

## PYGMY REPORT - NOVEMBER 2024

### (Way Alege)

The end of the year 2024 is full of blessings and encouragement. We praise God for his favour for having allowed Noela to fly over to Entebbe in Uganda, to meet us from Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>



November 2024. The announcement of this visit was a surprise because when we met in October 2022 at the same place, we had less hopes that we would meet again.

Time together coincided with Shaddai's (between Sylvia and Noela) trip to Kampala who had meetings with his friends. Shaddai is Shalom's younger brother (first from right).

We are very grateful to God that Noela was able to meet these grownup children and yet 30 years ago while involved with the recording ministry in Nyankunde, she had no idea what my family would look like. God made special each of the four days spent together as we shared,



and reflected on God's blessings and also challenges ahead after serving for all these years. It was also important for all of us to take a break from our daily duties. We take this opportunity to whole heartedly thank those who prayed and contributed towards this trip.

We also thank those who have been praying for Sylvia's health. She was able to meet a Dr on 22<sup>nd</sup> and get the necessary help for her eye. Before returning to Bunia, we were able to visit her father who turned 90 in October 2024. This

visit was again another miracle from God as we did not expect that Sylvia's father would turn ninety after having spent two months in coma seven years ago. Doctors were not sure if he would recover and have sound mind. Though his arms are weak, he recovered all his mental capacities and has been faithfully praying for our ministry.

### Trip to Komanda



Upon our arrival to Bunia on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, we decided to spend the weekend with the staff reflecting on the ministry. We were also able to break the news about the completion of the payment towards the land where the school is implemented. This was a moment of joy, praises and relief for the staff members as they were under pressure of land grabbers. We also shared challenges they are facing as many NGOs are dishing out cash to assist displaced people at the end of the year.

It is always a challenge for us to minister to the Pygmies when NGOs distribute cash contrary to our encouragement that they should work to earn their living. The most difficult task is when they are given more than what they are used to spend on daily basics. Such assistance leads them to spend everything extra on alcohol. At the end of the day children and women are left starving as men become violent. We understand that the scheme of the enemy is to uproot every seed of the Word we plant so that it does not take roots and bear fruits. However, we are encouraged by the few Pygmies who entrust their money to some members of staff for safety and proper use. We are also happy with the effort that some of them make to fear the Lord amidst chaos.

**End of the year harvest**



We praise God for the young mother Sifa. She is a neighbour to our school but has decided to pray at our chapel. One month ago, she delivered a baby boy whom she brought along to church to be prayed for. Little did she know that God would speak to her personally. At the end of the sermon, she gave her life to Jesus and then we prayed for the baby. We thank God that neighbours are coming to pray with staff and the Pygmies at the same place.



We thank God for having kept the life of Marcelline Masika, her children and her husband (absent in the photo) since we fled Ataloholu in April 2022. The family fled in a different direction into the forest and we were rarely informed about their whereabouts. Some people misinformed us that all the family members were killed by the ADF rebels. But last month, the family joined other members of the Pygmies at Komanda.

Three years back we spent a lot of money to save Marcelline’s life when she gave birth to her son David standing next to her. After delivery, Marcelline had placenta retention that led to loss of blood. As a result, she turned pale and almost died. We were able to evacuate her to Komanda for proper medical care. She was rescued after receiving several blood transfusions.

When we met on Sunday, she recalled the difficult moments she went through. However, she still has a lot of difficulties managing her family because of her husband’s drinking habits.



## Medical care



We had a time of evaluation of the health status of the Pygmies. We are happy that the death rate of children and mothers has significantly declined. Since we have the nurse with us, she spends time monitoring the health of every household.

She is also in contact with the medical Doctors who always advise her on decisions to be made in case of severe sickness. Apart from the Pygmies who live on the site all other Pygmies who have moved to Komanda

refer to us for medical care or assistance in case of death.

## Praises

- We praise God for the safe travel to and from Kampala and Entebbe.
- We praise God for the completion of the payment towards the land. Staff members are so thankful over the announcement of this news. We could notice their joy because they were frustrated as they thought they would lose their school in case the land was grabbed. This acquisition is another impetus for the staff members who were getting a bit demotivated as many people were talking about their possible eviction from the school site.

## Prayers

- We need your prayers for the way forward. We are thankful to God for many sacrifices brothers and sisters are offering to advance this ministry. But we are also aware of the global financial constraints many people are going through. That is why our prayers are that we should become also a source of blessings to others in the near future and less dependent upon overseas funding.
- Pray for the visit of Shaddai and friends who are willing to guide us on a master plan so that the property is rationally put into use.
- Pray that God will touch the heart of the young man called Tagu, who has illegally



possessed the wet portion of land that could be used for school gardening in dry season and another area we targeted for animal husbandry. According to local chiefs, we are the first occupants and have bought the largest portion therefore have the privilege to occupy the whole area. Having discovered the usefulness of the portion, Tagu forcibly planted crops into the area including where teachers have already ploughed.

The owner of the property offered him another piece of land and asked us to pay for the area Tagu occupied. However he is still reluctant. We have reported the case to civil servant who have promised to give us a solution in the near future. The case is being studied by civil services. Pray the matter is settled in our favour as the portion of land in question is to be used for educational and nutritional purposes.