

Rev. Sue Allen
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Re: Support for Ugandan Clergy



Dear clergy families,

My name is the Rev. Susan Allen and with the support of Bishop Matt, and at the request of Bishop Johnson of the West Ankole Diocese, Uganda, I am writing to each clergy family in the Bendigo Diocese. I am asking for a \$50 donation from each of our clergy families to aid and support a Ugandan clergy family. Your donation of \$50, buys 1 goat for 1 family, giving this family, milk, and with the offspring, meat or by selling, a means to subsidise their clergy income.

My association started with Uganda when I agreed to go on a SOMA short term mission 15 years ago. On this mission Johnson Twinomujuni was the priest who looked after us, as part of his duties as a Missions Coordinator in the Ankole Diocese. Johnson and his wife Joy and I have stayed in touch ever since. In May last year Johnson became the 4th Bishop of the West Ankole Diocese. In the words of West Ankole's Diocesan Secretary, Rev. Canon Arthur Atwine, "In the past years, this Diocese was seriously hit by a wave of winds which sharply divided God's people, hampered growth and affected Church order. The Diocese was wounded and burned! ... Thank God that in His mercy, he eventually appointed His servant, Father in God, Rt. Rev Johnson Twinomujuni and Maama Joy whose paternal voice, prayer, vision and strong authoritative presence give us the strength to live and together build peace in the Diocese!" Bishop Johnson along with many other difficulties inherited a Diocesan debt of 926 million Ugandan shillings (\$308,666 Aus). The West Ankole diocese has 333 priests, 25 archdeacons, 132 vicars, 122 curates and 54 chaplains. They are paid differently, based on seniority, education and office/position. The average salary is approximately \$140 (Aus) a month. Bishop Johnson is in the process of rebuilding this embattled diocese. Part of this rebuilding is improving the clergy staff welfare, the state of their accommodation and salaries raised, so as they may send their children to school, and their general health and welfare improved.

Thank you for considering my request. To donate please use the New Horizons Welfare Services donation form, attached, available from the Registry or www.bendigoanglican.org.au; **Ugandan Clergy Support**. For any other further information please don't hesitate to contact me on the above details.

Yours sincerely
Rev. Susan M. Allen

Right: + Johnson, Joy and 4 of their 6
Children, myself and Rev. Kath
Tointon, on our visit in May this year.

