

THE SPROUT

NOVEMBER 2026

Official Newsletter of
Akote Edeke Ministries

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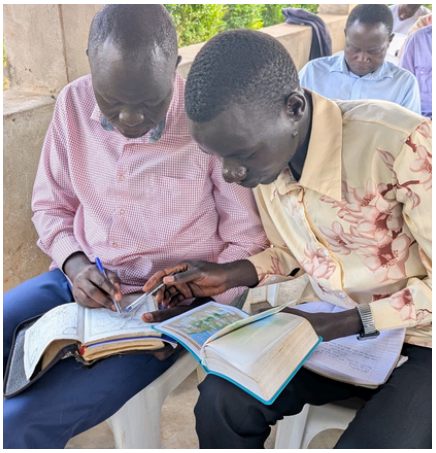
Sword Sharpening

On October 22-23, 2026 we hosted our first Pastor's Retreat at the AEM Camp & Farm. Each month as Director Daniel Okwara would field questions from our weekly Discovery Bible Study (DBS) leaders, his burden grew for equipping pastors with the Word of God and a model for shepherding a local church. The DBS leaders from 5 villages, increasingly brought questions from attendees regarding false teachings or prosperity gospel they were hearing in their home churches. Daniel had the idea to host Pastor Chris Oswoma from Kenya (who has trained our local DBS leaders) and invite him to teach and train local pastors many of whom have never had any formal theological training. He agreed to come and our village DBS leaders volunteered to serve the pastors and help facilitate the retreat. Praise God we were able to accommodate those who came from far away villages in our camp huts now equipped with bunk beds and twins (thanks to our summer teams). We had 20 stay overnight and the rest joined daily.



Please follow us on social to hear video testimonials from the pastors. They said the 2 days were not enough and didn't want to leave. They gained "eye-opening" instruction on sermon preparation, Bible study, and tithing by example. They learned about being tent-makers as men supporting their families, and the need to guide, feed and shepherd the people of their local churches. We believe by faith that God will provide for the **$1400** needed to host three 3-day retreats in 2027.





Her prayer of thanksgiving and her words, "Surely this is not the work of man, but the work of God," were a powerful reminder of why we serve.

-Daniel Okwara quoting Jaja Aigo

Mercy Ministry - Jaja Aigo's New Hut

Jaja is the most common word for grandmother in Uganda. Its use is layered with even more love and respect when she is a widow desperately in need of care. After our '26 summer team began Jaja Aigo's hut construction under the direction of contractor Denis Otim, the AEM staff committed to the many hours of labor & love to complete it. Finally after coating the floor and applying sand to the walls for finishing it was time to move Jaja from the little room she has rented for years in the nearby trading center into her new home. Each recipient of a MM outreach project has been prayerfully selected by our staff after hours of social work and interviews in the local community.

The move itself was emotionally charged with both excitement and the gravity of this change and what it means for Aigo. Our team faced the task of collecting her things from a difficult living environment and cleaning and preparing what could be salvaged for the move. It was later in the day when they got to her and she was found preparing her only meal of the day, a bowl of greens. She was surprised, thinking it was too late for the team to come. The local children all came to shake her hand and say goodbye as she sat in the AEM car, ready to depart. As soon as her eyes saw the hut, her face lit up. She stopped in her tracks outside the entrance saying over and over, "Thank you God, Thank you God!" with her frail arms stretched to the sky. Gratitude overflowed.









Kids 4 Kids Project:
Summer Team presents new offspring to vulnerable children

2027 TRIPS

- **May 10 - 22**
  (flexible until team forms)
- **June 1 - 12**

$ 1650 + Airfare
(includes Safari or Sipi Falls)

Typically $2700-3000

APPLY May:





Summer Mission Teams

Territory expanded for AEM as we hosted two summer teams back-to-back. We now had time to go into two local high schools and conduct Bible programs for a month. God did amazing things by allowing us to build deeper relationships during that extended time of meeting together. The teams taught scripture, shared personal testimonies, and had small group Q & A sessions. Through nail polish, soccer & crafts, God opened doors for long-term discipleship in ways we never imagined when the summer began.

The leadership of both secondary schools has welcomed AEM back for weekly Bible study with their students. The dedication of our Ugandan staff has shown brightly as they've continued the work of discipleship every Monday and Wednesday. Since June, we've seen the Holy Spirit bring salvation and new life to **48** students. These individuals add to the **171** salvations witnessed by our summer team across our many school gospel presentations, Jesus film showing, home visits and large revival crusade.











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APPLY June:

The Need for Bibles

During our summer team Bible study with high schoolers we provided each student with their own copy of the Bible. We were caught off guard when the teachers and administrators asked if they could have a copy. As westerners it's hard for us to fathom people not having access to the Word of God. But as we began handing out Bibles to the students, we learned that most adults had never owned their own Bible.

This broke our hearts and at the same time gave us such joy that God had allowed us to bring the good news in written form to them. As supporters of AEM, you have made it possible and have been a part of putting the good news in the hands of those on the other side of the world who have never had God's written word to study for themselves. We are so excited to see what God does in the future with these programs in the local school system.

English Bibles in our luggage run **$4** each. Local language Bibles are **$12,** and we have a wait list.









Give a Bible

aemlove.org/give

Comment: "Bibles"



God's gift of Harvest

God continues to bless the work of AEM with abundance. He has given us a beautiful camp and farm that we call our AEM home. We have completed the fence project and we now enjoy both security and containment for our entire acreage. All the land for AEM has been purchased over 5 years by our founders. Only designated gifts have been used for specific projects on the farm. Our solar powered deep bore well was completed. Having the gift of clean reliable water on site is AMAZING and a game changer for our ministry. The well has provided water for everything from watering the animals to showers for our summer teams. It waters the gardens and fills baptistry pools for those publicly professing Jesus as their Lord. We thank the Lord for those who have made this possible for AEM. Our two playing fields were cleared and planted with grass for soccer and netball in the summer of 2025. We hope to improve on them in 2027 and plan to fulfill Jeremy's vision of showing more Christian films for the community.

We continue to develop the property to support the work of the ministry. We have planted crops to support both our sponsored children as well as those we give nutritional help. We also planted a banana orchard for future harvest. We have constructed raised garden beds for vegetables and built a corral for our oxen team.

Missionary Support

Akote Edeke Ministries was founded in 2015 by Daniel Okwara with Jeremy and Mandi Johnson. After holding onto God's calling on their lives for the past 12 years and getting their 5 children all to college, Jeremy and Mandi will be joining Daniel in Uganda to serve as missionaries in early 2027. While the Johnsons plan to fund their personal expenses, there will be a discipleship fund that will cover their in-country ministry travel expenses, 1 trip home a year and the resources for discipleship, mercy ministry and evangelism that they will lead while on the ground for months at a time. More than anything, will you pray for the Johnsons as they take this step of obedience and faith? Please pray for God to guide them as they shift from leading across the ocean to walking side by side with the team. To contact them regarding their mission work or to be added to their prayer email list contact them: **mandi@aemlove.org**



Follow Us:

AEMlove.uganda

aem_love3

aemlove.org



Mandi, Daniel & Jeremy

Missionary Fund

aemlove.org/give

Comment: "Johnsons"



AEM Kids at Holiday Camp
with Miss Jesca our new translator

Give by Mail:

Donations via check or money order may be sent to:

AEM Love, Inc.
3 Central Plaza # 91
Rome, GA 30161

aemlove.org/give



Praise



Monthly Staff Meeting

New Growth - Staff

Our Ugandan staff is a small but amazing team. With 4 full-time and 3 part-time team members they accomplish all the activities of the ministry. This summer one of our key team members, Praise, successfully finished her degree in Business Administration. Now that she was no longer splitting her time between coursework & bookkeeping for AEM, we celebrated her accomplishment and offered her a full time position. We are so grateful she accepted the role and are excited to see her flourish in her new role as Finance Manager and Children's Ministry Lead after years of spending every Saturday helping lead our Saturday Bible Program for all the children of Angoltok.

In 2025-26 we added our Security Team at the camp with guards Joseph and Michael. As our sponsored children increase we added "Mama Mary" Nabire as an additional Village Coordinator. She and Mama Rose have had a huge impact on the health of our students with daily trips to the schools to give our students a natural malaria preventative and check on school attendance. Jesca has joined our team as a translator and worship leader for the Saturday Bible Program.



Daniel teaching at the Saturday Bible Program



Joseph



Mary



Michael



Jesca



Weekly DBS at Ayola village, a 45 minute dirt bike ride from AEM Camp

Give Today:

aemlove.org/give

AEM Love, Inc, is a registered 501(c)3 organization.
Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent the law allows.



Partner with AEM

Become a Prayer Partner

More than anything, lives are changed when we pray. Our teams both in the US and Uganda depend on the Lord personally and collectively. We prayerfully consider each step we take in fulfilling the vision God has given us to plant the love of Jesus Christ and harvest eternal hope as lives are changed by the Gospel. Through the sacrifice of your time in prayer we will see the Lord provide for and guide the lives of the precious people He places in our path.

Become a Seed Planter

When you choose to partner with AEM Love on a monthly basis with a **recurring gift** of any amount, you are sowing seeds of hope through the many activities of the ministry. From delivering bibles, medicine, and nutrition to traveling to distant villages to lead a DBS, our team can't complete their mission without the fuel and maintenance for our vehicle. Our greatest need is to have copies of The Word and the resources to reach those without it through school and village DBS groups. Our staff has committed to doing monthly Mercy Ministry outreach projects that are not currently funded. Monthly seed planters are essential to our ability to carry out the overall vision of demonstrating the love of Jesus to the hurting and vulnerable. We are building relationships in order to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ with everyone. Having partners who sow seeds of love means our team can be Spirit led when we encounter emergency medical needs, people in crisis and unexpected opportunities to share the Word of God.



AEM Sponsored children



Every Saturday the children are waiting for Praise & Daniel



AEM Kids ready for arts & crafts with Praise during the Holiday Program at the pavilion

Lasting Fruit - Child Sponsorship

In 2025 our staff began increasing the time they spend at camp engaged in targeted developmental activities with our sponsored children. There are 3 school terms in a year and each ends in a 3-4 week holiday. Our Holiday Program hosts all the children at our camp for 3 nights/3days for 3 consecutive weeks. This time together is like VBS camp where their lives are enriched by bible study, games, crafts and worship in song. Children who are unable to look up and interact when they first come into the AEM program, are soon making friends and growing in self-confidence as they are nurtured and mentored by our staff and senior students.

As 2026 draws to a close, we have our very first students sitting for National Exams to graduate from Secondary School. Lazarus and Sarah received a monthly sponsorship through AEM donors back in 2018 and now they will be our very first graduates of AEM Kids and candidates for study at the university level. We thank God for His hand on their lives and celebrate this huge accomplishment with them.

Currently there are 23 sponsored children. 1 in vocational, 5 in secondary and 17 in primary school. You can be a part of changing the trajectory of a child's life through education and discipleship. We currently have 3 children waiting for sponsorship. Candidates for our program have lost a parent or both and are being raised by a single mother or guardian.

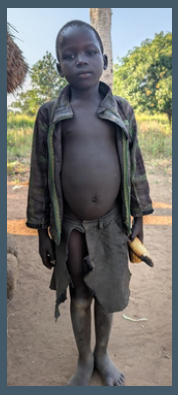


Director Daniel visiting Lazarus and Sarah at their school.

Each child in the sponsorship program is taught the Word of God and is on a path to become a disciple of Jesus. They are also given the opportunity to receive an education so that they are equipped to provide for themselves and their families. It is **$40 monthly** to sponsor a non-boarded student and **$60 monthly** to sponsor a boarded student (one who lives at the school during each semester).
Email **mandi@aemlove.org** to learn about waiting children.

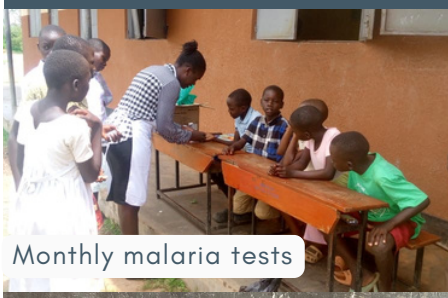
Waiting Children:







$40/month provides:
School fees, uniforms, a goat, shoes, school supplies, a mattress, mosquito net and basic medical care.



Monthly malaria tests

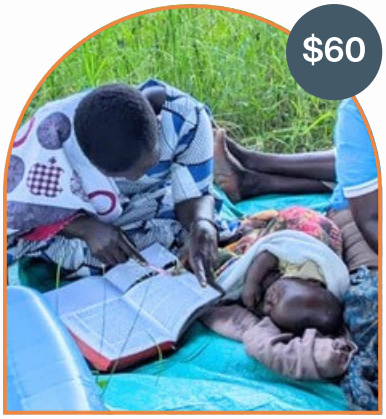


Rose meeting her sponsor

Akote Edeke Ministries

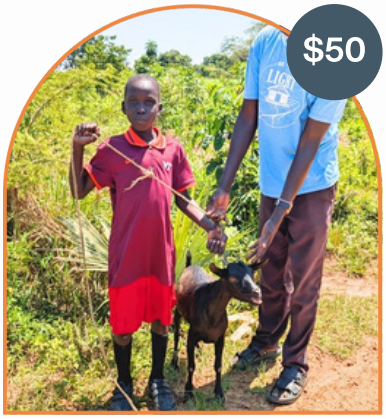
How You Can Make An Impact

by scanning the Giving QR Code on the previous pages and making a One-Time or Recurring Gift of any amount toward these needs below. Simply "comment" the **project name** to designate your gift. Every dollar given will go 100% to the project listed and have a multiplied impact for Kingdom purposes in the lives of the people we are reaching with the Gospel in Uganda.
We can't do this alone. It takes each part of the body doing its part.



Bibles

Give **5 Bibles** in the local language. $12 buys a Bible.
Comment: "Bibles"



Goat

Give a vulnerable child a goat. Your gift multiplies through the Kids4Kids Project as each recipient gives their firstborn back to AEM where it is gifted to another child.



Elderly Care Package

Give a widow a mattress, mosquito net, basin, soap, sugar, and salt. These are needed each month for Mercy Ministry outreach by our staff.



Pastor Training

Give toward a single 3-Day Pastors Retreat hosted by AEM for 40 Pastors. We hope to have 3 of these retreats in 2027.
Comment: "Pastors"



Farm Supervisor Salary

Give toward the annual salary of a Part-Time Farm Supervisor. This person will allow AEM to be more self-sustainable by producing crops to feed the hungry and providing jobs in our village.



Social Worker Salary

Give toward the annual salary of a full-time social worker to manage our Child Sponsorship Program and increase our capacity to serve more children.


Abalang Secondary School - Girls' DBS with Praise

Vision Casting for 2027

God is growing the vision of how He plans to use AEM to reach the lost. This includes developing the resources He's given us for greater impact. For 2027, our goal is to hire a full-time social worker to manage the Child Sponsorship program. This hire will allow us to grow and to provide this life changing opportunity to twice the number of children we serve today. We have begun a designated fund to **Build A School**. With each passing year, we recognize the widening education gap and low academic performance provided by the



overcrowded government schools. These are the only schools available (within walking distance) to the vulnerable children identified for sponsorship. We are doing our best to mentor guardians and students, but the path to cultural change is long and bumpy when basic survival requires more hands to weed and harvest the crops. Part of the Johnsons' work will be to seek the Lord specifically regarding building a school and if that's His will for AEM.

As you have read in this issue of THE SPROUT, the immediate open doors for evangelism and discipleship are through the new DBS groups in the local secondary schools (high schools) and the three planned Pastor Retreats. Pray with us that God will give us more secondary school opportunities and the resources (leaders and Bibles) to start new DBS groups in each of them.

Will you join us in 2027 by Planting Love and Harvesting Hope? We would be humbled if you would consider us for your *end of year giving*. Together we are making a difference and pushing back darkness with the light of Christ.

In His Service,

Mandi Johnson

Mandi Johnson, Exec. Director
AEM Love
mandi@aemlove.org
Phone: 205.317.7321

Give Today:

aemlove.org/give

Mail a check:
AEM Love
3 Central Plaza # 91
Rome, GA 30161





Thank you for partnering with us!