# Centre for Hope and Life in and after Prison Initiative - Uganda

CHALAPI-UG – A VOICE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE



## A Christmas message from Godfrey, Executive Director, CHALAPI

# **Dear Development Partners and Friends of CHALAPI**

2020 PRISONERS' CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

While the coronavirus and the current public health situation temporarily affected some of our programs, CHALAPI remained committed to see all those affected by crime and incarceration restored to God. We continue to work closely with the prison management, cooperating with them on ways we can continue to serve them and the people under their care.

We continue to advocate for a restorative criminal justice system, support second chances, and work to support and strengthen families with a parent in prison.

In the covid-19 pandemic situation where restrictions have left families devastated, many not being able to work and feed their families, CHALAPI quickly thought of life after covid-19 and considered life-changing approaches by ensuring skilling of inmates and empowering their families as their vulnerability went high. As always, thank you dear our development partners and friends for your faithful and continued support. We once again we appeal to you for your support towards 2020 prisoner's Christmas celebration where we intend to donate local music instruments to established chapels in prisons, more Bibles, Christmas trees and a special meal for inmates to share the love of Christmas.

Matthew 25:36, Hebrews 13:3.

As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.

## **Covid19 Training**

In September CHALAPI did some Covid 19 training with the local Women's Groups. They say they chose to teach women particularly because 'mothers prove to be more responsible in caring for their families at household and community levels.' Go girls!



## **Community News**

CHALAPI have been very busy in the last few months, doing lots of community training for local people on understanding viruses, and disease prevention and control. Godfrey visited the communities of Rwesande, Rwesororo and Mahango (a beautiful spot right up in the mountains) where we did some PRiME Whole Person Healthcare training in 2018 and 2019, to do some refresher training with the Village Health Teams, Pastors, Teachers and Community Leaders. Everyone remembered the training and are continuing to put it into practice.

Sadly, I have not been able to travel out to Uganda to help CHALAPI further the training this year because of the Coronavirus. I really hope to return in 2021.

In **October** Godfrey was invited by the Uganda Red Cross Society to go on a four-day training course in First Aid basics and Disaster Emergency Response in Entebbe. This is a high-profile invitation and good recognition of the work he did during the flooding disasters in Kasese earlier in the year. He says the training was interesting and useful, and Godfrey is now a key person for the Red Cross to call on should another disaster happen in his area. This will make him busier than ever!

#### **Radio Shows**

CHALAPI have been doing weekly radio talk shows on health issues, educating people on how to keep themselves well, and safe from the virus. He has been incorporating PRiME's Whole Person Healthcare values (<a href="http://prime-international.org">http://prime-international.org</a>) in giving advice on looking after people's mental health and spiritual health as well as their physical health. Radio shows can reach thousands of people as most do not have a TV or get newspapers, so they listen to the radio for their information. In order to get the message across and remembered, CHALAPI were also able to get a jingle designed and recorded to be played on the radio, thanks to a small donation.

#### **Covid 19 in Prisons**

Kasese is now a hotspot of Covid 19, with the number of cases increasing every day. Early on in the pandemic, a strategic plan was developed with the help of CHALAPI to ensure the isolation of all suspects who go on trial. This has been a huge success in that there have been no registered cases of Covid 19 in any of the prisons in the area so far. Godfrey says that the handwashing stations in the prisons and the training in healthcare that CHALAPI with PRIME did 3 years ago has also contributed to this remarkable achievement.

## **New Prison Project progress**

The Project reported in last edition of this newsletter is showing promise. This lovely shawl is from Mubuku prison and was made by female prisoners using a knitting machine that was donated by CHALAPI. Godfrey says 'the instructor is doing a good job. I can see business opportunities for the beneficiaries after serving their sentence. Glory to God for this initiative of skilling prisoners'. Other teaching in construction and vocational skills that was planned, designed to help prisoners get a job when they are released, have unfortunately been put on hold because of the pandemic.





### **PRIME Training**

In October Godfrey was invited to take part in a PRiME Tutor
Training programme, training him in teaching Whole Person
healthcare to leaders in his community. The PRiME teaching is
unique and engaging in its style and although this time it could not
be done in person PRiME are now teaching by remote means.
Unfortunately, Godfrey missed the second session because a
huge storm in Kasese knocked out the electricity supply and he
could not connect to the training. However, because he did some
training in Kenya last year, he has now done enough to qualify as
a PRiME Tutor!!

Thank you for supporting this life changing and life transforming work!

Please check out our website at <a href="http://www.chalapi.com">http://www.chalapi.com</a> for more information