



# Brightshiners Junior School

## Newsletter Aug/Sept, 2020

**Dear friend of Brightshiners Junior School,**

**Greetings,**

How are you doing? Are you keeping safe during these times of covid-19?

The world really is in a trying moment. Many have come to agreement that this virus is here to stay. But the surprising thing is that many of us, if not all, are not in the business of looking for a vaccine. We are seated somewhere hoping that somebody somewhere will come up with a vaccine and we will join to celebrate. Isn't it the same concept in the gospel? That through one man sin entered the world and brought condemnation and death to all. Yet it's amazing that through one man's righteous act on the cross we are saved. Paul in Romans 5 brings out this concept well; vs 15 says *"but the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many."* The question is do you or/ will you trust in him? May we reach out to many and point them to this one man.

### **From the Director's Desk**

Happy to introduce Lucy, a brilliant girl who comes on board as an intern that will be instrumental in running day to day activities in our centre. We are looking forward to working with her as long as it will take, during and after her 6 months (July-Dec, 2020) internship.

*"My name is Lucy Amulere, an intern graduate in cooperatives and community development 2015-2019 class at The Cooperative University of Kenya and I thank God for this opportunity because it will provide real work experience and exposure to what I learnt during my studies. It will also enable me pursue my vocation in community development work bringing my passion and life experience together.*

### **My duties and responsibilities**

- *Help in operating the office*
- *Help in establishing a clear link between the school, community and the church in matters holistic transformation.*

- *Identify community needs in order to make sure that the BJS, BMG & PTMs goals are matched and attained.*
- *Research & Networking.*
- *Help in updating on monthly activities."*

Lucy will probably do most of the reporting, helping Bonface who is now keener to pursue his training in missions to unreached people groups. Bonface will however still be involved in BJS administration, budgeting, staffing and funds raising.

Rev. Alfred Kitui Linyulu

### **Updates ...**

There has not been much of construction taking place at the premise because we took a break as we wait for the phase two of the school development. We hope to start soon as there is a hint on schools reopening soon. Schools' reopening is bit worrying as it calls for urgent preparations. We are praying hard that God will use you to prayerfully consider us and also financially support the phase two of the development.

### **Music lessons,**

#### **Bluetooth speakers**

Thanks to our friend Phil Rooke who helped us purchase this device for Brightshiners Junior School music lessons. With this, both Phil and our teachers will be able to facilitate joined music classes using modern technology that knows no distance. This will help the pupils have a good time during their music lessons. We are still praying and hoping that God will provide more resources to make the lessons enjoyable. A few children are now able to meet twice in a week to do some music. We can't large numbers on the compound due to covid-19 restrictions. During the lessons we are making sure that there social distancing, sanitizing, and wearing of masks and



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## Newsletter Aug/Sept, 2020

plenty of water to wash our hands frequently.



### Staffroom/Office

Our office now occupies the space that we anticipate to serve as staffroom when schools resume! It's completed with a plywood interior finish on both ceiling and walls. The ceiling is painted white while the walls are painted sky blue, isn't this beautiful? This room is fitted with an inbuilt bookshelf which will provide a safe store of our books. We thank God for we were able to purchase a second hand desktop for a relatively cheap price and the device is of much help for the office. We are still hoping to furnish the room with 2 more office tables and chairs, another desktop and 1 laptop and other office accessories. We also hope to install Wi-Fi that will promote research initiatives the facility wishes to engage in innovatively.



### Gardening

Our garden is flourishing so well that it catches the attention of our visitors and friends of Brightshiners junior school. one of the vision of BMG is to see an empowered community. We believe this is one way of empowering them. All those visiting the premise goes out resolving to be creative and use the talents and abilities to empower themselves by at least bringing food on the table hence reducing the dependency syndrome.

Gardening may also be one way to generate income to the school. During school days, the children will eat vegetables and hence healthy pupils and staffs.

### Classrooms

We thank God that our classrooms furnishings and paintings are almost over. We hope and believe to finish soon.

However, the remaining part is the essential items every class needs. If schools could open today, then the boys and girls would learn while standing. We need more financial capital to purchase them, lockers, chairs, blackboards and any other essential item needed in a classroom.

Our director made some inquiries on desks purchase and this is what he found out;

- A ready-made desk at market retail price goes for kes 5000(USD 50).
- We can reduce this amount by half if we bought materials and hire a carpenter to do the furniture for us.

For a start we need 100 desks which amount to kes 500,000(USD 5000) which is a big amount.



# Brightshiners Junior School

## Newsletter Aug/Sept, 2020

### Landscaping

The landscaping now is in the progress. The land will look attractive and also will enable farming activities to take place. We are also working towards installing piped water as well as working with rain water which will greatly enable our farming activities as one key income generating activity.



*Landscaping in progress...*

### Desktop purchase...

Praise God! We were able to purchase a desktop for the school ever since the school started at a very reasonable price. We would need more desktops for every classroom for the pupils to learn and be knowledgeable about computer.



### Water connection

Water is life! We all know that right? We have more than enough roof surfaces that can collect water for during rainy season for use in our garden and other water uses. We are in summer

period hence no RAIN! We can't collect for now and so we must look for alternative solution to this. We want to make our crops look greener and healthier and so water is the only option which is to connect it to the school in order to have enough and sufficient water for watering the plants and consumption. We have so far applied for pipe water connection and purchased the plumbing materials. We hope to be connected as soon as the water company approves our application and send a plumber to do the connection. The delay has been caused by the ongoing road construction that interfered with the main pipe that will need to be replaced before we can be connected. Since piped water is so expensive, the alternative will be used for gardening purposes. The other future option will be drilling our own water.

### Road construction

Praise God! The road construction around Brightshiners School makes it look so beautiful. This came about after our director courageously and confidently negotiated with the supervisor to help in doing the part of diversion at least up to the school gate. This makes us feel a bit relieved because if you could look at the road before construction and during the rain, you could really sympathize with the community's struggle with mad. The road is now passable and so when we resume children will have no trouble accessing the school!

### Chapel

We thank God for He has enabled us through his mercies that we can now meet for fellowships in the new chapel. This came about after our president allowed churches to resume but with a certain number of people attending church. We thank God because all our PTM members can attend the church and fellowship together. You want to meditate anytime without distractions, the chapel is open 24/7. For spiritual formation, friend, the chapel is here and you will feel refreshed.



# Brightshiners Junior School

## Newsletter Aug/Sept, 2020

### Thanks giving ceremony

We took a break from construction work where we released our two masons back to their rural home and family; they really dedicated their efforts and did not give up. They worked tirelessly to make sure that the facility was good looking. We appreciated them by slaughtering a goat for them and so we celebrated with them. We are proud of them when we need them in another round of construction, we won't hesitate to call them back! Our work team included our male staffs whose drive to the work was to see the school recovered. Some have travelled to visit their loved once upcountry and we pray for their safe return. Probably, they are not in a hurry to return there's little activity to engage them now that the schools are still closed but all the same, we appreciate their hard work that saw the construction work well done.

We also cannot fail to observe that the construction exercise went on during all the 3 months of Covid-19 lockdown and travel internal travel restriction and just after our president lifted off the ban, we were ready for the break.

### Thanksgiving

Thank God with us for;

- For the music lessons which started
- For the completion of phase one of the work that saw the project transit from a construction site to a facility that we now are proud of.

### Pray with us for;

- Keep praying that even during the pandemic God will still give us the peace that surpasses human understanding.
- God's provision of funds for phase two of development – equipment & registration of BJS in preparation for schools reopening in January 2021.
- For our staffs, students and parents at home.
- For every partner in this development.
- Those working behind the curtains for this facility to look like it is now.

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### PARTNERING WITH US

. God's work is funded by God's people. As an institution and ministry part of our income comes through raising support in order to be able to meet our vision which is quite costly. The easiest way to be involved is to send your gift via M-PESA to **0721882463** or **Brightshiners Maendeleo Group** (Account No. **01134842195200 Cooperative Bank of Kenya Ngong**); International Transfers **Manasprings Foundation** (USD A/C No. **0100005595368**; Swift Code – **SBICKENXXXX**; Stanbic Bank, Westlands Branch - Kenya. May God meet all your needs and greatly encourage you as you invest in his Kingdom