

OURGANDA



Let's ignite hope. Let's change things.

Spines of Steel; Hearts of Love

Dear Friend,

He scoffed, sneered, smirked and snarled.

Esther, Vincent and the Ourganda team were not intimidated.

He would batter his wife whenever he pleased, and no one would dare try to stop him.

Esther, Vincent and the Ourganda team decided that – yes, they would find a way to stop him.

He was a government guy, so of course he knew that over the past two years, Esther's Army (AKA Ourganda's Mankind Clubs) had given 700 men who had beaten their wives a choice between kindness and prison. He was well aware that men who didn't choose kindness were now serving time in a local prison (originally built for 19 inmates, but it sometimes incarcerates 200 men).

He made it clear that he was different. He was a 'big man' which meant he was above the law. He had a weapon that the men who used to beat their wives did not have, and he was not afraid to use it.



In this edition of the newsletter we discuss a particularly grievous case of domestic violence. To protect her identity, the woman in this story is called Catherine which is an alias. Her photo is also excluded from this newsletter.

He threatened to kill his wife, his little girl, and even his wife's parents if they stood in his way. A few men showing up at his house wearing 'Mankind Club' T-shirts would not change anything.

Esther, Vincent and the Ourganda team made a mental list.

First, the precious wife deserved to be safe. It wasn't fair for her daughter and her parents to live in fear.

Second, they checked their motive. They hated this man's violence and his rotten attitude; they hoped he might change someday, but for now, his family had to be protected.

Third, this man was not above the law. If he was not held accountable, if he was allowed to abuse his wife and intimidate everyone around him, the evil could spread.

We talked it over with our leaders on a Zoom call. We prayed together. Others on both sides of the ocean prayed. Then leaders from Vancouver and leaders from Bundibugyo commissioned a law firm in Uganda that specializes in protecting the rights of women and children who are abused.

A few days later, **we received this message from the law firm:** “We were able to have our first conversation with Catherine (not her real name), the gender-based violence victim. This was facilitated by Vincent and handled by two of our lawyers here. Our action points were for us to call Catherine’s husband and have a separate chat with him. We will offer mediation with both of them on how to move forward. If this fails, Catherine will have to personally make a report to the Police Headquarters.” She went on to explain that if the husband refuses to participate in mediation and Catherine files a report, the lawyers will follow up on the case and pursue charges.

Our followup question: “Is Catherine potentially in danger? If her husband responds angrily or defensively when contacted by your lawyers, should we have in place a Plan B to protect her and her daughter?”

Their reply: “On your question about Catherine’s safety after the husband is contacted, the Legal is in place to caution him on any harm that might come to her. He is well aware that he would be the first person or suspect if anything would happen to her. We will also contact and involve some local authorities who can be held accountable for her safety while this discussion is yet to happen with her husband.”



Vincent & Esther

We are fiercely proud of Ourganda’s leaders. Every day, they courageously walk toward the fire with spines of steel and hearts of love so that someday every man, woman and child will feel safe, healthy and happy.

Here is what you can do:

- **Pray for Catherine and her family.** Pray that this husband’s heart will be softened and that he will eventually experience a friendship with Jesus. Include in your prayers Esther, Vincent, the lawyers, and all who are committed to bringing peace to the villages.
- **Please send a generous gift to support the domestic violence program.** While Esther continues to train and encourage Mankind and Soul Sisters members to protect the people in our villages, she is simultaneously expanding this initiative to more villages while she oversees our new children’s protection program. A one-time gift goes so far in Uganda, and an ongoing monthly gift blesses hundreds of families over time.

Our domestic violence team has called this ‘**an especially grievous case**’ but it would be just like God to turn it into ‘**an especially miraculous case**’. I am sure you agree.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

- Online: Scan this QR code or visit ourganda.org/donate
- Phone: Call **360-624-7271**
- Mail: Send a check made payable to Ourganda to **PO Box 874205; Vancouver WA 98687**

