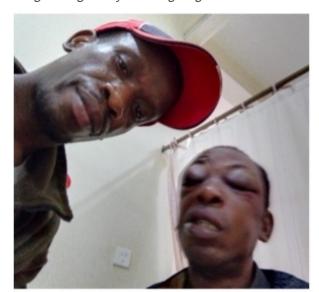
FRIENDS OF KIBBUSE

Feb 2022 Newsletter

REV. JAMES IS ON THE MEND. ...but please continue to pray for him!

We know you all want an update on Rev. James' recovery from injuries suffered in a motorcycle accident last month. We are overjoyed and relieved by the latest report, filed by his daughter Norah, letting us know healing is slow but steady: "We have really seen God's hand at work in our dad's life; his swollen eyes are now healing and he is able to see again, though the dizziness has not passed yet. But there is a big change as you are going to see in the attached photos." Friends, this was a crushing blow; it is a miracle Rev. James is still alive, and a



testimony to the value of helmets in the event of accident. Here are photos taken immediately after the crash by his son Albert. (*left*), and just yesterday by Norah (*right*). Not only can he see, he is able to speak and anxious to thank us for our support and prayers.

Norah posted a short video that will give you a better idea of his progress – and gave him a chance to thank all of us for prayers and support (<u>Click here</u>). You can see and hear that he is improving, but still has a way to go. Please continue to pray for him, his family and all the members of the Board, KVTC and GSC staff who are taking up the slack until Rev. James is able to return to work.



A CAR IS IN THE WORKS

We are overjoyed to report that we now have the funds to purchase a practical and dependable automobile for Rev. James, and hope to have It delivered to his house in Mityana by the time he is cleared to drive again. Continue to pray for God's healing of the dizziness, which is probably related to the lingering effects of concussion and the damage to his sinuses.

KVTC OPEN AT NEAR CAPACITY!

Principal Richard Mugume has given us a wonderfully encouraging update — *with a big challenge*. The vocational center opened in mid-January to 12 students, but that number grew to 43 by the beginning of this month! There are 12 young women and 31 young men enrolled in five programs. The Drivers Training Program continues to attract many students and the car we donated four years ago is still in good operating condition. Students and faculty are doing well.

You can read messages of gratitude from a faculty member and student whose lives have been changed and sustained during the past two years of covid-19 by the faithfulness of our donors. See below:



- Anatolious Mukisa (click here), Motor Vehicle Mechanics Department Head, 13 years of service.
- Derek Niima (click here), a second-year Agriculture Student.



LICENSING

There are actually two pressing challenges facing the school. Most important is the need for the school to become fully licensed by the Uganda Department of Education. As a rural NGO, KVTC has been permitted to operate without formal licensing for a number of years, but the pandemic has resulted in much more government vigilance about privately funded educational institutions. The licensing process will involve assessment inspections, satisfaction of government requirements and a timetable for final inspection not yet known. There will be costs involved. Please pray and give if you want to help with this. Just annotate your check "KVTC Licensing."

The second challenge is for **student and staff housing**. Presently they are using the school's main classroom building as a boys dormitory to meet covid-19 protocols for space, ventilation and capacity. Thankfully, the design and funding for a new boys dorm is in place, with hopes of construction starting in April. Staff housing is and has always been rented from local landlords and many rooms are substandard. Regardless of condition, just as in the USA, covid related economics has resulted in rampant inflation and rents are being raised to the point that income from tuition and fees cannot cover it. Fortunately, the school's faculty has met and approved the idea of refitting the "Hill House" (a large but unfinished building adjacent to the campus and on Kibbuse Foundation property) as a staff residence. It can easily house eight to ten or even twelve staff members, with enough extra space for commons areas on both floors. However, at least \$30,000 would be needed. It is hoped that if we can raise sufficient funds, Friends of Kibbuse would send a team either late this year or during Spring Break 2023 to help with the work. Please contact Nate Kamps at nate78kamps@yahoo.com if you are interested in joining a team trip. Checks for construction should be annotated "KVTC Staff House."

THE GOOD SAMARITAN CLINIC

Kibbuse Board Chairman George Tusabomu, acting in behalf of Rev. James, sent us the January Patient Count to let us know how well the clinic is serving its community. 193 patients were treated, all of them on an outpatient basis: 90 were young children treated for malaria and respiratory infections. The rest were older children and adults also treated for these two most common maladies, along with cases of pelvic inflammatory disease, tropical ulcers and various STDs.

It is so good to know that the clinic is now fully operational; well-led, well-staffed and well-used again. It has been a long struggle to get patients back into the clinic after two years of covid-19 alarms that kept all too many away and suffering unnecessarily.

We love the messages on our clinic "In-charge" and Midwife's t-shirts, which say "struggle" and "stay true." Good slogans for a difficult time. Helping rebuild public confidence has been boosted by immunization outreaches, with one or two staff going out on the motorcycle provided by FOK, to neighboring villages.





The latest one was to Itumero, a village of several thousand just a couple of km south of Kabasara on the main road. This is the largest village within walking distance, so the immunization program will hopefully "prime the pump" of public confidence and people there will be more confident to bring their sick directly to the clinic

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