joy to families in Mabaale. What a sweet work He is doing!

20

**FAMILIES
SERVED**

67

**CHILDREN
REINTEGRATED
INTO HOMES**



EDUCATION

Equipping students in mind, body, and spirit

In response to Covid-19, schools all throughout Uganda were forced to temporarily shut down, which was a great discouragement for our children. Many children in Uganda value education as a way to change their future and felt hopeless when this was quickly stripped away. But our children and staff are resilient!

Children on campus during the lockdown and some secondary students were still able to gather for regular study with our teachers so they wouldn't fall behind in their courses - an opportunity many children in Uganda didn't receive. Our staff and social workers took the time to check in with as many of our children who had been sent home from boarding school as possible, encouraging them to keep up their studies and continue to pray for school to resume.

Luckily, this prayer has been recently answered for some of our students. Primary 7, Senior 4, Senior 6, and some of our university students have been able to return to school and continue studying! Seeing children go back to school has been a great source of hope for everyone at Bless the Children Ministries.

3

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

1:8

STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO



Celebrating our Graduates!

Monica has graduated from Nursing School specializing in Midwifery. She is now hoping to help mothers through the birth process. We are so thankful for Monica's heart to serve!

Augustine has graduated with a Civil Engineering degree! Augustine is a long-time member of the BTCM family and we can't wait to see where the Lord takes him next!

Robert has graduated from Nursing School and is going to be a nurse! Robert is kind and servant-hearted, and we know he will be an amazing nurse. We are so proud of Robert!



DISCIPLESHIP

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations

Everything that we do at Bless the Children Ministries flows out of discipleship. It is the heartbeat of our holistic care. Luckily, discipleship is one thing that did not have to stop due to COVID-19. Although the church was not in session, we still found ways to engage in the discipleship of children and staff.

In 2020, we started investing in our US & Ugandan staff first so that they can pour into our children from a full cup. Leveraging technology in new ways, staff journeyed in life-to-life relationships as they studied “The Adventure of Discipling Others.” This helped cast a vision for making disciples as staff were serving children and families in the village, helping them study scripture while modeling the love of Jesus to families.

Children on campus were involved in small groups, evening chapel, and a Sunday service. Our staff encouraged our children with words from scripture and walked alongside them through a very difficult year.



What has discipleship looked like in 2020?

- Leading weekly small groups with children on campus
- Studying scripture and teaching the love of Jesus to families participating in our Family Strengthening Program
- Engaging with children through our Child Champion Program, encouraging them and offering biblical advice when needed by each individual child
- Weekly staff bible studies, where staff were able to encourage and be encouraged by other staff members

9

**STAFF
PARTICIPATED
IN A 6-MONTH
DISCIPLESHIP
PROGRAM**

160

**CHILDREN
ATTENDING CHAPEL**

2021 VISION



MAKING A DEEPER IMPACT

DISICIPLESHIP

In 2021, several US & Ugandan staff will be participating in a 7 month life-to-life discipleship program. We will also be connecting children and families who live outside of Mabaale, where BTCM's campus is, with local churches for spiritual care.

FAMILY RESTORATION

In 2021, we will welcome more families into our family strengthening initiative so that our children will have a safe and permanent place to call home. Our prayer is that guardians will encounter Jesus, will be equipped to care for their families, and that children will know and receive the love of a parent.

EDUCATION

This year, we will improve Canaan Primary School by launching a library to build a reading culture among children & staff, develop excellent staff through tailored teacher assessments and staff training, and create learning programs to encourage critical thinking and specialized tutoring for struggling students.

TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD

This program helps young adults “finish well” by equipping them with skills and knowledge to move on successfully and become leaders in their communities. Today, students receive spiritual counseling, help to secure a job, as well as gaining practical life skills. In 2021, we will be conducting an assessment to listen to the unique needs of our older children and pilot new initiatives or partnerships that will help them finish well as they are sent into the world to be a light for the Gospel.

HEALTHY CULTURE AND LEADERS

We must first model the impact we desire to see in our children. That's why we're deeply investing in the holistic wellbeing of our staff to continually nurture our organizational culture. In 2021, we'll be implementing our Guide to Growing Thriving Leaders, investing in staff training and one-on-one leadership development, and developing our Ugandan board of directors.

EXPAND THE REACH

As our ministry continues to grow, so will the opportunities to make a greater impact in the lives of our supporters, partner churches, and mission-minded organizations! From creating meaningful opportunities to serve our children, to sharing the inner workings of our care with other ministries, our prayer is that there will be a greater impact made in the U.S. for God's Kingdom!