

# Happy New Year



**LOVEMUSTACT**

*Partnerships for Sustainable Education*

OK, it's been a horrible year. I began the year, to tell you the truth, expecting it to be much worse than it actually turned out to be, and therein is the lesson for me. I had neglected to factor in the power of the human heart.



When the year began, I worried, more like fretted, about our ability to raise funds for our programs. I worried a lot about money. Our first quarter grant applications were turned down or deferred as resources were understandably diverted to domestic Covid-related needs. As understandable as that decision was, it did not change the fact that there were many, including many children, in need beyond our borders. I feared we would fail the children in our care in South Africa in particular. I was concerned we would have to delay plans to expand by adding the sixth grade. I was afraid we would have to reduce compensation to the staff at the school.

I was worried indeed. It turns out I needn't have been.

For one thing, the staff in South Africa heroically rose to the occasion. The school was closed for a time, but it reopened in June. They developed a rigorous cleaning protocol. They planned for social distancing and masks. We have had some coronavirus scares at Holy Cross School, but so far, no cases among students and staff. When students had possible exposures at home, we responded with selective quarantines.

When it came time to consider the sixth grade, a new donor emerged to cover the teacher's costs. Another school was able to donate desks. When we had to decide on existing staff compensation, another previously unknown major donor stepped up. No cuts were necessary.

As we end 2020, we are encouraged beyond words by the support we've received from individual donors, far exceeding what we have ever seen, which has made up for a decline in grant funding. The people have stepped up. And, to bring things full circle, the grant process has opened back up. We've benefitted from some old friends and some new ones. We are exceedingly grateful.

I re-learned something I first learned from Ginger when we were both students. She ran across a sentence in her human anatomy textbook, which presented as a statement of science, but which equally had a profound spiritual implication: "The heart will increase in size and power when called upon to extend itself." Indeed it will.

Yes, this has been a horrible year in some ways. But it has also reminded me of the reality that human hearts expand in size and power when called upon. Things being bad is what calls out the expanding human heart. No matter how bad things get, the truth is that is what draws us together. Love is one thing when it's all easy. It shows its true power when it isn't.

Thank you for allowing your hearts to expand to help us make education possible where it might not otherwise be. It isn't too late. The need remains. This might be a good time to put 2020 in its place with a gift to further the work of Love Must Act in South Africa and Gaza. There are two ways to do so—online [here](#) or by mailing a check to:

3044 Bardstown Road, Ste. 242  
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Peace,



Bishop Stacy F. Sauls  
President and Founder



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