

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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ACUTOMER VILLAGE  
GULU, UGANDA



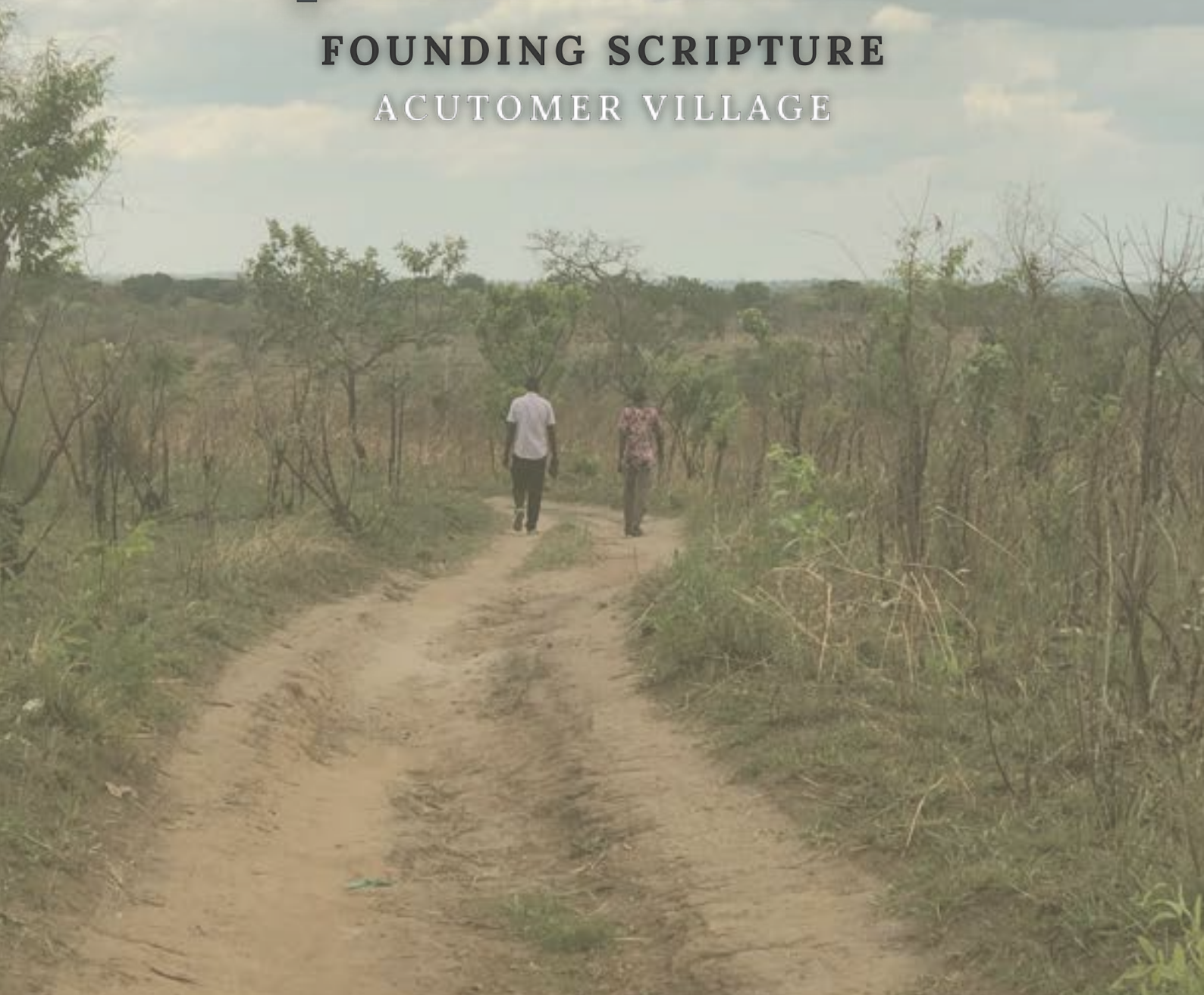


**"Trust in the LORD,  
and do good;  
dwell in the land, and feed  
on His faithfulness."**

**psalm 37:3**

**FOUNDING SCRIPTURE**

ACUTOMER VILLAGE







Jerome, a neighbor and child in our Sunday School (children's church), posing for a photo before heading to a home fellowship



# chapters

A group of children in a village setting, with a thatched roof in the background. The children are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a thatched roof of a building, suggesting a rural or village environment.

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# HISTORY OF OUR VILLAGE

The story of our village, Acutomer, has been retold countless times through the lens of the LRA War. What is not often shared is how this Acholiland thrived before the horrors of those decades. Our mission is to restore that former dignity and abundance in this land. We prayed many years to see our village, Acutomer, grow in resources that strengthen its people, offer them a better quality of life, and make Christ known. Today, we are humbled and grateful to be a part of its testimony of triumph. We are confident in God's redemption of this community and consider it our **#JourneyToGenHouse**, with and for our neighbors!



*Co-Founder, Ocen under 'te yat oywelo'- Acholi for the 'blackbery tree' where our church began*

# OUR MISSION + VISION

## mission

SINCE 2016, WE HAVE COMMITTED TO REDEEMING ORPHANS AND THE VULNERABLE IN OUR VILLAGE OF NORTHERN UGANDA. DRIVEN BY THE TESTIMONIES OF OUR FOUNDERS, OUR EMPATHY FOR THE FATHERLESS FUELS OUR COMPASSION TO **CARE FOR ORPHANS, PRESERVE THEIR FAMILIES, AND DEVELOP THEIR COMMUNITY.**

## vision

TO FUFILL OUR MISSION, WE ARE SET ON CREATING A SUSTAINABLE CYCLE OF DEVELOPMENT IN OUR VILLAGE BY **PROVIDING FOR THE HOLISTIC NEEDS OF ITS ORPHANS AND SOCIOECONOMIC MEANS OF ITS PEOPLE.**

## what we've achieved

SINCE OUR FOUNDING IN SEPTEMBER 2016, WE HAVE MADE DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRESS IN OUR VILLAGE AND OFFERED TANGIBLE HOPE TO OUR NEIGHBORS. TO DATE, WE HAVE **ACQUIRED 35.5 ACRES OF LAND (2018, 2021), DRILLED A BOREHOLE TO SUPPLY CLEAN WATER (2018), LAUNCHED OUR CHURCH PLANT- THE WORD COMMUNITY CHURCH (2020), AND BROKE GROUND TO BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR FIRST CHILDREN'S HOME FOR ORPHANS (2021).**





Melissa, the granddaughter to our closest neighbor and a child in our church's Sunday School (children's ministry)

# FOUNDER'S LETTER

**We grew deep roots this year.** This year we broke ground and laid bricks in our village, cementing our footprint of impact and future work in our promising community. Honestly, it was tear jerking to realize that Acutomer was officially our home! Witnessing the construction sealed our commitment to this community and reminded me of God's faithfulness to see the vulnerable—the *poor, the sick, the hungry, and the orphan*—and to redeem their lives through the resources he has graced us to give.

**This was the first year that our mission became more personal than ever because tangible lives were changed.** We laid real bricks to establish a real home. We poured out genuine, desperate care for Baby Sunday that devastatingly passed. And we planted a fruit-bearing church that caused real marriages to be healed, serious domestic violence to reduce, deep trauma to be addressed, and giddy children leaping with joy at The Gospel.

**Thank you Jesus for the hope growing in this community and the hands that give to make it all possible!** We look forward to each day here with anticipation, knowing that greater is on the way for our village!



**jordan ocen**  
FOUNDER OF GEN HOUSE



Founder, Jordan, with some of her Sunday School (children's ministry) children that are also village neighbors







Founder, Jordan standing in the main doorway of the first children's home currently being constructed



# 2021 PROJECTS + IMPACT

## **children's home construction**

THIS YEAR, WE BROKE GROUND TO COMMENCE THE BUILDING OF OUR FIRST CHILDREN'S HOME FOR ORPHANS WHERE PHASES AND II WERE CARRIED OUT

## **land expansion**

IN JANUARY 2021, WE EXCEEDED OUR 'LET'S GROW GEN HOUSE' CAMPAIGN GOAL, ALLOWING US TO EXPAND OUR LAND BY 20 ACRES

## **planting a church**

THIS YEAR WE PLANTED A CHURCH, PROVIDING A LONG-AWAITED AND MUCH-NEEDED SPIRITUAL RESOURCE IN OUR VILLAGE

## **covid-19 relief**

DURING THE NATIONAL LOCKDOWN OF THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC IN UGANDA, WE OFFERED FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS TO SUFFERING MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

## **sponsoring ketty's education**

OUR FIRST CHILD AT GEN HOUSE, AKETOWANGA, IS NOW ENTERING YEAR FOUR OF HER SPONSORED, SECONDARY EDUCATION





Children in Sunday School (children's ministry) at our church doing an activity for their lesson





Our first child at Gen House, Aketowanga, posing in her school's uniform t-shirt



# BUILDING THE CHILDREN'S HOME

## constructing through phase IV

On January 27, 2021, the groundbreaking of our very first structure commenced, sending us well on our way to the construction of our first children's home! Phases I and II were fully carried out this year including the cementing of the foundation, establishing the substructure and superstructure, and building up the main walls. Now we look forward to completing the remaining three phases including the roofing, furnishing our home, and officially opening it for operations in 2022!



*Progress photo of our children's home with roofing timbers during phase IV (the roofing)*





Lanyero, a neighbor in our community and happy child in our Sunday School (children's ministry)





Children joyously dancing to music after Sunday School (children's church) at our church



# EXPANDING OUR LAND

## adding an additional 20 acres

On November 30, 2021, Facebook's annual #GivingTuesday, we launched a campaign for expansion called 'Let's Grow Gen House!'. We set a goal of raising \$10,000 to purchase 20 additional acres of land adjacent to our first 15.5 acres. In a little over two months, we exceeded our goal because of the generosity of givers that believe in our vision to transform the lives of the vulnerable in our village! Now we call a total of 35.5 acres our home, and believe for it to soon be full of resources such as schools, farmland, and even medical care and access to serve our children and neighbors in our community!



*The very fertile 20 acres of land adjacent to our original plot 15.5 acres*



# RELIEF FROM COVID-19

## food and goods distribution

The situation of COVID-19 in Uganda devastated the economy and personally affected many families. Fortunately, through donations to our church, the pandemic did not halt our mission! These donations allowed us to distribute food and household items for much-needed food relief since the national quarantine. During the lockdown, we also strategically recorded sermons and teachings for our members to safely gather around God's Word in small groups. We truly thank God that none of our community members were lost to the devastating virus.



*Some mothers and grandmothers from our church sitting next to their food distribution items including sacks of posho, cooking oil, and soap for bathing and washing hands, dishes, and clothes*





Scovia, a mother at our church, The Word Community Church, with her newborn son



# KETTY'S SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Our first orphaned child at Gen House, Aketowanga (affectionately known as “Ketty”), has beautifully blossomed! In 2014, we met Ketty as a double orphan living with her then ill grandmother. Five years later, her grandmother passed away, being her only source of parental support and resources for schooling. However, due to poverty, Ketty had been out of school for four years.

Fortunately, through our guardianship of her as a family since 2019, and full sponsorship of her education since 2018, Ketty has realized her dreams of becoming a nurse again and continues to excel academically! Today, Ketty is devoted to God’s word and also passionately leads worship at our church when she is not away at boarding school. She also loves cooking delicious meals at home, is a renowned leader on her school’s campus, and enjoys playing cards and winning at board games!

After nearly two years of school closures and homeschooling and during the national COVID-19 quarantine, she will resume schooling in 2022 for her fourth year of secondary education. We’re looking forward to witnessing more of God’s miracles for her next year!



**aketowanga**  
**"ketty"**

OUR FIRST CHILD AT GEN HOUSE





Aketowanga and Co-Founder, Ocen at an outdoor adventure center to celebrate her second birthday with us at Gen House



# GOD'S WORD IN OUR VILLAGE

## transforming everyday lives

This year we began to further transform our community by planting a long-anticipated church here called **The Word Community Church**. This supplied both spiritual resources and unity in our village that truly needed it. Through our church, we've seen marriages restored, individuals encouraged, and children leaping with joy at The Gospel! Triumphantly, we have also witnessed trauma addressed, domestic violence reduced, and myths about plaguing health crises like HIV/AIDS debunked for the wellness of our entire village.



*One of our first Sundays at The Word Community Church under the tree where we first began*



# GROWING SPIRITUALLY

**Our church, The Word Community Church, began humbly under a tree at our neighbor's home.** Each week, we gathered on a few sitting benches and papyrus mats to hear God's word. With hope, we prayed that our church would become an epicenter of disciple-making disciples through the sound doctrine we preached and spiritual resources we offered.

**Since our first Sunday, March 14, 2021, we have consistently held Sunday services and mid-week Bible study.** We also joyously host family visits, offer pastoral care, and have seen God heal and multiply his disciples. Practically, we've witnessed marriages restored, outstanding conflicts resolved, individuals encouraged, and children that can confidently quote Scripture and love to pray!

**Amongst our church programs, our trauma healing training was incredibly impactful!** Since the LRA War, there have been lasting effects including high cases of HIV/AIDS, unemployment, alcoholism, domestic violence, and even rape that plagued our community and the actual homes of our church members. All glory to God, this training equipped them with practical tools to make Biblical changes in their lives. By unifying around God's Word then, and still today, we've seen immediate application in our members' lives, and its benefit for the entire village.



**ocen francis**

CO-FOUNDER OF GEN HOUSE  
PASTOR OF THE WORD COMMUNITY CHURCH





Our closest neighbor, Abwola Florence, at one of our church celebrations under the tree where our church plant began





Two of the dedicated youth at our church, Lukwiya and Lagoro, wearing their church uniform shirts



# HIGHLIGHT #1: TRAUMA HEALING

## addressing trauma since the LRA War

In the month of November, our church hosted a week-long trauma healing training. This was a Bible-based training that was very helpful in reaching out to some of the church members who were struggling with traumatic experiences, including those since the LRA War, and learning about how to help others suffering in our village. We also invited community members from other churches to attend.



*Co-Founder, Ocen and church members during the last session called "Taking our Pain to the Cross", standing around a burning box full of sheets of paper used to list different traumas in their lives*

As a result of the trauma healing training, amongst many of the testimonies, one of the church members came to seek advice on how to heal in his struggling marriage and healthy ways to overcome poverty. This resulted in a three-month biblical counseling on marriage and financial management. Praise the Lord, the family is standing strong again.





A child in our Sunday School (children's ministry) posing with the flowers used for decoration in our Garden of Eden lesson



# HIGHLIGHT #2: ACHOLI BIBLES

## locally-translated Bible distribution

One of the long-standing prayers for our organization has always been to see the glory of God manifested in our village through the everyday lives of our neighbors. Practically, that looks like community members loving God in word and deed, striving to make the name of Christ known. However, one of the greatest obstacles to this desire was a lack of tangible and locally-translated Bibles in our village. All glory to God, a set of Acholi language Bibles were donated to our church! We truly thank God for the blessing of his word and how the fruits of knowing him are spreading throughout our church!



*Church members holding up Bibles in our church structure made from makoko wood, eucalyptus trees, and papyrus mats during our Acholi Bible distribution*

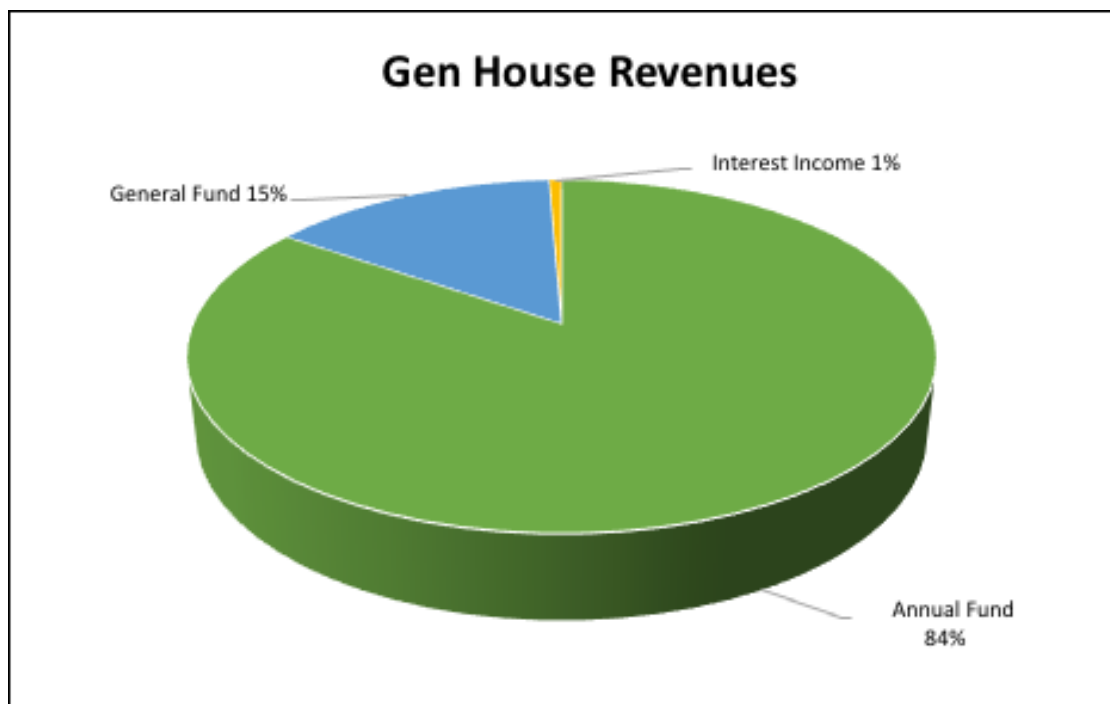




Jerome, a close neighbor and child in our Sunday School (children's church), posing on the wall of our temporary church structure



# YEAR 2021 FINANCIALS



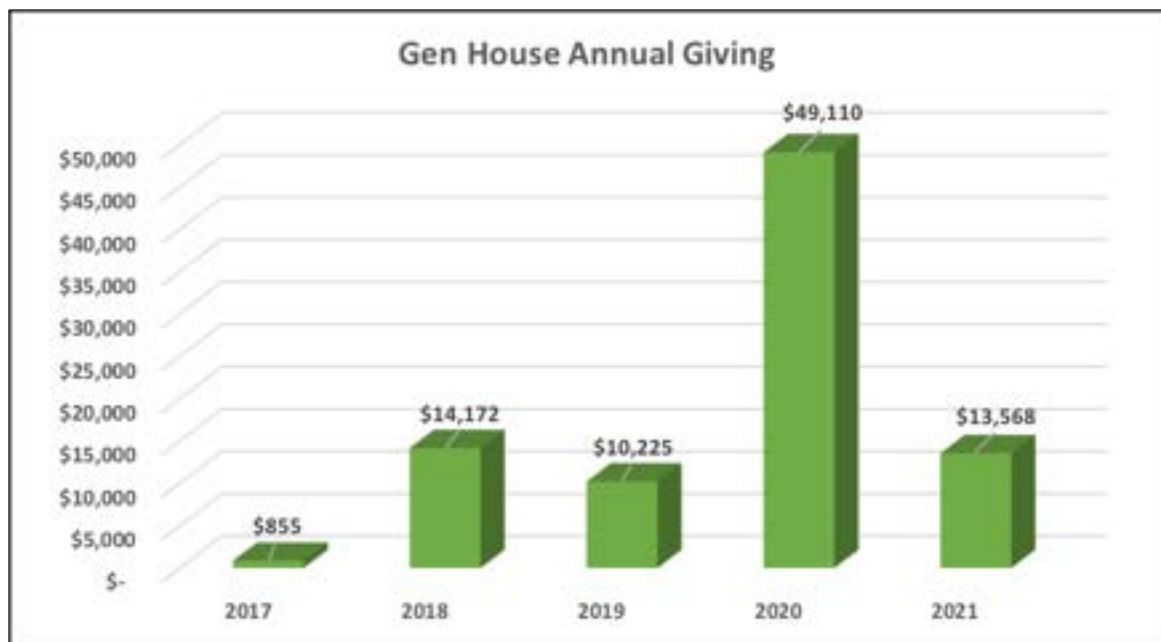
*Revenue Reporting Period: January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021*

**This year, donations totaling \$13,568 to our organization granted us the opportunity to make immediate impact in the everyday lives of our village!** Through local support, we were also able to provide economic relief from the national COVID-19 lockdown through the distribution of in-kind food and household items to our neighbors, in addition to their continued use of our borehole supplying clean water to the community. Moreover, our long-awaited church was planted under a tree and has been graciously sustained through the tithes and offering of church members. And, our first child at Gen House, Aketowanga, further benefitted from the 2021 generosity after receiving contributions to her boarding school education.

**In summary, gifts and donations received in 2021 allowed us to expand our impact like never before!** We thank God for multiplying all that was given to our ministry and look forward to watching our financial support increase so that all our ministry facilities can be built, and our love for Christ can be felt through our permanent presence in the village!



# THANK YOU FOR GIVING!



*Annual giving from inception to December 31, 2021*

**Our organization began with fervent prayers to care for the fatherless in Northern Uganda.** As we grew, so did our relationships with neighbors in the community we now call home. The more consistently we traveled down the dirt roads to our village, the more we came to know the significant hardships that fell under the umbrella of our mission. We quickly came to realize that raising orphans here would only be a fraction of the impact we desired to make. So, we kept showing up and kept trusting God for what He could provide through the giving of others that would allow us to meet a magnitude of needs in our community.

**Indeed, we have seen donations increase our outreach in the village each year!** By faith, we believed that God would sustain every step of our #JourneyToGenHouse to cater to orphans and the vulnerable. Today, we can't shout 'thank you' loud enough to all of our donors! Each year, we've exceed more than \$10,000 in giving! Truly, without your support, we could not reach as far and wide as we have in Acutomer. Now, we look forward to another year of great giving, continued support, and miraculous impact in our community!



# SNEAK PEEK INTO 2022





# 2022 DIRECTION & INITIATIVES

## **embracing a new mission**

YEAR 2022 WILL BE A FRESH START TO OUR NEW MISSION TOWARDS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION IN OUR VILLAGE. THIS DYNAMIC SHIFT WILL ALLOW US TO CARE FOR ORPHANED AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN THROUGH A NEW APPROACH, OUTSIDE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE, THAT WILL STILL CATER TO THEIR WELFARE AND MEET THEIR PSYCHOSOCIAL NEEDS.

## **building quality schools**

TO CARRY OUT OUR NEW MISSION, WE WILL ESTABLISH QUALITY SCHOOLS AT EACH ACADEMIC LEVEL TO CULTIVATE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN OUR RURAL VILLAGE. THESE SCHOOLS WILL BE ACCESSIBLE, AFFORDABLE, AND OF A TOP-QUALITY STANDARD FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE MEMBERS OF OUR VILLAGE.

## **continuing church programs**

OUR CHURCH IS A TACTICAL PROJECT OF OUR MISSION AND CRITICAL ACCESS POINT INTO THE LIVES OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS. BY BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM THROUGH OUR CHURCH, WE CAN CONTINUE WALKING THROUGH THE JOYS AND HARDSHIPS OF LIFE WITH OUR NEIGHBORS, URGING THEM IN THE WAY OF CHRIST, AND ENCOURAGING THEM TO LIVE GODLY LIVES AS INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND PARENTS OF OUR FUTURE SCHOLARS.





Founder, Jordan and Co-Founder, Ocen laughing on Christmas day in the village with a celebratory chicken in hand



# EMBRACING A NEW MISSION

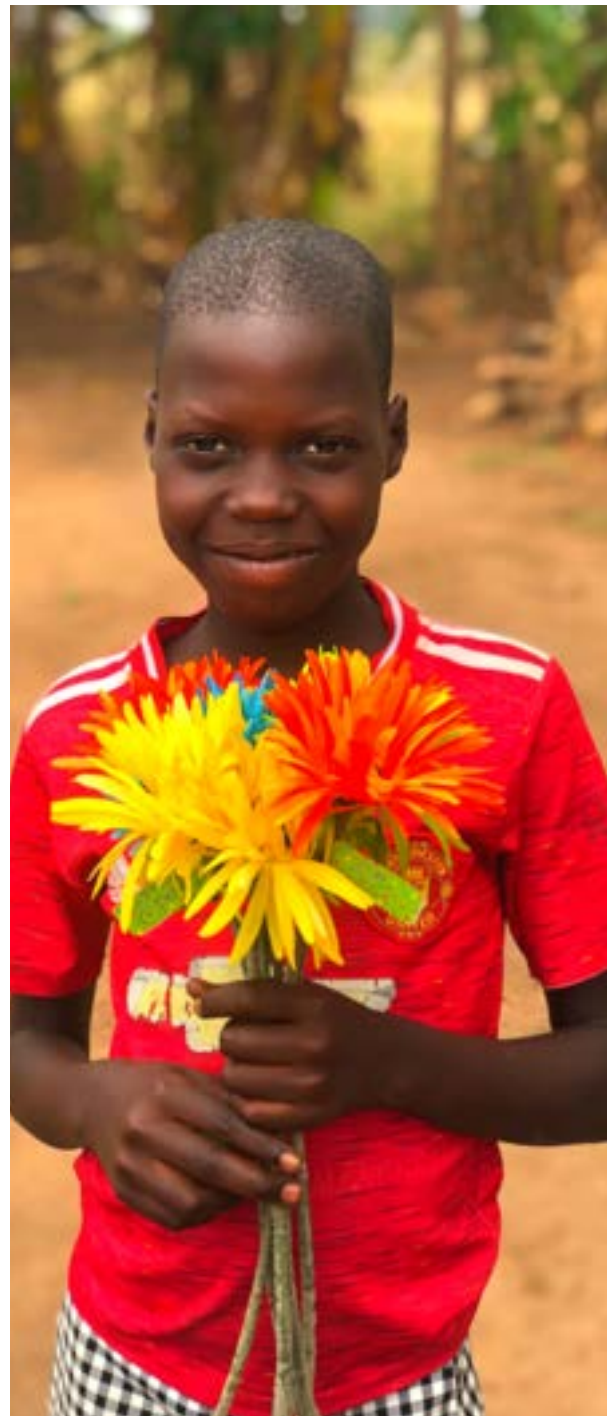
**We are making a dynamic shift.**

National and international legislation against institutional orphan care sparked a necessary pivot in our mission to operate from our future children's homes. That decision making forced us to think critically about how to still cater to orphans, though outside of residential care. **Today, our new mission is to offer Christian education for community transformation.** Practically, this will allow us to continue caring for orphans and more vulnerable children in our village.

**Our plan is to build the infrastructure to educate them—schools at every academic level—that will equip them**

for a brighter future as mature, Christ-following leaders. Providing education will also combat illiteracy, nationwide unemployment, and the lack of income-generating trades and skills.

Additionally, by growing our church, we can strengthen the application of our Christian faith in the daily lives of our congregants: the families of the coming scholars at our schools and the future leaders of Uganda!





# BUILDING QUALITY SCHOOLS

**We'll begin our new mission of Christian education in 2023 with the opening of a nursery—kindergarten 1, kindergarten 2, and kindergarten 3—and the first three primary school levels: primary 1, primary 2, and primary 3.** This school opening will commence our 15+ year plan to establish schools at every academic level including a nursery, primary, secondary, vocational, and Bible college. Our mission will continue to unfold by adding a class/grade level each year until each institution is fully built, furnished, staffed, and educating promising scholars.

We are also eager to extend our foundational mission to care for orphans and vulnerable children by offering comprehensive and free access to this quality, Christian education through full-ride scholarships and other accommodations that grant them equitable opportunities for hope and a bright future!





# RAISING UP DISCIPLES

## continuing church programs

Our hope for our church, **The Word Community Church**, is the same as Paul's in the book of Philippians: *that the love of our church has for Christ will continue to grow more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.*

We will continue preaching sound doctrine, hosting our Bible-based trauma-healing trainings, build up a youth sports league, and cultivate a flourishing children's ministry. Our involvement in the community will also remain constant as we fellowship in the homes of members each week and witness God's transformational hand in their lives.



*Co-Founder, Ocen after church with Ogen, our closest neighbor and one of the youth in our village*



**In March 2021, we opened our church and met the mother of a desperately ill young child named Sunday.**

**On our first day, a packed Sunday under a great blackberry tree, the church corporately stretched its hands and believed that God would heal him. Three days later, the mother and Baby Sunday met Founder, Jordan and Co-Founder, Ocen in Gulu Town to begin his hopeful hospital journey to recovery. Though he fought a painful uphill battle against his first diagnosis of malnourishment, Baby Sunday heartbrokenly passed away due to a final diagnosis of sickle cell anemia.**

**As devastating as that was to experience, and especially to grieve after, we are grateful for your immense support of our ministry with such a sudden yet urgent ask to help us preserve Baby Sunday's life. Caring for him alongside his mother, meant that you stood with our ministry's mission to care for the vulnerable, even in emergency circumstances.**

**Ultimately, we trust in the sovereign God's plan to save his mother, days before her son's passing, and to create a place of refuge for her to grieve and be supported by community through the care of our church. May the God of comfort continue to keep her close and heal all of our hearts.**

**In Loving Memory...**

**BABY SUNDAY**



*Ocen, Jordan, and Ketty at Fort Patiko in Uganda for a Valentine's Day surprise and Ketty's first ever trip outside of her village*



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