

1 August 2026

Aloha, Supporters of Janine LeGrand's Health-Education Ministry to Uganda

Perhaps you heard in the past couple of days that Uganda declared itself "free of Ebola." Thanks be to God! And, indeed, on 28 July, Janine wrote me that the Ministry of Health declared the outbreak to be over. She cautioned, "Of course, the risk of imported cases remains, as the DRC outbreak is very bad." The border between Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo is officially closed to general travel, although cargo with its handlers are allowed through. They're asked to self-isolate for the quarantine period. The Uganda Ministry of Health had nineteen confirmed cases and one probable case (deceased). The government's following up on approx. 800 cases contained the spread, as did its ban on gatherings. Most religious services have continued to be allowed but with Ebola prevention protocols. One recent summer celebration was the 150th anniversary of the "Mothers' Union." This formalized network of respected lay leaders and women priests helps connect the parish church with everyday family & community needs. Mothers' Union (MU) members wear distinctive blue and white uniforms to services and events. MU is a powerful force in the African church.

A few weeks ago, Janine had to travel to Kampala to renew her work permit. Thanks be to God she got the three-year renewal and did not get sick during her travel. With the recent news of what is happening in the U.S., to workers whose visas expire, I am thankful for the Ugandan government's renewal of her work permit.

I have more good news to share, about how the Lord continues to use Janine to do a mighty work in Uganda... her volunteerism with Rotary International has overlapped with her health work at the Masindi-Kitara Diocese, resulting in sufficient clean water now available at the Masindi Government Hospital. The Rotary project is a WASH (Water And Sanitation) project; and, here are pix of the handover ceremony and enormous water tower.



Meanwhile, Janine's water catchment system at the Diocesan headquarters, for her demonstration garden, will be considerably smaller; and, we'll look forward to seeing photographs.

Last weekend, Janine distributed books to Sunday Schoolers, purchased with a donation by St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Aiea, Hawaii. The primary school-aged children look delighted. Not shown is a different group of students, making solar cooking ovens, with Janine and members of the U.K. group, "Shines Children." Shines Children Foundation has a school there.



Janine's birthday is in the first week of September; so, if you'd like to send birthday greetings, please get them to me before 25 August. If you'll use the U.S. Postal Service, my address is: Laura M. Fink 1722 Makiki St. PH#1 Honolulu, HI 96822.

It is not too soon to pray that Janine will be allowed to travel to the U.S. in the spring of 2027. In April, the Society of Anglican Missionaries and Senders will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a retreat in North Carolina; and, I know Janine would dearly love to attend.

We will close this update with some of the African proverbs Janine shared with us awhile back:

1. "When God cooks, you don't see smoke."

Meaning: God is powerful enough to do the impossible in our lives.

2. The day you need a wife, the market is filled with mad people."

Meaning: Things become scarce, the day you need them.

3. No matter how good you are to a goat, it will still eat your yam.

Meaning: Some people will always be ungrateful, no matter how helpful you are to them.

4. A roaring lion kills no game.

Meaning: Bragging or talking about your dreams alone can't make you achieve your dream.

5. Only a fool tests the depth of a river with both feet.

Meaning: Don't jump into a situation without first thinking about it.

6. You don't teach the path of the forest to an old gorilla.

Meaning: Our elders have more experience in this life; so, we should learn to respect them and listen to their advice.

Thank you kindly for your continued interest & support of Janine. With aloha, Laura and Bruce Fink