

# THE RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS IN UGANDA



## *The perfect end-of-year gift #2021*

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

In March 2020, after a presidential decree to curb the spread of COVID-19, all schools in Uganda were ordered to close and send the students home. This meant that there was no more business for me as a Deputy Headteacher at **Restoration High School-Nakulabye**.

I traveled back to my home District Pader (Northern Uganda) to reunite with my family and lay low until this wave had passed. Unfortunately, it lasted longer than I had expected.

Being a family man, I had to adjust and devise new means to generate a little income to ensure my family's survival. Using some of my savings, I started up a small retail shop which I attended in the afternoon after working on my small farm. By God's grace, we managed to earn a little income and survived during those trying months.

Old folks back home lost interest in educating their children since I (a certified teacher who worked in Kampala) was now back home doing the same work as those who quit school back then. This crushed my spirit since I knew and had experienced the power that education had to change individuals and communities.



**A student wearing a face mask**

## *WE THANK GOD FOR OUR NEW PREMISES*

On many occasions, I tried to defend and sensitize my village mates about the importance of educating children but with every attempt, an annoying and spirit-crushing question was addressed to me, ***"What makes you different from us now, since we are doing the same things and far better off than you are?"***

This made me wait eagerly and listen to all the presidential addresses on the radio. And every time I missed the address, I would hustle, buy data and google the updates. This went on for about a year and many months till the 30th of December 2021 when the President lifted the ban off schools as long as they followed S. O . Ps

The news found me sitting with a relative listening to the address as my beautiful wife was preparing a light meal in the kitchen. I was overwhelmed by happiness making me jump and shout at the top of my voice. This made my wife run to my aid, storming into the house only to meet her happy husband jumping around with joy.

The next day I called Mr. Ocheng a fellow teacher at **Restoration High School** and shared the great news with him. We were all excited and couldn't wait to meet and resume teaching at our great school.

On reaching Restoration Assembly Church, I was warmly welcomed with news informing me about the new premises recently constructed for our school. I couldn't believe the news, so I rushed to the site. With teary eyes, I couldn't stop thanking God for such an achievement.

***This new building has boosted our exposure as a high school in our local community, raising our numbers from 89 students to 100, not forgetting the fact that more students are enrolled with every day that goes by.***

We are extremely grateful to God for the blessing, our Director Bishop Frank Butayi for allowing God to do great things through him, and the partners who supported him towards achieving this great milestone.

**As teachers, we vow to do our best to see to it that we deliver the best to our students.**



**Mr.Laju Julius Deputy H.M Restoration High School**

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