On December 5 in Kabale and December 12 in Mukono, ROTOM hosted its annual Christmas parties for the seniors it serves. As usual, the parties were a huge hit! Colorful traditional dresses were pulled out some grannies had even done their hair in fancier styles. Staff and volunteers were up early transporting the seniors to the venue and decking the tents with colorful ribbons and balloons. The parties included dancing, speeches, songs and skits from the seniors and their representatives. The Guest of Honor, Bishop Paul Luzinda also shared a speech in which he talked about the importance of living a Christian life.

Despite their apparent need, many of them came bearing gifts for their well loved field officers, a chicken here, a basket there. These great days of celebration were made even more special when each of the seniors received their EZY stove as their Christmas gift. Photos were taken and many seniors were asking if they will be receiving a copy of the pictures taken . . . they so love to capture these blessed moments for years to come. And it will be a Christmas to remember for us at ROTOM thanks to our faithful friends and partners across the world.

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To many of these seniors, these parties are the highlights of their year and it shows in the way they celebrate. In their village clusters, these seniors take months composing and practicing their songs. These songs are all in praise of God, ROTOM and their beloved Kenesi (read Kenneth). One group sang that they are now able to dance and jump like new born calves because of the wonderful work ROTOM has done in their lives.

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A CHRISTMAS TO REMEMBER

by Talitha Witt and Esther Namutebi

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Another lonely soul finds a home

72 years old John Lwakawu lost his left eye due to a cataract. Because of this disability, people in his village look down on him and many think he is partly blind. John is one of the ROTOM sponsored seniors who attends fellowships at Namubiru fellowshipping center. During the ROTOM fellowships, John is one of those seniors who actively participate in sharing the word of God, singing, dancing, drumming, and eating a meal. During one of fellowships he shared this testimony.

“Before joining ROTOM life was not easy for me. I used to have misunderstandings with my neighbors because they wanted to take my land...I tried to confront them, but nothing changed. I thought of selling my land, pack up and buy a new land somewhere else. I even thought of putting an end to this suffering by killing myself. While I was contemplating all these I got the good news from ROTOM that I had gotten a friend who was willing to support and love me. It was as if a ray of sunshine had broken into my stormy cloud. After John was sponsored, he joined ROTOM seniors’ fellowships where he has found friends who understand his struggles and share his burdens. Through these friendships he has been able to find peace with his neighbors and a home for his wandering heart in Christ.

What a Victory!

ROTOM strives to achieve holistic fulfillment for seniors and the communities surrounding them. The evangelism team transverses the whole of Uganda telling people about Jesus and his saving love. In partnership with local churches they have done conferences, open air crusades, door to door ministry, church and school outreaches, film shows and baptism. In 2014, the team was able to do over 222 different activities across Uganda and reach 36,186 men, women and children. Of the people who were reached, 7,726 gave their lives to Christ, 24,615 were individually prayed for and 160 were delivered from different spiritual bondages. 86 new converts were also baptized by immersion.

Many have testified of the goodness of God and among them are 30 years old Henry and Joseph 40 who were delivered from evil practices. What a victory!!!!

FROM “SPONSORSHIP” TO “FRIENDSHIP”

We are changing our program name from ROTOM Senior Sponsorship to ROTOM Senior Friendship Program. Over the years, the relationship between the older persons we serve and their support friends has grown into a strong bond of sisterhood and brotherhood. It is a relationship of friends standing with each other in solidarity, caring about each other and supporting each other in thoughts prayer and other ways. In fact, ROTOM seniors have always referred to their “sponsors” as “FRIENDS”. To honor and reflect this unique friendship, we are changing the name of the program that fosters this from ROTOM Senior Sponsorship Program to ROTOM Senior Friendship Program.

Kenneth M
– Founder and Executive Director, ROTOM.