



# Bushikori

CHRISTIAN CENTRE Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc

## Jesus

is the love  
that extends to the breadth,  
descends to the depths, ascends to  
the heights, and transcends all that  
our hearts can ever imagine.

*Behold a virgin shall be with child and shall bring  
forth a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel  
which being interpreted is, God with us  
Matthew 1:23*



The Australian Support Committee extend to you all  
our heartfelt thanks for your love and dedication  
given over the past year towards the needs of all  
at Bushikori Christian Centre Uganda and  
pray that your Christmas celebrations will be  
blessed in every way with God's peace and joy.

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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Thank you to Stephen Davey  
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*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



We were excited to have BCC Ugandan Director Anne Wandendeya's daughter Grace and Grace's husband Jerome Olowo visit Australia from May 3rd until the 28th. During their time here they spoke at St John's Anglican, Highton; Church by the Bay, Portarlington; St Luke's Highton; and St Albans Anglican Hamlyn Heights. They got to see Lorne, Angelsea, Sydney and most of the Geelong region. They experienced a football match, Serendip Sanctuary, Jirrahlinga Koala Wildlife, Narana, St Paul's in Fed Square, and Melbourne city. They attended Bible study groups (4) and countless lunches and dinners with supporters. They were guests of honour at the Make a Difference night, and the CBTB fundraising dinner.

We were pleased that they could join us for a Friends of BCC meeting, as well as a Committee of Management meeting.

Such opportunities foster greater understanding of the issues faced by BCC in Uganda, and it was such a valuable interchange of thoughts.

The most poignant moment for us all was when Grace was visiting a long time supporter of Bushikori he showed her a photo of her father, the late Pastor Sam Wandendeya sitting on the very couch in the very same spot in the same room Grace was now sitting. The photo had been taken in 1994.

Such moments reflect the depth and breadth and love that is in this work.

Thank you to all who hosted Grace and Jerome, and all who showed such hospitality.

Regarding these plans done by Jerome, currently the staff room area is built to a finished standard. This was finished in 2012 and its grand opening was attended by Esther Cohen in August 2012.

The outside shell (only) of the dining hall and the Kitchen area will cost \$34,470. Due to the Make a Difference donation plus donations by three individuals this amount is already raised. We thank God and all of you for this provision.

Currently there are no funds for the Administration (for the school), area so no work will begin there.

Any further funds will go towards the internal walls etc of the kitchen and hall first.

Grace and Jerome will be the Project Managers on this project. Please pray for them

*Thank you, Kerry Peacock.*

## The Make a Difference Auction Night.

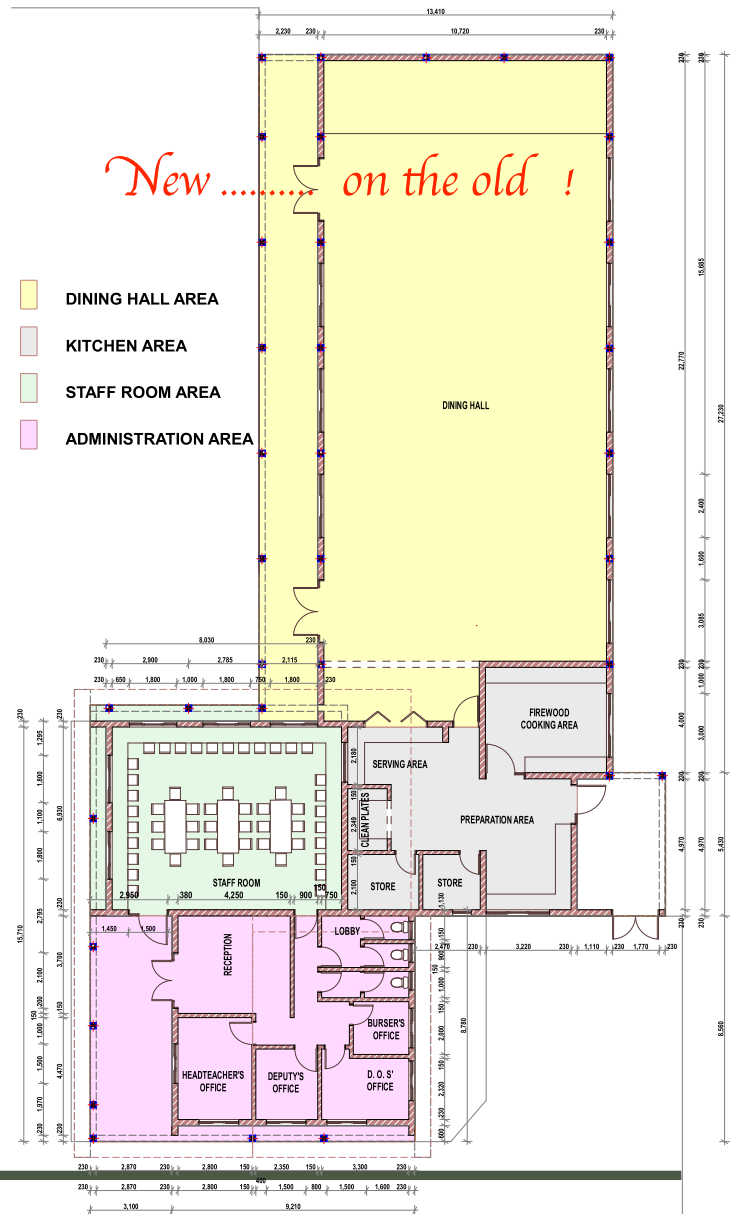
Was a wonderful success!

Thank you very much for all who worked so hard - and for so long, to make this evening all that it was.

Bushikori gratefully accepted the \$23,146.99 raised by the evening.

And it WILL make a difference!

*Below: Lindsay White & John McLean.*



## THE ANNUAL BUSHIKORI FILM FUNDRAISER

The film centers on the creator of *Mary Poppins*, P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson). The story shifts back and forth between 1961 and 1907, framing Travers by her childhood in rural Queensland and her experience in Los Angeles negotiating with Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) and his team for the film of *Mary Poppins*.

When Walt Disney's daughters begged him to make a movie of their favourite book, he made them a promise - one he did not think would take 20 years to keep. As the rights begin to move further away from his grasp it is only when he reaches into his own childhood that Walt discovers the truth about the ghosts that haunt Travers, and together they set *Mary Poppins* free to ultimately make one of the most endearing films in cinematic history.

125min long

Rated M - Recommended for mature audiences. Unsuitable for children younger than 12. Children younger than 12 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The content is moderate in impact.

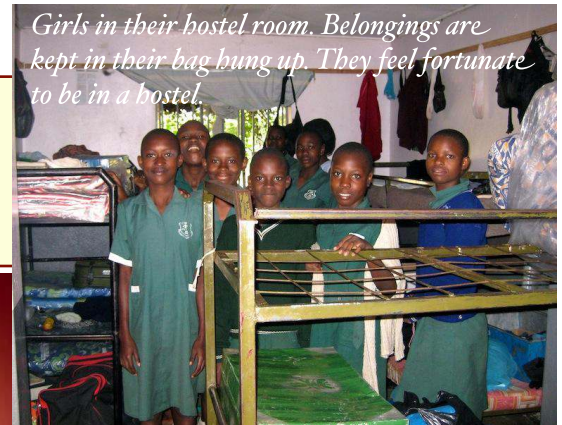
Tickets available from BCC committee members in your church - or call Kerry on 52593718.

A big THANK you to Readings Cinema - who help make this annual fundraiser possible.



## Why Hostel?....

Since many children live in a rural area accessible secondary schools may be some distance away from their village and these schools often have large class numbers with



poor facilities. .... Experience has shown that when the students attend a high school nearer town and stay in a hostel they obtain better results. This is because the education is usually of a higher standard, the students have electricity (most of the time) in order to be able to study in the evenings and they are not required to work in the fields after a long walk home from school. This walk is often unsupervised leaving children vulnerable to many dangers.

## A few changes.....

Due to the new Consumer Affairs Act it was timely to re view the BCC Australia Constitution. The only major change is the title of Margery Hobbs. She had been awarded the lifetime position of President. This now must be an annually elected position, so now Margery is our Patron. A small honour for the lady who began BCC Australia!

## Children needing re- sponsoring



#940 Josephine Lunyolo Needs re-sponsoring. Currently lives with her parents who are very poor. She is in S5



#1133 Alex Khaukha. Needs re-sponsoring. Both parents are dead. Currently lives with an uncle who is caring for eleven other children. He is in S2

## Vocational Training and Tertiary Courses

A record number of students have commenced vocational training or tertiary courses in 2013 -18 students for vocational training and 14 for tertiary, including one student who is undertaking a Law degree and one who is commencing a Veterinary Science degree. It is wonderful to see so many of our sponsored students reaching this level of education. It is encouraging to note that half of these students are girls as the majority of girls in Uganda are not educated further than P7 level. Sponsorship has surely made a difference in these young people's lives!

### Vocational Training

Vocational training is a very important option, especially for children who are more practical based learners or keen to enter a specific trade. There are many courses on offer; popular options include tailoring, hairdressing, catering, carpentry or becoming a mechanic. Many vocational courses have entry limits on them as to what academic level you must have reached to join them so this can also be a limiting factor, along with the expense of the

courses (which vary and all require some level of funding to participate). It is clearer to see the link between a vocational course and a job at the end, though often people struggle to get the money they need to start up a small business or buy the tools needed to join a workshop.

**Further Education** Students who pass their secondary school A-levels may go on to university, where they can study for degrees, or to other institutions that award diplomas and certificates. The Ugandan government gives about 4,000 university scholarships each year, and sponsors thousands of other students in other tertiary institutions. But tens of thousands of students who do not get the competitive government scholarships depend on their relatives to pay their tuition and upkeep. There are a growing number of universities and courses on offer in Uganda, but the cost of them prohibits many students from being able to consider going on to further education. There is currently no student loan system available if you don't get a scholarship.

The Australian Support Committee believes that every sponsored student should have the opportunity to undertake vocational training or a tertiary course. We are thankful for the donations we receive for the Richard Stone Fund, which assists with some of the student's course costs where sponsors have been unable to pay the full amount. We also thank Church by the Bay and Highton Kardinia Rotary for offering scholarships. These scholarships help to cover extra course costs or enable a student to undertake a course that is above our limit. All donations above \$2 to the Richard Stone Fund are tax deductible. We welcome any enquiries from individuals or organisations that would like to offer a scholarship.

*Below: BCC alumni that met in Mbale in April 2013. The alumni aim to help mentor BCC children still studying.*

*With Michael Wangwe, Tommy Wandwasi, Steven Mangali, Edith Seera, mama Suubi, Joshua Makika, Tom Kunikina, Anne Wandendeya, Habert Mabonga, Steven Wanendeya, Paul Tiboti and Mary Wanendeya.*

## Praise Points

Praise for the Christmas Gatherings & the Children's conference at BCC during December.

Praise for God's provision for these events through the hearts of our supporters. We give thanks for the encouragement you love gives us.

## Prayer needs

Pray for those children facing difficulties and for the safety for all over the school break

Pray that all goes well with the building of the dining hall.



## Reflections on life of a child in Uganda

Life is hard for a child in Uganda, especially if they live in the slum areas of Kampala (where I work) or in rural Uganda. If you are fortunate enough to survive past your 5<sup>th</sup> birthday you will experience hunger, beatings as discipline, have minimal schooling (if ever) and be expected/forced to work at a young age (even on school holidays). You are probably part of a big family as the average births per woman is 7.3 but only 3 or 4 of these might survive. Your parents may die when you are young from HIV/AIDS or any other preventable diseases that are prolific in this country. Your mother may die in childbirth which is very common here (about 14 per day) and if you're fortunate enough to make it through you won't be shown much love or affection be-

cause there is every possibility that you will die so your parents tend not to get too attached to you. You will have maybe 2 sets of clothes, no shoes and absolutely no toys except for what you can make from the rubbish you fossick through. You will live in a one or two roomed house, bathe in cold water maybe once per week, use a pit latrine, never brush your teeth, have your head shaved regularly to prevent scalp fungus, eat one meal per day if there is money to buy food and suffer from malaria on a regular basis. If you live in the urban slums there is every possibility that your solo mother will go to work every day for a meagre wage and you will be left at home by yourself caring for your younger siblings who may be as young as 6 months old. You will be required to cook lunch and have supper ready for when your mother gets home, fetch water in 20 litre jerry cans, wash clothes

by hand and collect fire wood or scrounge for charcoal.  
(Part of an article written by Karen Evans from Australia who is spending a year serving at an NGO in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda)  
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Life in rural Uganda is similar. You will have noticed that your child's guardians are often peasants who might own a little bit of land around their mud hut on which they can grow food such as maize (corn), beans or onions. They can sell these to buy other food but it is a struggle for many to provide enough for one meal a day for their family. Uganda today is one of the poorest countries in the world and a key way to lift people out of poverty is through education. Your commitment to sponsoring a child is not only life changing but also building the nation of Uganda.

Liane Foord Child Sponsorship Coordinator

### Child Sponsorship Coordinator Report

#### How children are selected

OVC = Orphans and Vulnerable Children – these are the children that are selected for sponsorship by Bushikori Christian Centre.

The Child Care Department workers make several visits to a family and make an assessment based on some of the following criteria –

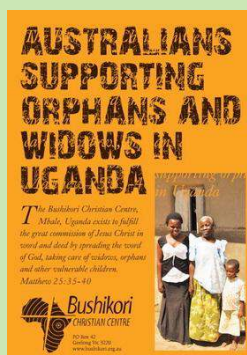
- Food security- whether the child is receiving sufficient food
- Shelter – has a dry and safe place to live
- Care – has an adult to look after them
- Health – how often the child is ill and receives health care
- Emotional health – is happy and content
- Education – attends school and is progressing

Children who score low in these areas then qualify for sponsorship. So not all children are orphans but all live in very poor circumstances.

There are also another 50 precious children in my book waiting to be sponsored. While the number of newly sponsored children is increasing we also have more children now graduating from the project. We aim to

steadily increase the number of sponsored children to help make the project more sustainable.

We have some new brochures, which help to explain more about sponsorship and the various aspects of Bushikori Christian Centre. Please contact me, or a committee member, if you would like a copy.



Left: New brochures outlining the work that Bushikori does.

Designed to help us all explain BCC to a friend (maybe one who is coming to the movie fundraiser!) Also the FAQ re child sponsorship.

Both brochures are available to be emailed to you or else contact us to post a printed copy to you.

Email: [president@bushikori.org.au](mailto:president@bushikori.org.au)

thank you Liane & Pagination.

**What does my child need?**

“I’d like to organise a gift for my child. What do they need and how much does it cost?” This is a question I get asked frequently. Here are the costs of a few basic items, however with the change in the exchange rate costs might now be slightly higher.

- Shoes \$22
- Mattress \$30
- Bed sheets \$13
- Blanket \$20
- School bag \$11
- Mosquito net \$10

- Other gifts have been –
- Roofing iron sheets, windows, doors and locks \$650
- A new house \$800 (especially when the mud houses start to break up with the heavy rains)
- Clothing \$20 - \$50
- Food for the family (rice and beans) \$50
- Chickens and a rooster \$40
- Goat \$50

**Please don’t forget the Gift and Welfare Pool. A small donation into this fund helps provide emergency or basic items for other families in need.**

**Bank deposits**

Did you know you can deposit money into our account over the counter at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank?

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

Just ask the teller to put your child’s number as the reference and please give Ian Macaulay a call so he can make a note when it arrives on his bank statement. Thank you for your prayers and support  
God Bless, Liane Foord

**In August, Marg Ryan (committee member), and I visited Bushikori Centre Uganda.**

It was wonderful to meet Isaac, the boy whom my late husband and I had sponsored from the age of nine. He is now a fine young man, working back at the clinic as a Clinical Medical Officer. It just shows what education can do.

We were taken out to a tiny village to meet Isaac’s family. We pulled up outside a humble mud brick dwelling and the van was immediately surrounded by people singing and dancing, shrieking and hand fluttering, giving us a typical Ugandan welcome. It was overwhelming. All Isaac’s brothers, his sister, aunts and uncles, mother and stepmother were there.

We were ushered into the two roomed home and seated. "Amazing Grace" was sung in beautiful African harmony. Each family member spoke through an interpreter.

A special cake iced and decorated with brown and yellow flowers was cut and distributed. Then out came bowls of food -- a Ugandan feast! Chicken and meat-( only eaten rarely),beans, rice,and chapattis. We were made to feel so special.

On two days we were taken on field trips into the heart of Uganda visiting villages to meet our other sponsored children. Constance was oh so poor,- one roomed mud hut, shared by eleven people. She slept on a grass mat on the floor. Practically no furniture in the hut. I had purchased some summer tops along

with some other goodies as a gift. The absolute delight in Constance’s smile as she opened her parcel was something I will never forget.

Mabel my other sponsored child, was twenty-one and studying civil engineering. Her mother has AIDS and her father is dead. Her mother used to make and sell samosas to earn money but now is too ill. Mabel was delighted with her tops and she too rushed off to try them on -just like any Aussie teenager would.

We also took much needed rice, oil, sugar and soap.

One of Marg’s sponsored children presented her with a live hen....an honour indeed!! It was taken back to the BCC to be used there.

I was fortunate to be able to take an art activity with some of the children

at the Joshua School and as they do not have Art in their curriculum it was a new and exciting activity for them.

To see first hand the wonderful work done at the clinic and the Joshua School, and the dedication of the staff in trying to make a difference in the lives of the children, has made me so much more aware of the great need that exists and how much more that can be done through the grace of God.

The little we do for them, means SO much to them.

We were indeed privileged to be made so welcome where ever we went. Those beautiful smiles remain etched in my memory. It was a wonderful experience.

Lucy Stone

**Marg Ryan, Lucy Stone being greeted on their arrival at Bushikori by Director Anne Wandendeya, Chairman Tom Odoi, and staff of BCC**



## President's Report

A person who cares recently asked me "what would happen if my meaning changed?" This sentence sat with me for quite awhile. It is deceptively simple yet it encompasses many ways of responding. A rapid reaction is to dismiss this as purely relational – my meaning changes according to what I am to whatever person I stand before. Perhaps I am a mother, a daughter, a worker, a boss, - I am certainly a citizen of my country, and whether I acknowledge it or not, God regards me as His beloved child. The labels we wear signify our meaning. Some we are proud to bear but others trap us. Unwanted, unloved, useless,..... orphan. God's love for us is about shining His light on bad labels and transforming them into life giving labels. Bushikori is about shining God's love. Bushikori believes in 1 John 4:19 - we love because he first loved us.

Jesus in the telling of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) challenges us to ask "who is my neighbour?" In God's kingdom the people who surround Bushikori Uganda are my neighbour and I am theirs. It also asks of us to help those in need. This year we have been challenged by circumstances faced by a few of our sponsored children. One teenage child has suffered from epilepsy which has unfortunately progressed to the level in which the child can not remain in school. As our sponsorship program deals with sponsoring a child's education what could be done? The sponsor now provides a welfare payment to continue to help their sponsored child while BCC Uganda works at finding ade-

quate medication, and a way to train the child in a skill to allow the child to earn an income. Another teenage sponsored child has recently had a baby. BCC Uganda had stayed in touch with the girl, provided counseling, the sponsor continued to support the girl and when the baby is of an age where child care may allow the teenage mother to return to education, BCC will attempt to provide her with a skill to be able to support herself and her child. Culturally both these situations are connected with great shame. In the cultural pecking order people in these situations have no voice at all. I am proud that BCC gives them a voice and advocates for them. In 2012 the Bushikori field workers found a very desperate family - a mother (widow) and her five children. BCC negotiated with village elders and her ex father in law to allow the mother to have a small portion of land (that was culturally her due) and BCC Australia sent funds to build a small house. The older children were sponsored. At this time the mother had a newborn baby and also a two year old, Ritah, who could not walk. Both were severely malnourished. In the extreme poverty Ritah's needs were unable to be met due to the needs of the baby, whose slightly better health gave it a better chance of survival. BCC's intervention saved little Ritah's life. I have to admit - sometimes I can not help but think why? Why did the BCC field officers arrive in time to save her? But I have to trust that God will reveal that in His time. If we put our heads up and see the great sea of human need we will drown. Instead we can only trust if God placed them there, right there in

front of us, it must be these He is calling us to help.

Bushikori is involved with child sponsorship so that a child may grow to be all God intended them to be. Bushikori is involved with health care so that all may know that their life matters.

Bushikori's vision to keep relationship between sponsor and child as a key goal is not an easy road. Often we are called to make decisions on a case by case basis while remaining true to guidelines already in place. This is often a difficult process as this produces extra work for the Child Sponsorship Co-ordinator and the Treasurer. Yet BCC, in knowing that God has created us all to be unique, upholds that your individuality matters.

Bushikori is involved with relationship because that is where we know each other, that is where we matter to each other and that is where love is.

I thank you all for your many varied expressions of love to Bushikori.

*By Kerry Peacock*

**Below: Anne Wandendeya, Director of Bushikori Uganda. Please keep her in your prayers.**

