



Bushikori

CHRISTIAN CENTRE Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc

Easter Prayer

LORD,

Thank You for the gift of **HOPE**
You gave us on Easter morning.
Because of You we know
That no problem is too difficult
And even death does not have power over us.

Thank You for the gift of **JOY**
You gave us when You were resurrected.
Because of you we know
That no matter how challenging life may be,
In the end we will rejoice again.

Thank you for the gift of **LOVE**
You gave us when You laid down Your life.
Because of You we know
That there is no sin too great to separate us
and we are incredibly valuable to You.

Thank You for the gift of **LIFE**,
You gave us when You left the tomb.
Because of Easter we know
this world is just the beginning
and we will spend forever in heaven with You.

We celebrate You, **JESUS**,
With hearts full of praise and gratitude
For who You are and all You've done for us!
Amen.

-Holley Gerth

The Bushikori (Aust) Committee wishes to thank **Christian College, Highton**, for supplying the photocopying of all newsletters. We appreciate their generosity and support.

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This newsletter is also available on the website.

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AUSTRALIA, 3220

www.bushikori.org.au

Thank you to Stephen Davey at Pagination for his help & hosting our site.

Editor: Kerry Peacock
Ph 52593718

The BCC Support Committee wish to thank all BCC supporters for the hope, joy and love you give to the children and BCC work in general, we praise the Lord for you and pray that your Easter time will be blessed

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this; to look after orphans and widows in their distress

AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING ORPHANS IN UGANDA

“Living Pure for the Service of the Lord”

The main objective of this conference was to impart knowledge and skills that would enable the youth to grow holistically and be more useful in society today -

- A. Having a personal relationship with Christ Our Lord
- B. Respecting their bodies as temples of God
- C. Avoiding bad peer groups and other bad influences

Over 130 Primary 7 and secondary students attended the **three day conference** at Bushikori Christian Centre. They were transported to Bushikori from over 6 different areas and boarded at the school while they attended the conference at the Bushikori church for presentations and workshops. Time was also given for sharing of testimonies and counselling.

A highlight was the attendance of 10 alumni (past graduates of the BCC sponsorship program) who will commence a mentorship programme and support other young people at BCC.

The conference concluded with the **Children’s Gathering Christmas Celebration** where they were joined with other sponsored children and their guardians who came in large numbers to celebrate the Annual Gathering Day.

The Guest of Honour was Ms Nakadama Maimuna, Assistant Probation and Welfare Officer in Mbale district. She emphasized that poverty can be fought through education and urged parents to keep children in school especially girls.

BCC children entertained the guests as they performed items and sang Christmas Carols. The children expressed joy after receiving food gifts to share with their family on Christmas Day. **Each child received a gift of**

sugar, cooking oil and baking flour (wheat). The children had cause to celebrate as this rare gift is hardly accessible to children not sponsored in the community. BCC urged sharing and joy during the festive season.



They then celebrated with their peers and family in a meal specially prepared for them – rice, matooke, meat and a soft drink.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Christmas Fund which enabled us to send over \$5900 to cover costs for the Conference and Christmas party. These were mainly for transporting all the children to and from BCC, food, gifts and the hire of the tents (marquees).

The Friends Of Bushikori group was formed on 29th. May 2012.

The focus of this group is to support the work of Bushikori Christian Centre, Uganda, through raising funds, and promoting the work. It works closely with the Bushikori Australian Support Committee.

Meetings are fairly informal and are held on the last Tuesday of the month. Our first fundraising event was a **HIGH TEA**, including a performance by "Acabella" (with drums) and a guest speaker Esther Cohen, sharing her experiences of her recent trip to Bushikori. This proved very informative and was warmly received. It was followed by a lavish High Tea. The event was extremely successful, both financially and socially, and a sum of

\$2,688 plus other donations was raised for the Health Clinic. We are indebted to the band of hardworking volunteers who made the day possible.

Five Christmas cards, designed by Barbara Cake, including a Christian message and information about Bushikori, were sold raising \$1767.

The recent film night “Les Miserables” raised \$2785. Thank you Adam Thompson for co-ordinating.

Thank you to all who support us! Lucy Stone (Convenor)



**TOGETHER WE CAN
"MAKE A DIFFERENCE"**

JOIN with US



You are invited to participate in an opportunity to invest in the lives of children in Uganda

'Make a Difference' Auction
to raise funds to contribute to the health and educational needs of children and their communities supported by Bushikori Christian Centre in Uganda.

Where: Kardinia Christian Church
10/147 Marshalltown Rd
Grovedale (Geelong)
When: Saturday 18th May 2013
Time: 7.30pm
Entry: \$15.00, includes supper



Previewing from 6.30pm
Hot soup and crusty bread available to purchase also from 6.30pm
Plenty of parking

'A river is made drop by drop'



Further information please contact:
Anne
Ph: (03) 5266 1614
Meredith
Mob: 0408 127 551
makeadifference@y7mail.com

God willing, May will also be the month of special visitors from Bushikori

Grace Wandendeya - Anne's daughter, Bachelor of Construction Management. Runs her own construction firm. Built the teachers staffroom at BCC in 2012



Jerome Olowo - Architect. Married to Grace. Worked with Grace on the designs of JPS staffroom and maternity complex.



David Wandendeya - Anne's son, Diploma in clinical medicine. Studying Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. Works as a clinician at BCC Clinic when time allows.



Please Pray.....

** the tickets are booked but they need visas, may the paperwork be accepted.*

** safe travelling.*

** opportunities for them to speak around Geelong & Melbourne about the joy of our Lord.*

Paul Tiboti -- Diploma in Water engineering. Bachelors of Civil Engineering. At age of 11 orphaned with his three siblings. Cared for by uncle then when he died Paul took responsibility of cousins as well as siblings. At 15 he was providing for seven younger children by slashing grass. BCC took the role of parent, providing welfare & housing & schooling through sponsorship. Paul is very involved in student Christian fellowships - represented them at Ugandan National Council, then in 2011 represented Ugandan Christian students in World Assembly in Poland.



Linus Hire - Administrative Manager at BCC



2012 in summary -

387 students sponsored (primary, secondary and tertiary) at 31.12.12

37 new children sponsored

9 students responsored.

21 new sponsors

In early November the Primary 7 students sat for their National Primary Leaving examinations (PLE). Every sponsored student passed with many achieving excellent results.

From Anne Wandendeya (Director of BCC) –

We are thankful that the results are out and some of our children appeared in the national newspapers. The glory goes back to God. We thank you all for praying with us for the success.

Many children in Uganda still do



not complete primary school so it is very exciting to hear that our sponsored students are doing so well. The Ugandan school system is very competitive. There are so many children who want an education, that schools all over the country are able to pick and choose the best students in order to improve their grade average and national standing. Testing is relentless for students, as every term they have to take exams as well as having ongoing assessments of their performance; based on their results they are given a grade and a position in their class. If the child is successful, they can

move in to the next class in the New Year. However, if their performance is poor they may have to repeat the school year again. The PLE results determine which secondary school the students are able to attend. The higher the score, the better the secondary school that the student is able to attend. So this is why you might read in your child's letter that they are number 5, for example, in the class and reading (studying) hard to do better and asking you to pray for them to do well in the exams.

Joshua Primary School was built on BCC grounds to provide primary education for sponsored students. Some students are able to

be transferred to JPS from other schools when they become sponsored but often they have to be pushed back a year as the standard at JPS is much higher. Some students walk 1 or even 2 hours to get to JPS leaving

home when the sun comes up and arriving back home as it gets dark. Some students who are sponsored live too far away for them to walk to JPS.

Secondary 4 students have also sat for the O level exams and their score determines whether they can go onto the final two years of secondary school at the end of which they have A Level exams.

A new initiative for the Child Care Department at BCC has been that some Primary 7 students are now boarding at BCC for the full year

whereas previously it was just for the final term prior to the PLE (Primary Leaving Examinations). Future plans are to build a hostel on BCC grounds to accommodate these P7 students and to enable those students living in other outlying areas to also be able to attend Joshua Primary School. This gives the students better facilities in which to study in the evenings. A nursery class (pre-primary level) has also begun which is currently held in the Bushikori church across the road from BCC. All children come from very vulnerable families. Here the children can begin to learn English and develop a culture of learning before starting at JPS. Parents contribute food so that children receive some porridge

Statistically, there are over 2.5 million orphans in Uganda (yes Uganda, not Africa). Half of Uganda's population is under 15 years old.

Sometimes this work can be overwhelming when you just look at the numbers. You want to do more. Make a bigger impact.

But in these moments the Lord is always so kind to remind me of a story I read recently.

One day an old man was walking down the beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a young man picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea. As the old man approached the young man, he asked, "Why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?" The young man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. The old man exclaimed, "But there must be thousands of starfish. How can your efforts make any difference?" The young man looked down at the starfish in his hand and as he threw it to safety in the sea, he said, "It makes a difference to this one!"

Welfare Gifts

The Gift and Welfare pool continues to be a vital source of welfare relief for families - Items such as mattresses, bed sheets, blankets, mosquito nets, clothing, food and goats were distributed. Many of you have generously also organised a welfare gift specifically for your child and these have included mattresses, bed sheets, blankets, clothes, school bags and school cases, school shoes, food, medical needs for other members of the family, goats, chickens, roofing iron for a leaking house and even new houses! Sincere thanks for your kindness and generosity.

To be able to sleep on a mattress, instead of a papyrus reed mat, with a sheet and blanket is such an amazing gift and brings so much delight to these families.

May I remind you to please consider setting aside a small amount of money into The Gift and Welfare Fund when organising a gift for your child so those less fortunate can also be blessed.

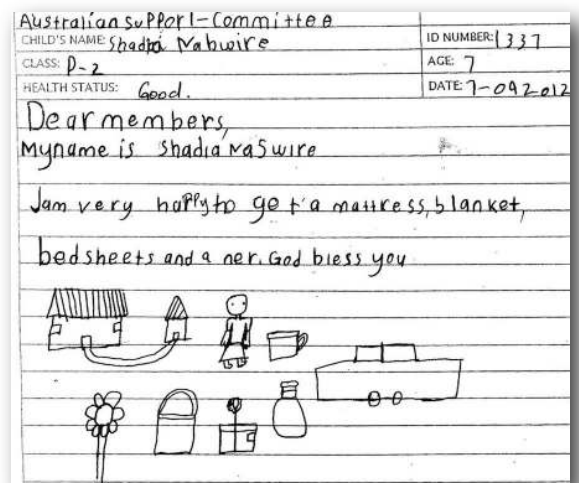
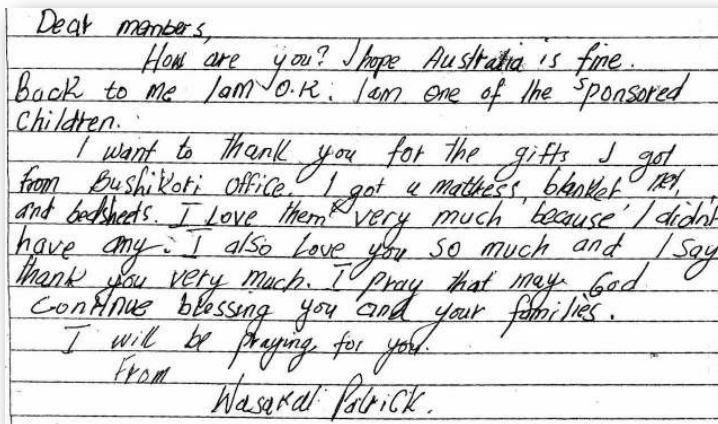
Did you know payments can now be made directly into our account at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank?

Our account details are

-
CBA Highton Branch Account Name Bushikori Christian Centre
BSB 06 3858 Account No 10077253

Ask the bank to put your child's number or your name in the reference.

Please let Ian Macaulay, our treasurer, know that you have deposited the money and who or what it is for so that he doesn't lose any more hair trying to figure out if it is for sponsorship, hostel or a welfare gift for your child.



Raising support

It is always amazing to see the different ways people support our work with the orphans widows and vulnerable children in the Bushikori district.

People have raised funds through Melbourne Cup lunches, Garden Parties, casual dress days at schools, selling honey, sending us booklets of new stamps, offering to support a nutritional program for a malnourished child, sending bras and recently an organisation called Dress a Girl Around the World sent two boxes of dresses and shorts to Bushikori

<http://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/>

Last year I read an article in the Age which highlighted how many African girls have no access to sanitary products and therefore are frequently absent from school. I was shocked and angry. The article mentioned the development of a new washable product called AFRIPads which are made in Uganda. A women's bible Study group at Church by the Bay have decided to collect money so that a supply of these products is available for the girls at Bushikori. If you wish to contribute to this need please mark your donation as Bushikori Girl's Needs.

Thank you to all these people for your generosity and kindness. May God bless you all!

Corresponding with your child

Thank you to everyone who is writing to their child. In 2011 only 62 letters were received at BCC from sponsors. In 2012, so far 48 had been received for the first three quarters of the year. I'd like to encourage you to write as a note from their sponsor not only encourages the children with their studies but also lifts them emotionally and spiritually when they can physically hold a personal card or letter from you in their hands.

Please see our web page for hints with letter writing (under Sponsorship)

www.bushikori.org.au

Family Updates

In the last newsletter I wrote about the plight of two families who have come under the care of Bushikori Christian Centre. Since then a group of volunteers at the Sonshine Op shop in Portarlinton have pledged to donate funds for a specifically designed nutritional program for Ritah the malnourished baby(Family 1 Jesca) and we also received a donation for welfare for Family 2 (Zabina).

From Anne Update on Family 1

Thank you so much and praise God for his wonderful people who care enough to provide for children deprived of necessary nutrition. I have heard and seen this child and I thought she could not live even for another week despite her condition she is still fighting for her life until now. It's amazing how it happens please convey my thanks for the ladies who are giving generously to this little one.

From Dan Update on Family 2

You will find photos of Zabina and family with the items purchased for them out of the welfare money sent in September. She is very appreciative and now sleeps on a bed. God bless all for the new life we have brought to her and her family.

I am always amazed and thankful for God's provision for the orphans and widows through the work of our committee and the continual generosity of our sponsors and supporters. Sometimes the individual children's stories are overwhelming but it is always exciting to see a new sponsorship enquiry pop up in my inbox!

Lastly I would like to thank you very much for your prayer support in praying for the sponsored children and staff at BCC and for myself.

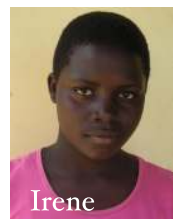
God bless
Liane Foord



Above: Zabina, Esther & Eddy
Right: Ritah approx 3yrs old (a symptom of severe malnourishment is bloating and swelling)

Children needing respornsoring

These children were sponsored and so are already in the Bushikori program but their sponsors are unable to continue. Please consider if you can support these students so that they can finish their schooling.



Irene



Oliver

1080 Fabiano is 20 years old and in S3. His father died of aids and his mother has no income to support him through school.

1082 Irene is 17 years old and in S1. She lives with her aunt as both her parents have died. Her aunt does not have an income.

1086 Emma is male, 18 years old and in S3. He lives with his grandmother as both his parents have died. The grandmother is elderly and does not have an income.

1202 Oliver is female, 13 years old and in S1. Her father died but she lives with her grandmother who does not have an income.



Fabiano



Emma

Sponsorship Rates

- Child in Primary P1-P7 - \$320 per year
- Child in Secondary S1-S6 - \$320 per year
- Child in Tertiary 1, 2, or 3yrs - \$320 plus up to an additional \$680 per year.(ie between \$320 & \$1000)
- Child in Hostel - \$240 per year

June 26 - July 20 2014.
3 weeks in Uganda.....

Time spent at Jordan House -
Operation Uganda (Kampala)
Bushikori (Mbale) & Jenga/
Bethel Church (Mbale).

**Missions Trip
2014**

Team Leaders:
Rex and Liane Foord
Ph (03) 5251 3131
rexandliane@thefoords.net

Praise Point

Recently Bushikori Health Clinic has been blessed with an ultrasound machine.

In early 2012 directors from the Pink Umbrella Foundation visited Bushikori and congratulated Bushikori on its “*commitment to providing quality education and skills training for the less fortunate children and their families of Mbale.*”

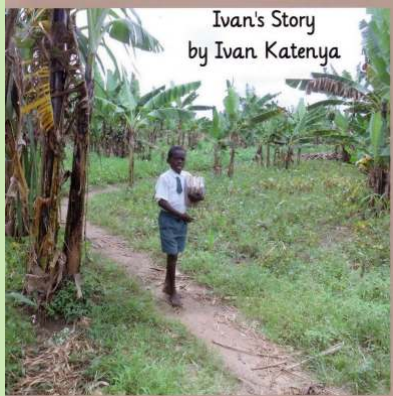
We were particularly impressed by our special area of interest, the health centre and the wide range of clinical services and primary health care activities it provides to the community. We sincerely hope the diagnostic medical equipment that we donated will give the dedicated medical staff some additional tools to assist patient care and treatment. Please pass on our thanks to Dr. Levert for spending time with us during our visit. His presentation and the opportunity to accompany him on an outreach visit really put everything in perspective for us. We have noted Dr. Levert's interest in acquiring an ultrasound machine and we will be pleased to donate a suitable unit.”

The ultrasound was donated by Rotary Kenthurst Sydney and was delivered by John Watts, Secretary of Bushikori Australia Support Committee in September 2012.



Above: Isaac Ojangle, Clinic Officer (former sponsored child & Church by the Bay Scholarship recipient) David Wandendeya, and Tom Odoi Chairman of BCC Uganda accept the ultrasound machine

Below: John Watts at a Heads of Dept Meeting held in the library at Bushikori Uganda



Picture Book

Ivan is a sponsored child at Bushikori.

He was inspired by his visits to the Bushikori library to write his own story which he prayed one day would be made into a book.

Ivan's story was celebrated at the Commissioning Day Celebrations in June 2012, attended by Esther Cohen (Australian Support Committee).

Esther brought the story back, and John Watts in his visit took photographs of Ivan, and collected drawings by Ivan to go with the story Ivan has written.

Back in Australia Ivan's Story has been produced by Liane & Rex Foord, who spent the many necessary hours turning raw materials into a self published book.

For more details, or to purchase a copy of Ivan's book please contact Liane Foord. Cost will be \$20 plus postage. Proceeds from the book will go towards buying books for the library to continue the benefit to Ivan's community

Joshua Primary School Choir 2011

Joshua Primary School Choir
2011
Bushikori Christian Centre

Music - Dvd or CD

available to purchase
\$15 each plus postage.
Contact Liane

bushiglory
Songs of Worship from Bushikori Christian Centre in Mbale, Uganda

If undeliverable please return to:
Bushikori Christian Centre Newsletter
Po Box 42 Geelong 3220

