

Joy News – February 2026

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Uganda Presidential Election and the Place of Disability Ministry

Through the presidential election held on January 15, the long-term rule of President **Yoweri Museveni** has once again continued (7th term).

While political continuity has maintained surface-level stability, the election process revealed the deep gap between the form and the reality of democracy. Internet shutdowns before and after the election, pressure on opposition parties and civil society, and restrictions on freedom of expression and participation raised concerns in the international community regarding human rights.

Though democratic procedures appear to remain in place, many observers note that power consolidation and control mechanisms for regime preservation continue to dominate. Under prolonged rule, corruption has become widespread, and concern for vulnerable populations has increasingly been pushed to the margins.

Impact on Disability Ministry

This political and social climate directly affects families of persons with disabilities.

When institutional priorities favor political power, individuals with disabilities and their families are often pushed further outside the reach of public welfare. Government protection and support may be limited, increasing the structural risks of isolation and poverty.

Regardless of political change or interests, Joy Uganda continues to walk with each individual and family.

Amid repeated realities of authoritarianism, democratic facades, corruption, and human rights concerns, our ministry will not stop remembering forgotten neighbors.

In the midst of Uganda's present darkness, Joy Uganda seeks to remain a small light—affirming dignity, choosing companionship, and refusing to give up hope.

Announcements

1. We are seeking support for the Joy Uganda Special Education Integrated School Project. For details, please visit:
joycenter.com/joy-uganda
 2. We especially request prayer for individuals who feel called to serve as teachers. We also welcome missionary candidates in various forms of service.
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Disability-Related News

Acetaminophen and Developmental Disorders

A recently published large-scale study found that taking acetaminophen (Tylenol, paracetamol) during pregnancy does **not** increase the risk of autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, or ADHD in children.

This finding contrasts with concerns raised by some policymakers.

Researchers conducted a comprehensive analysis of 43 prior studies evaluating the safety of this commonly used pain reliever during pregnancy. They concluded that previously reported associations with developmental disorders were more likely explained by genetic factors, maternal fever, pre-existing pain, or other maternal conditions, rather than by the medication itself.

“Disposable Humanity” – Persons with Disabilities as Holocaust Victims

The documentary film *Disposable Humanity*, directed by **Cameron S. Mitchell**, describes persons with disabilities as:

“The first victims killed in the Holocaust, but the last to be remembered.”

The film investigates the Nazi Germany **Aktion T4** program.

Beginning in 1939—approximately two years before the mass extermination of Jews—the Nazis labeled individuals with mental, neurological, and physical disabilities as “life unworthy of life.” They constructed the first gas chambers and systematically murdered them.

Historians estimate that approximately **300,000 persons with disabilities** were killed under this program.

The T4 program became a testing ground for the larger Holocaust extermination system. Yet for decades, it remained marginalized in Holocaust education and public memory.

An official memorial for T4 victims in Berlin was not established until 2011, reflecting how long persons with disabilities remained at the margins of historical remembrance.

Through testimonies of descendants and researchers, the film restores nearly erased history and warns how propaganda and media can dehumanize vulnerable groups.

Director Mitchell states:

“Persons with disabilities are often the first victims in fascist systems. When the most vulnerable are not protected, society as a whole collapses.”

Disposable Humanity is not merely a historical record—it is a powerful warning of what happens when history is forgotten and a call to place persons with disabilities at the center of remembrance.

Prayer Requests

1. For the construction of Joy Uganda’s special education school and expansion of vocational programs.
 2. For teachers and missionaries who will dedicate themselves to this ministry.
 3. For Joy Kenya’s music therapy classroom.
 4. For financial provision and faithful supporters.
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Ways to Give

By Check:

Pay to the order of “Joy Center, Inc.”

Memo: _____

Zelle / PayPal / Venmo:

joycenter@hotmail.com

Online Giving:

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We appreciate your gift of love in support of Joy Center, a non-profit organization.