



ROTOM

Outreach Sept. 2007

Reach One Touch One Ministries
Uganda



ROTOM, Reaching older persons and children under their care in Jesus name!

"I am retired but not tired, I am retired but not expired," said one of the older persons at the meeting to organize International Day for Older Persons 2006. Indeed this is the truth. Though more and more younger people push for early retirement of older persons, this habit should stop. Older persons should be enabled to work for as long as they can even if it is on voluntary basis. They should be given opportunity to participate in all matters of their communities, especially when they have gifts and interest.

Staying active is one of the secrets of how our grandparents lived long lives. Because they worked on their family farms, they were never forced to retire as is the case today with those in civil service and other forms of paid employment. My grandparents (Mzee Ibrahim and Kaaka Janet) worked in their gardens (fields) until their last years. Actually my grandmother, who is believed to have died at 102, planted and tended her crops until

Age is wisdom!

ROTOM seniors taking the message to schools and churches



Eunice speaking to over a 1000 students at Seroma Christian High School, Mukono

Eunice spoke to students with passion about how to take care of themselves and other persons in their communities. She reminded them that it is by being responsible girls and boys that they would ensure a

two years before her death.

Eunice, who was an evangelist in her earlier years, said: *"God has given me another opportunity to do His work. To preach the gospel and to teach the young how to grow as responsible citizens."* This was in August 2007 after she spoke to over 1,000 students of Seroma Christian High school in Mukono.

better old age. She also reminded them that it is everyone's Biblical responsibility to care and help those in need including older persons.

I watched in amazement as all the students quietly and attentively listened to her lifesaving words. Then I remembered the old saying *"age is wisdom."*

This was the second time Eunice spoke to a large gathering of Ugandans in less than a month. The first was at St. Stephens Church Kisugu. There she preached and challenged Christians in two services to live their faith by caring about the needy. *Continued on page 3*

ROTOM Senior Sponsorship.

For only US\$ 25, Euro 25 or CDN \$30 a month, you can sponsor a senior in Uganda to:

- Hear a clear presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Participate in weekly Christian fellowship and Bible Study.
- Receive weekly visits from volunteer Christian counselors.
- Receive free regular medical screening and treatment.
- Receive a weekly hot and nutritious meal.
- Access safe and healthy housing

Every year, as a sponsor, you will receive a photo, update report and a letter from the senior you sponsor

ROTOM, reaching the elderly and children under their care in Jesus name.

Chris with Sedrack at the fellowship in Kabale



Nehemiah: 2; "... Let us rise up and build."

ROTOM Center, *slowly but surely taking shape!*

Watch this space for the unfolding of the 1st ever integrated senior citizens center in Uganda

1. 2004 ROTOM Leadership decided to build Seniors Citizens Activity Center.
2. January 2005- Land to build the center was bought
3. July 2006 1 -Ground breaking Ceremony
4. January 2007- Foundation built with team from Uvalde & Knippa in Texas
5. June 2007- Comprehensive Designs made by Engineering Ministries (eMI Canada).
6. October 2007- Walls of the Administration block come up.



Left: Ground-breaking ceremony

Right: Concerted effort, my son Tyler & Misaeri help to prepare concrete for the foundation.



Left: Pr. David Hampson from Galloway church in PA laying brick.

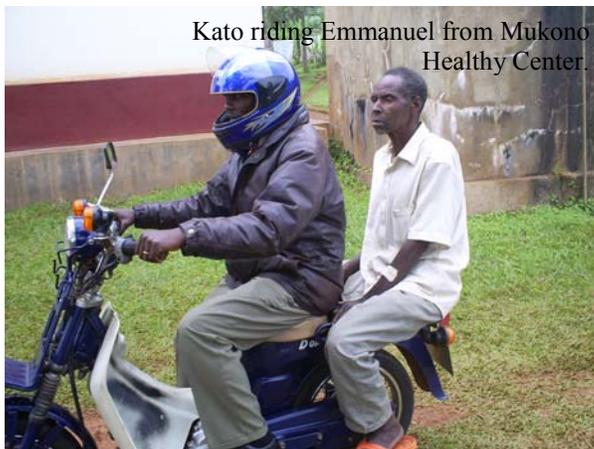
Below: The Administration building is at wall plate we are roofing in a two weeks



One Monday morning, the ROTOM staff gathered to discuss business. On the agenda was the motorcycles that the solidarity fund of Unie KBO donated to ROTOM. This gift was a good thing to the project workers, and we thanked God for their generous offer of transportation assistance.

In May 2007, I rode off on one of the motorcycles to visit older persons under ROTOM in Nsambwe vilage, Mukono District. I said to myself "thanks be to God, for transport has been made easy." Now going to fellowships and making visits to seniors is not a burden any more.

I visited several seniors from one home to another. Then it was



Kato riding Emmanuel from Mukono Healthy Center.

time to visit Lawrence, who I knew to be asthmatic. On reaching Lawrence's compound, I heard him coughing and knew it was not well with my friend. He was struggling in bed, and it seemed like he was breathing his last. I looked at him in confusion and fear. "God help rescue the situation," I prayed silently.

I had been riding the motorcycle for a couple of weeks and all I had in my mind was that it was to take ROTOM staff to visit seniors, organize fellowships and deliver supplies. Little did I

know that it also would serve as an "ambulance." Slowly I drove Lawrence to the hospital (Mukono Health Centre). There he was given the necessary treatment and I gave him a ride back home.

When I visited him a week later, Lawrence was happy and smiling because he had survived an asthma attack. He was well and had resumed his normal life. He testified in the weekly seniors fellowship how he was helped by the motorcycle.

This was the beginning of ROTOM's "motorcycle ambulance service." Since then many seniors have been taken to and from the hospital for treatment on ROTOM motorcycles. The motorcycles also have made it very easy for us to deliver medicines and groceries to seniors, and to make home visits. Running weekly seniors fellowships now is easier too.

Thanks to solidarity fund of Unie KBO for blessing ROTOM and our seniors through its generous donation of motorcycles.

Motorcycles save lives!!!!

By Kato Eric Samuel, Senior Care Worker-ROTOM Mukono

Age is wisdom!

ROTOM seniors take the message to schools and churches!

On both occasions when Eunice spoke, she was accompanied by other older persons under ROTOM. They sang praises and danced for Lord. Hardly anyone stayed in their seats as Augustine and Francisca led the dancing.

While I sympathized with the older persons about their health (they had danced a lot and stayed out all day), they asked me when they could go again to speak to other young people about issues of life. Interestingly, these seniors are not out asking for pity or begging.

are poor). Instead they teach and tell the young how to live responsible and God-pleasing lives, sharing the secrets that have helped them live so long.

As we finished our program at Seroma Christian High

yourselves pure and safe."

These two incidents have taught us much at ROTOM. First, that older persons can be a powerful force in educating our people about our lives and cultures. Second, that older persons enjoy

Interestingly, these seniors are not out asking for pity or begging. (remember, all the seniors under ROTOM are selected because they are poor). Instead they teach and tell the young how to live responsible and God-pleasing lives, sharing the secrets that have helped them live so long.



Seniors under ROTOM leading praise at Mukono Cathedral

S c h o o l , Evaristo ran for the microphone, saying "I have just one, one word, just one word," pleading with the chaplain because we were running out of time.

taking part in issues that affect our society. Third, that older persons have a burden for others. And fourth, that older persons can be a powerful voice to create awareness about issues related to seniors.

As a result, we have decided to explore how to develop teams of older persons who can go around their communities teaching and creating awareness about issues that affect Ugandans as well as issues of aging and older persons.

(remember, all the seniors under ROTOM are selected because they

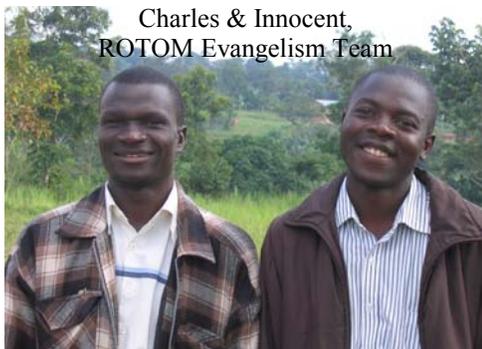
"Bana bange, mwekume!," he said, which means "my children, keep

Kenneth M- ROTOM

ROTOM Evangelism Program:

He sent them out two by two;

Innocent has joined Charles in ROTOM Evangelism Team



Charles & Innocent, ROTOM Evangelism Team

Since August 2007, **Innocent Mubangizi** has joined ROTOM Evangelism program as an Associate Evangelist. He is responsible for ROTOM evangelism activities in the south western Uganda areas of Kabale and neighboring districts.

Innocent likes to use audio visual to preach the gospel. "Jesus film can never leave the people the same" he says.

It is CRUSADE time!!

In August 2007, ROTOM sponsored a three day crusade and leaders conference at Kangulumira, in Kayunga, Uganda. The crusade attracted hundreds of people daily and many made a decision for Jesus Christ. The conference and crusade were done in partnership with IFN, YFC and Impact Worshipping Center, Kangulumira.

Charles,(Left) preaching at the crusade in Kangulumira



A 17-member mission team from the United States spent 12 days in October in the Mukono and Kabale areas of Uganda, and they made a difference for ROTOM, its seniors and others.

Not surprisingly, ROTOM, its seniors and others made a difference for the mission team too.

The team members from Galloway United Methodist Church in Franklin, Pennsylvania assisted a crew of Ugandan workers with construction of the medical center that is part of ROTOM's Senior Citizen Center. Thanks in part to the team's efforts – which included moving and stacking bricks, some bricklaying, and other tasks at the construction site in Mukono – brick work on the first phase of the medical center project is completed and workers soon will begin constructing the roof. The first phase includes construction of offices and other facilities for ROTOM staff and the board in Uganda.

Far From Home, Making A Difference

By Christian Porter, Franklin, PA

In addition to their labor, the Galloway team members brought with them about \$14,000 that they raised to cover construction costs, a generous gift that will be enough to finish most of the first phase of the project.



Brad and Glenn from Galloway UMC working at ROTOM Center.

"Offering your time, finances and labor to come and join with us in ministry to older persons is a clear expression of God's love. It blesses the seniors and is a great encouragement to me and the entire ROTOM team in Uganda. Thank you for loving us," Kenneth said.

"The effect of spending two weeks with Kenneth and his staff will be with the Galloway team forever," Pastor Hampson said. "God certainly has His hand on the ministry of ROTOM and we look forward being a part of what the Lord is going to do in the future of this ministry."

While the Galloway missionaries came to minister to the people of Uganda, the people of Uganda ministered to the missionaries too.

Team members visited many ROTOM seniors in their homes (including several who are sponsored by Galloway members) and took part in weekly seniors fellowships in Mukono. They also attended a seniors fellowship in Kabale, and visited three local orphanages including two where they conducted Bible school for the children.

One especially rewarding part of the Galloway mission was the interaction between team members, the ROTOM staff and the Ugandan workers. They ate lunch together every day, and this created an opportunity for several team members to explain why they traveled 8,500 miles to "the pearl of Africa" – to share the love of God and the blessings they have experienced with the people of Uganda – and to talk to the Ugandan crew about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The result? Two workers prayed with Pastor Dave Hampson and others to accept Christ, and the following Sunday one of the new believers and his family attended the same church where the mission team and several ROTOM staff members worshipped.

"Orphaned children with no known family joyfully worshipped before every Bible school class," said Galloway team member Chris Porter. "Seniors whose many children have died danced in worship and shared powerful stories of God's faithfulness to them. One ROTOM staff member told us about the intensive prayer and fasting that he does, including on his day off. Most of the Ugandan believers we met have virtually nothing, but at the same time they have everything. We saw real Christianity lived out right in front of us, and it really had an impact on me and many of our other team members. I can't be the same after experiencing what I did there."

Galloway is a mission-minded church whose trip to Uganda was its fifth one during Pastor Hampson's tenure (the church previously has taken mission teams to Cuba, Haiti, Kenya and Poland). It would be safe to assume that some Galloway team members will return someday to Uganda to continue the kind of outreach they did while they were in Mukono and Kabale.

WE ARE ON THE WEB

www.rotom-uganda.org

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