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Greetings from warm and beautiful Uganda. June is one of those months that put a smile on peoples' faces. It's cool from the rain and the sun has made the fields lush and green. Wish you were here!

It is amazing how the Bible covers all aspects of our lives. In this newsletter we share with you the benefits of acquiring knowledge and wisdom. Luke 2:52 tells us *"Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people."* He did not sit back thinking he knew it all, but, in obedience, sought knowledge and wisdom from His earthly parents which made him grow in all aspects of his life. Likewise, Proverbs 15:14 says *"A wise person is hungry for knowledge, while the fool feeds on trash"*.

In our newsletter we introduce to you some people who, despite all the odds, sought knowledge and had a total transformation in their lives, inspiring many to join them on the transformation journey. As you read these stories, continue to pray for many other champions all over the world who are inspiring others to step out of narrowed perceptions and step into the light of God's wisdom.

"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess 1:2-3

From a Drunkard to a Male Champion A Story of Transformation

by *Raymond Mutava*

Niwagaba Medard used to be a drunkard. "There was not a single day," he says "that I would go home without drinking alcohol." His drinking caused a lot of problems within his family. "Most of the time," says the 35-year-old father of four, "I would get home past midnight, when my wife and children had already gone to sleep. My wife and I could hardly talk to each other. There was no peace at home because every time I came home under the influence, I would mistreat my wife and children, sometimes even forcing them to sleep outside. My children hated me because I had failed to provide them with school fees and parental love." His marriage was suffering. "My wife became suspicious that I was having affairs," he explains "since I had stopped providing for my family, and she denied me sex. She feared so much that I was HIV-positive because we had never tested as a couple and shared results."

But in 2015, Niwagaba joined a Men Who Care club in his village of Ahamugwigwi in the community of Kyanamira. As he attended meetings, he learned the importance of being tested for HIV/AIDs. He was afraid of being tested but, he says, "when I heard testimonies from fellow men who had tested and shared the results with their spouses, I decided to also go and be tested". He did not have HIV/AIDs and, he says happily, "after I was tested, I shared the results with my wife and this has healed our marriage and even increased intimacy".

Niwagaba has been a committed member of the club ever since and, in February 2016, he was chosen to be a Male Champion, responsible for talking about HIV/AIDs and gender-related issues with other men. He has stopped drinking, joined a village savings and loan group, and started rearing chickens. With a happy smile, he says "My wife now loves me and my chil-

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The Importance of Practical Training in Beekeeping

A Story of Transformation

by Joseph & Robinah Mutebi

Akumu Irene is a member of the Dikiriber Farmer Field School, formed in 2013 in Jupasonga village in rural Uganda. In 2014, Irene and a group of fellow students were given six beehives and told that it was important to keep bees. They did not, however, have a lot of practical training on beekeeping and so, says Akumu Irene, “my group was reluctant about the importance of keeping bees. We only knew that beehives need to be put under a shade of a tree! We never had hands-on experience about proper site selection, regular beehive inspections and record keeping.” They did not understand the importance of keeping the apiary site well-trimmed. “We did not clean the apiary site,” she confesses “and so there were many pests, rodents, beetles, lizards, and black ants that infested our beehives.”

So in 2016, with the help of World Renew staff, as well as an apiarist and beehive artisan, they began receiving intensive training on the different aspects of beekeeping. “We were trained on the aspects that challenged us,” explains Akumu Irene, “such as proper site selection, pest and disease control, swarming, absconding (when a colony of bees leaves its hive), merging of weak bee colonies, regular beehive inspections, and proper record keeping.”

With such exhaustive training, says Akumu Irene proudly, “we noted a lot of change in our apiary unit! We regained interest in beekeeping and developed a positive attitude!” In January of this year, she harvested 12 kgs of unprocessed honey from 3 beehives, which yielded 6 kgs of processed honey, two of which she kept for herself to use at home. Akumu Irene says this result “motivated us to add more beehives to realize an increased honey harvest. With the money we have realized from the sale of our honey, our group is sourcing for an artisan to make more beehives.”



▲ Akumu Irene and Lelatho Corrine, another group member, process the honey using a stainless steel strainer at Irene's home.



◀ Akumu Irene and Lelatho Corrine well dressed going to harvest their honey

Prayers for Uganda

We praise God for:

- Safety while traveling.
- Rainfall that has come after a long drought, which left many families surviving on one meal a day.

Please pray for:

- The restoration of peace in South Sudan.
- South Sudanese refugee response work in Bidibidi camp.
- Safety, diligence, and wisdom as we work in such demanding environments.

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dren are respecting me. I am a responsible and caring father and a husband who also cares for the community.”

Niwagaba is reaching out to other men and sharing his story with them, with the goal of seeing change in his community. His relationship with wife continues to improve and they attend couple club meetings together, as well as attending monthly HIV Counselling and Testing outreach in their community. He now operates a boda boda (motorcycle) business to generate income to support his family.