

A REPORT OF MICHEAL MEMORIAL FIRST FOOD DRIVE

By Dr Jane Florence Gidudu

With gratitude, the Michael Memorial Food drive for poor, was launched on **November 19th 2022, to January 10, 2023**, marking a formal beginning of Michael Ministries (**MiMs**).

We are grateful to all of you who generously contributed to this cause. In total we received five thousand and seven hundred and fifty dollars (**5,750 USD**).

Below is the summary of expenditure was:

- Prison Ministry to **300** inmates, including **22** women and **2** children: (**1,230 USD**)
- Donation packages to **160** families: (**3,360 USD**)
- Follow-up activities to **20** elderly, (**5** who were very ill and **2** disabled). (**320 USD**)
- Transportation and logistics to a team of **20** including meals for 6 days (**840 dollars**)

Your kind and generous contributions put a smile to poorest of the poor in selected places in Sironko district in Uganda, Africa. Every gift we receive is a precious resource from God.

"No one is too poor to give, love, compassion, mercy and help ..." a quote from Pope St John Paul 2, was our theme that guided us. We sought partnership with the church to ensure stewardship and sustainability in our ministry.

The initial partnership with Bugitimwa Catholic Parish, was strategic and enabled us to bring everyone on board in a few days. The Priest, the Catechists, the church leaders and members actively played different roles in reaching out to our targeted beneficiaries. Everyone at the end of mission was full of smiles because of the **4 Ts they** gave: their **Time; Talent; Treasure** and shared **Testimonies of** the lessons learnt from the late young Michael's life of giving without expecting to receive anything in return.

We shared our vision with the church leadership acknowledging that the church is God's ordained vessel to reach out to the lost and poor. The partnership with the church enabled us to reach the poorest of the poor because they did the mapping objectively:

Our approach was holistic as the Priest and Christians in addition to distributing the food items prayed with the sick and blessed every home we reached out to. The Compassion ministry in partnership with the church was revived and they have continued since that time to follow up with these families. The Church has also set up a Prison's Ministry and the priest regularly visits the inmates to fellowship with them. One of the highlights of our trip was the Woman inmate who asked the priest to come back and baptise her child who were in prison with her. This was done by the Priest in one of his visits.

Our Ministry had a four-pronged focus. Among the poorest of the poor, we paid special interest to:

Disabled: The Elderly, the children and Youth and inmates in Prison;



Senior citizen getting her package and money.



Disabled child on first visit.



Disabled child follow-up-visit after 5 months

The field visit to the beneficiaries was done in 5 days. The first day we visited prisons and distributed food items (rice, sugar, cooking oil, feminine products (sanitary pads, panties) and items for prison babies (**worth 1,230 dollars**) with 2 follow-up visits to cater for urgent needs.



Woman Inmate with baby receiving Milk and sanitary pads



Male Inmates receiving their packages

We had an opportunity to pray with them and also give them words of encouragement. Some ladies asked for a private time with Dr. Jane and shared with her some of the unique needs they had. We thank God that money was raised and these were also provided later. This was an eye opener that identified a unique need for a sustainable approach in helping especially women inmates' function more positively within the prison environment.

On the other days we had to assembly at church every morning, shared tea, prayed together and grouped into 3 different teams to go to the villages to meet the people identified often covering large distances in hilly areas on foot.

We reached out to **160** families as shown in a few pictures. Each household received a package of **16 USD** which comprised of (Rice, sugar, flour (posho), cooking oil, Soap, salt, box of matches and some money **5 USD**).



Praying before leaving for the field.



Food supplies being delivered to families



Climbing hills was hard work.

On the last day we assessed our mission and our reflections were enriching. We agreed to make this an annual event. We also noted the need to explore other ways that will help empower the poorest of the poor live better and happier lives in our future plans.



Patron Michaels grandfather blessed the occasion.



Last day of a successful mission having extended Gods love.

Michael Ministries is committed to working with the churches in Sironko to help the poorest of the poor have a smile and be equipped to live a happier life. Our efforts to reach this goal is not possible without the backing of you our dear friends and family. We would like to invite you to be part of this great ministry.

The next mission was scheduled for: **November 15-to January 10, 2024**