



The Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon

St. Edward's Episcopal Church Ministry Support to Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – **Matthew 25:40**



SHE FELT CALLED

In 2003, at the age of 32, Sister Jane Mankaa opened the doors to her orphanage, **The Good Shepherd Home, in Bamenda, Cameroon**. The orphanage provided a Christian home for children of all ages, with living quarters, a school, kitchen and dining hall, and a chapel. Vegetable gardens, a chicken farm and piggery were soon added.

NOW WE ARE CALLED (<https://www.goodshepherdhome.org>)

Today there are over 50,000 orphans in the area of West Africa where Cameroon is located. 150 of those orphans have been welcomed into **The Good Shepherd Home**, where they are raised in a Christian setting and provided with an education. To help with costs, Sister Jane formed a sponsorship program to solicit donations, with 100% of the funds raised going to care of the children via a 501(c)3 charitable program. Sponsorship is \$50/month, or only \$1.67/day.

Our Sponsorship *Does Matter!*

- The first orphan taken into Good Shepherd Home became a medical doctor and now runs a clinic in Bamenda, Cameroon, servicing healthcare needs of the Home and surrounding community. Learn more about **Dr. Gilberto** and his healthcare ministry at www.goodshepherdhome.org, **Mother Jane Legacy Foundation**.
- Another young man, **Aben Cistus Tita**, received his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering, and then returned to Bamenda to begin **ACT Foundation**, Actions.Change.Things. Established in 2022, **ACT Foundation** empowers children with employable technical skills (computer, sewing and tailoring) so every child raised in an orphanage has a future. Learn more about ACT Foundation by following their Facebook page, or checking for updates at www.goodshepherdhome.org, ACT Foundation.

Ministry Director: Margaret Dohnalek



Thank you for your support!

St. Edward's sponsors two orphans – *will you increase the impact for our Church?*

**Good Shepherd Home for Children
Bamenda, Cameroon**

A Christian orphanage established by Sr. Jane Mankaa and run by the Sisters of Bethany.
Your donation goes directly toward housing, food, clothing and education for a child.

Only \$50.00 per month to sponsor a child. 100% goes directly to a child's care.

My Name: _____

My Address: _____

My contact information (phone number or email): _____

_____ Enclosed is my donation for _____ months.

_____ I would like to be billed monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.
(please circle your choice)

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Charitable contributions to Good Shepherd Home are managed by Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, NJ to insure all donations securely reach the orphanage.

**Please make check payable to:
Community of St. John Baptist
P.O. Box 240
Mendham, NJ 07945**

Specify funds are designated for Good Shepherd Home. Donations are tax deductible as a 501(c)3 status organization.

Questions? Margaret Dohnalek 847-826-4958 or email dohnalekmh@gmail.com St. Edwards Church 8AM member



THE HOUSE THAT JANE BUILT

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." – Matthew 25:40

Have you ever wondered about the ministry in Cameroon we pray for each Sunday?

So what is the ministry in Cameroon, and why did St. Edward's Episcopal Church get involved? After all, getting to Cameroon from Orlando requires over 18 hours of flight time, a stop and an overnight in Chicago, and then another stop in Brussels before boarding the flight to get to your destination (a total of over 22 hours of travel time). And, once in the country of Cameroon, it still takes the better part of a day to get to the final destination: The Good Shepherd Home, an orphanage in Bamenda, Cameroon. Let's dig deeper to understand why our support to this orphanage ties in with the Missions Ministry of our church.

Sister Jane and the Children of Good Shepherd Home

As a young adult growing up in Cameroon in the 1990s, Sister Jane Mankaa, who had taken religious vows at the age of 16, was seeing first-hand the impact of the HIV/AIDs epidemic on homeless street children in her country. Determined to create a better life for orphans and also young women, Sister Jane decided to complete her academic and religious training and then dedicate her life to caring for this vulnerable population.

Having raised money sufficient to build living quarters, a primary school, kitchen and dining hall facilities, and a chapel, Sister Jane saw her orphanage built.



At the age of only 32 years, in 2003, the Rev. Sister Jane, along with the Sisters of Bethany, opened the doors to her orphanage, the Good Shepherd Home for children. The orphanage was more than a place; it was a loving home with a focus on Christian upbringing for all children in its care. The first year, 15 children were accepted into the Home. Before long, Sister Jane Mankaa had obtained donations to expand the infrastructure of the orphanage and start a vegetable garden, add a piggery, and a chicken farm and a bakery to help provide a form of income as well as food for the Home. A clinic was added ten years later to provide medical care to the Home and

surrounding community, and access to secondary education was also expanded.



The Good Shepherd Home in Cameroon

Within ten years of opening Good Shepherd Home, Sister Jane and her fellow Sisters were caring for over 100 children. Today, in any given year that number has climbed to caring for 150 children from newborns to 18 years of age. Sister Jane realized that operating an orphanage of this size required a source of donations to fill the gaps, purchasing food they could not grow or produce, and making sure there were funds for secondary education. This led to the development of a sponsorship program for the orphanage, run by Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, NJ to manage charitable donations.



How Did St. Edwards Get Involved?

In 2022, St. Edward's Episcopal Church became involved in the sponsorship program of the Good Shepherd Home, and added sponsoring two orphans a year to its Missions Ministry. This support covers food that needs to be purchased, and helps with costs for housing, clothing, and school supplies, and contributes to the cost of secondary education and vocational training for older children.

Sponsoring a Child at Good Shepherd Home Makes a Difference!

Sponsoring a child at Good Shepherd Home gives them a future. Many children raised at Good Shepherd Home have followed in the path of Sister Jane Mankaa, committing their lives to a better future for the orphans and those in need in Cameroon. Two stories of orphans raised at Good Shepherd Home, Dr. Akwa Gilberto and Mr. Aben Cistus Tita, are incredible testament to the mission of the Home that Sister Jane built.

Sister Jane Mankaa did more than build a loving home, and offer a better life for orphans in Cameroon. She dedicated her life to offering a future for these children. Even though Sister Jane has passed away, Good Shepherd Home and her children continue in her legacy, using the gifts bestowed upon them to be faithful stewards of God's grace (1 Peter 4:10). Thanks be to God! To learn more, feel free to contact Margaret Dohnalek, Ministry Director, via email (dohnalekmh@gmail.com) or phone: 847-826-4958.



RAISED AN ORPHAN, TODAY I AM EMPOWERING THE CHILDREN OF CAMEROON WITH A FUTURE



FROM A SMALL TOWN TO GLOBAL IMPACT

How My Journey Began

My story begins in **Gurifen**, a remote village in the Northwest of Cameroon, where life is measured by the agricultural harvest and the tapping of palm wine. There was no electricity, no drivable roads, and no clean water—only the quiet struggle of a boy who lost his father at age two and his mother at eight.

As the youngest child of a polygamous home and the only child of my mother, I was a boy with a brilliant mind but no platform. I remember trekking miles on an empty stomach and being sent home from school for unpaid fees. I feared that my future would never leave those narrow footpaths.

The Turning Point of My Destiny

But, in 2008, at 11 years old, everything changed. Because I refused to let poverty dull my grades, a stranger from a neighboring village by the name of Egbe Armstrong noticed me and my determination for an education. This man walked the footpaths to my home and convinced my stepbrother to let me go to the **Good Shepherd Home** in Bamenda, Cameroon, and make my life there. It was there that I met the woman who would rewrite my destiny — Rev. **Sister Jane Mankaa**, whom we all called **Mama**.

Mama didn't just give me a bed; she gave me a vision. She was the architect of my future. Mama saw that I was raised properly, and focused on my education. Under Sister Jane's wing, I excelled, scoring **9 A's** in my GCE O-Levels and passing my A-Levels with flying colors. Mama saw my continued desire for learning, and helped me obtain sponsorship for college. I attended **Covenant University** in Nigeria, where I graduated in 2021 with honors with a degree in petroleum engineering.

2021 was supposed to have been the crowning year of my life, but it was marked by profound grief. In April, just months before my graduation, **Rev. Sister Jane Mankaa, the "mother" to all of us at Good Shepherd Home, passed away**. When I walked across that stage in October of that year to receive my degree, I did so



with a heavy heart. The woman who had sacrificed everything to see me stand there was no longer there to see the harvest of her labor. I have since also lost my only stepbrother to the Anglophone crisis, in December 2024. Now the only family I have is from the life I knew at **Good Shepherd Home**.

THE LEGACY OF A “MOTHER” AND THE POWER OF A GIFT

Carrying the Torch

In 2022 I was no longer that boy from Gurifen, but I saw him every day in the eyes of the suffering children in Cameroon. Something needed to be done. Since **transformation is a gift that is only completed when it is passed on**, I decided to take action and bring change to the future for the underprivileged. To this end, I formed **ACT Foundation**. The foundation’s name comes from my initials, Aben Cistus Tita, and also stands for what I believe in: Actions. Change. Things. At ACT Foundation we see the “Digital Wall” as standing in the way of the future for underprivileged children, and especially orphans, in Cameroon. I am passionate when I say, *“In 2026, a child without computer skills is like a student without a pen. While the world sprints toward a digital future, millions are left standing at the starting line, full of talent, but lacking the tools.”*

I am deeply motivated to continue the work Sister Jane Mankaa started when she transformed me into who I was to become. **My mission is to empower the underprivileged not just with computer technology skills, but with life-changing vocational skills, mentorship, and access to global opportunities—scholarships, fellowships, and internships.** I want to ensure that being "underprivileged" does not mean being "undervalued." Mama Jane Mankaa gave me an opportunity. I am here to continue her work.

Our Approach at ACT Foundation

At **ACT Foundation** we are not about one-time handouts. We **build systems** inside orphanages for **continual learning and hands-on experience** with skills that can provide for a better tomorrow. Hosted workshops start with basic computer literacy skills, and then evolve to include training in MS Office, Graphic Design, Coding, Video Editing, and Data Entry, and vocational skills like sewing and knitting as well. *By teaching productive computer and vocational skills, we are giving these children more than just a lesson – we are giving them a trade they can use to feed themselves and build a brighter future.* Through ACT Foundation, our mission is clear: ***“to nurture creativity, build self-reliance, and promote digital inclusion for the next generation of Cameroonian youth.”***

ACT Foundation currently has a network of over 50 volunteers across different cities in Cameroon. We have conducted more than **100 outreach and training programs** since our founding in 2022, along with dozens of follow-up engagements, **equipping more than 1158 children with skills to cross the Digital and Vocational Bridge.** This work continues to grow. With the right support, more orphaned and underprivileged children will gain the skills needed to build sustainable and independent futures for a better tomorrow.

Donations to ACT Foundation come to us via Community of St. John Baptist in Mendham, NJ, as a 501(c)3 charitable gift, and are **Greatly Appreciated!!** 100% of your donation is put to good work empowering the future for children in Cameroon. To learn more about this initiative, feel free to reach out to Margaret Dohnalek via email (dohnalekmh@gmail.com) or at church gatherings. Please also see updates from Aben Cistus on ACT Foundation’s Facebook page.

The First Orphan, Making an Impact

My Name is Gilbert

Akwa Gilberto, known as Gilbert, was the first orphan taken in and raised at the Good Shepherd Home in Bamenda, Cameroon in Africa. This was in September 2003, and Gilbert was 13 years old at the time. He had been found living on the streets, and, as Gilbert would later report, “[Sister Jane] yanked me up and took me off the streets”, an event that changed Gilbert’s life forever.

As Gilbert has reported over the years, Sister Jane, or Mama, as she was called by the children was known for her tough love. She required attention to education, and to Faith. The Home instilled in the children the responsibility for those less fortunate, and always caring for the vulnerable, children in general and especially orphans, and the girl-child. For Gilbert, this meant that he, like Sister Jane before him, felt a calling in his own life to care for those in need. To this end, after completing secondary schooling, Gilbert pursued a bachelor’s degree and then went on to complete medical school at the Catholic University of Cameroon, graduating in August 2022.

With his deep faith in God and his training complete, Dr. Akwa Gilberto followed the example of Rev. Sister Jane Mankaa and committed to make a difference in the world. In this spirit, Dr. Gilberto stated in September 2022, “I am glad to announce that I have started a foundation named Mother Jane Legacy Foundation in honor of my mother Rev. Mama Jane Mankaa.” The Foundation’s mission is to bring medical care to orphans and vulnerable children in deeply impoverished regions, including remote areas of Cameroon.

Our Motto Is, “Yes, it’s Possible”

Dr. Gilberto runs a local medical clinic, but also travels to underserved areas to treat those in need. “With the little resources we have in place; my team and I have accomplished many goals. Our Motto is: ‘Yes, it’s Possible’. This is in line with my own story as a street child, to the [operating] theatre as a medical doctor all thanks to you, my mother Mama Jane, and what she did for me. I want my Mother’s story and legacy to live on throughout Cameroon. Care for the orphans, care for the sick, and giving your talents. To me, Dr. Akwa Gilberto, what she did and who she was to me. She was the truest definition of a Mother.”

In a December 2025 update, Dr. Gilberto reported, “My heart is still filled with so much joy. God is doing wonders through the Mother Jane Legacy Medical Foundation. To God be the glory. I can never give enough.” And he added, “We want to do more, we believe in Education and the girl child is our priority. Thank you, Mother Jane, for all the support you gift to us.” Sister Jane did more for Gilbert than give him a loving home and make sure he had an education; she trained an orphan to know and follow the Lord, and commit his life to this path (Proverbs 22:6).



Dr. Gilberto (right) with Foundation volunteers