

# Ourganda NEWSLETTER

August, 2022 | PO Box 874205, Vancouver, WA 98687 | [www.ourganda.org](http://www.ourganda.org) | [getintouch@ourganda.org](mailto:getintouch@ourganda.org) | (360) 624-7271



## His Face was as Long as a Prison Sentence.

Tomus thought he was untouchable. For years, no one held him accountable for unthinkable violence against his wife and son, but today the offender sat on a hard bench in front of a disgusted judge and learned his fate: **Prison.**

### The Background (unfolding for several months)

- Vincent, Ourganda's Ministry Coordinator, asked 50 random women a series of 15 questions. Samples: 'Are you afraid of your husband's anger?' (All 50, yes); 'Has your husband ever abused you physically?' (46, yes); 'Have you reported the abuse to anyone?' (41 have reported the abuse to family and/or the police, but nothing is ever done.) 'Has your husband attempted or forced you to have sex?' (45, yes.)
- Vincent was devastated. He knew domestic violence was a problem, but he had no idea the problem was so deep. It tends to happen in the darkness, behind closed doors or over the hill. Few are bold enough to confront it.
- Vincent invited the men in his village to classes. He taught the beauty of kindness. He explained how the family prospers when everyone feels safe and loved. He appealed to those who identify as Christian that the Bible teaches men to cherish their wives like Jesus cherishes the church. The classes have been well attended.
- Vincent organized a **Mankind Club** comprised of men who vow to protect women and children. (You gotta love the name of the club!)

### The Story

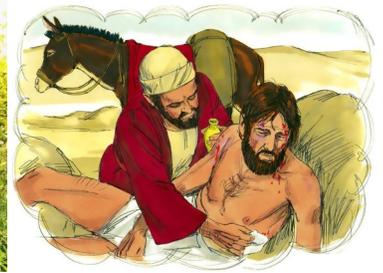
When we started Ourganda 4+ years ago, we never expected to put people in prison, but here is how the first offender landed in a cell...

- In late June, Vincent and his family were leaving church in the village of Sarakihombya. A woman approached him who had repeatedly been abused by her husband. Just that morning, the perpetrator had again descended into rage and smashed his little boys' head.
- Vincent rallied the Mankind Club. The men surrounded the offender's house, restrained him, and carried him to the Bubukwanga police station. They took the woman and her son to the hospital.
- The man was placed into a cell. According to local law, the accuser is required to feed the accused until his court date, so Vincent and his wife took food to the man.
- The offender appeared in court last week; the magistrate sentenced him to serve six months in a prison 2.5 hours away.
- Later this month, Vincent will visit the man in prison to pray with him, take him a small gift (maybe a Bible), to let him know that he (Vincent) is the man's friend and he will help him join one of our business clusters when he is released.
- Six-year-old Gerald was in the hospital for two nights, but he is home now. He and his mother are safe.



## What's New?

- One of our donors offered a salary for a full-time Domestic Violence Prevention Leader.
- On August 1, Esther Birungi stepped down from her job as an RN in a government clinic and started her work full time. She will focus on protecting women, engaging local authorities, and ultimately changing the behavior of men.
- In her first week, Esther conducted a class for women in Sarakihombya teaching them how to support each other and the steps to take when someone is assaulted. An outstanding and generous ministry in Oregon called AbuseRecovery.org has provided Esther's curriculum and is graciously training and supporting her on Ourganda's behalf.
- This week and next, Esther is meeting with women in all of our villages, telling them the story of the man who is in prison and explaining that Ourganda, with God's help, will spare no effort to eventually make our villages violence-free.



## Making the Jericho Road Safe

Under Esther's leadership, **Ourganda is doing the work of the Good Samaritan**. We are finding people who have been beaten and robbed of their dignity and their hope. We are saving their lives, coming alongside them, taking them to a place where they will be safe and have their needs met. We are paying their bill and assuring they are cared for until they are strong enough to continue their journey.

But that is not enough. With God's help, we will not just rescue those who are beaten. **We will make the Jericho Road safe for travelers**. Those who prey on vulnerable people will no longer do so without consequence. We will do whatever it takes to create communities where the majority of people feel healthy, happy, safe, and hopeful.

We are excited. Ourganda is able to protect women and spread hope because of donors like you. If **you are already one of our heroes, thank you for being generous**. If you haven't yet started to give, imagine the joy of protecting a woman or turning an offender into a man who is kind.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Ron Gladden

Ourganda Founder & Director

Log onto [ourganda.org/donate](http://ourganda.org/donate) or send your check to:

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