

Bushikori

Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc



God's Amazing ♥ Love

His **love** is *unquestionable -*
Its **power** *unconquerable,*
Its **meaning** *undeniable,*
Its **mystery** ♥ *unexplainable,*
Its **sacrifice** *incomparable,*
Its **price** *unimaginable,*
Its **absence** *unthinkable!*

For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.

♥ John 3:16

*Dayspring 2012

"The Australian Support Committee would like to again say thank you for your continuing love and sacrifice for the children of BCC and pray that God's love and blessings will be with you this Easter."

April 2014

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

Bushikori Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc.
No. A0038574F

PO Box 42
Geelong, Victoria
Australia 3220

www.bushikori.org.au
(Thank you to Stephen Davey at Pagination for his help & hosting our site)

Please advise if you wish to receive this newsletter by email. This newsletter is also available online from our website.

Editor: Layla Peacock
Ph: 5259 3718

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

Isaac & Family

ISAAC is aged 19 and was born of Sarah and Davis and is a third born in the family of 5 children with three brothers and one sister. They are: Peter Masika 25, Betty Nabutsale 22, Nicholas Namanda 17, Brian Nabutenyi 14, Betty and Brian are also on BCC sponsorship program.

In 2002 Davis, Isaac's father fell sick and lost his mind (became insane), he left home to an unknown destination though he is believed to be alive in one of the landing sites along Lake Victoria.

When the relatives realized that he (Davis) was no longer at home, they decided to chase the whole family from the ancestral land and took up all property and land leaving them more desperate and helpless.

In 2003 due to the mistreatment, they relocated from Bududa a neighboring district to Bungokho – Mbale district where they were housed by an Auntie who also later helped them acquire a small piece of Land (30 by 40 strides) on which they now live. Bushikori Christian Centre came into contact with this family through our Church when they began to fellowship with us.

We took up Isaac in 2004 when he is in primary seven, and the organization has helped him through primary and secondary and now he has began his university course. Over the years Isaac has excelled in his studies and we really feel he will be a significant figure to our nation due to his hard work.

Since the family is struggling to survive, the mother is not able to finance Isaac's extra cost of the course thus therefore we are requesting that



From left to right: Nicholas, Isaac, Betty, Brian and Mother. (Peter not present) January 2014

he is on scholarship which will go a long way to enable him realize his dreams and will be beneficial to the family, BCC and community at large.

God's Blessing to you all for the great consideration.

Dan Wambi
Child Care Co-ordinator
Bushikori Christian Centre.

Isaac is also sponsored by a Geelong family since 2005. Isaac has commenced a Veterinary Science course which is above our tertiary cap of \$1000 pa. Many thanks to Kardinia Rotary for providing the scholarship to cover the extra course costs.



Congratulations to Elsie Brown for receiving an OAM on Australia Day. Elsie is a member of the Bushikori Australian Support Committee (since 1998) and greatly enjoyed her trip to Bushikori Uganda in 2003.

Child Sponsorship Report

The beginning of the year is always a very busy time for the Child Care staff at Bushikori Christian Centre. Some students need to be settled into new schools and we have had 26 sponsored students pass their National Primary Examinations, which is held at the end of Primary 7, and gain entrance to secondary school. Most of these will be leaving home for the first time and moving into hostel accommodation. This means that staff not only need to organise to take them to their new school into the town but also purchase bedding for them such as a foam mattress, sheets, blanket and a locker that they can keep their belongings in. Some of these items are purchased through your gifts or from the Gift & Welfare Pool (a fund that provides necessary items for needy families).

In mid-February the Senior 4 students receive their exam results and bring them into the centre. These students are then counselled as to whether they would like to commence a vocational course; repeat the year if their marks were too low to qualify for entrance into the next level (called Advanced,

which is Senior 5 & 6) or proceed happily into Advanced but sometimes this also necessitates changing schools to suit the future career options of students. After this the Senior 6 exam results come out and then these students also come into the centre to meet with staff and discuss possible future directions for them in regards to a vocational or tertiary course.

Back in Australia we are busy updating sponsors of these students with this information, posting out letters that the students have written over the holidays and also emailing or posting photos. We also email BCC Uganda regularly with your queries. Thankyou for your patience in waiting for these answers as you can see this is a very busy time!

Liane Foord
Child Co-Ordinator
sponsorship@bushikori.org.au

Currently there is an urgent need for the sponsoring of 40 children - ranging from nursery class to secondary 5.

Sponsor a Child



#1388 Timothy is 12 years old. He lives with his parents and 3 siblings. They have a small piece of land for cultivation but are struggling to meet even the basic needs for the family.



#1470 Saumu is 13 years old. She lives with her aunt since her mother died of tuberculosis and her father is not able to care for her. The aunt is struggling to provide for her as she has many other children under her care.



#1287 Ruth is 14 years old. She lives with both parents, who are living a peasantry life although the father helps at Joshua Primary School as a cook. The family meets a lot of difficulties in educational support as what the father gets is just to sustain the family in daily food.

Fee Increases

Please find below a summary of the changes.

Payment Options - Sponsorship

(for children in school)

Annual Rate	\$360
Six Monthly Rate	\$180
Quarterly Rate	\$ 90
Monthly	\$ 30

Additional Payments

(If your child is in Hostel)

Payment is preferred:	Yearly in Jan	\$270
Otherwise:	Six Monthly in Jan/June	\$135
If you desire:	Monthly payments	\$ 23

Tertiary support arrangements are unchanged.

Christmas Gathering

At the Christmas gathering, the sponsored children received Christmas gifts and cards as a way of sharing Christ's love.

Bushikori Christian Centre holds Children Gathering Christmas Celebrations (Dec 17th/18th/19th) in four community locations near where the sponsored children live. They are busy, noisy, joyous occasions where each child can know that they are part of something much bigger than themselves. They sing items and Christmas Carols, they have a special lunch that includes meat with their rice, and each child has a greatly anticipated soft drink.



All 420 children receive a Christmas card, and a gift of food to share with their guardians. Each child received a 2kg packet of baking flour, half a litre of cooking oil, and a piece of Vaseline. A report by Uganda



In 2010 Bushikori began a Joshua Primary-Nursery Grade (like our Kinder) in the Bushikori Church across the road.

There was an overwhelming need to begin this class and all children come from very vulnerable families. The families contribute what food they can as a form of payment, so that all children get a meal.

We are beginning to have some of the children sponsored and BCC is developing a more structured learning environment. In the 2013 report they held their first "graduation" to celebrate this initiative.

Currently there is an urgent need for a classroom for these little ones.



Thank you to all who attended our Annual Movie Fundraiser "Saving Mr Banks" and a Big thank you to Reading Cinemas Waurm Ponds for their help each year.

Together we raised \$2650 for the general fund- which keeps the Bushikori centre going and helps with the staff wages of the Ugandans who work hard caring for all the children.

Pink Umbrella Foundation

In August 2012 the centre in Uganda received the first visit from Sue O'Neill together with Robert and Graham, Executive Directors of the Pink Umbrella Foundation. This Foundation provides grants and medical equipment in collaboration with Rotary International. Their funding priorities are for projects that address Maternal health, Child welfare, Primary health services and Education. After their first visit to BCC they congratulated Anne Wandendeya for the commitment to providing quality education and skills training for less fortunate children and their families. They were particularly impressed by the BCC Health Centre and the range of primary health care services provided to the surrounding community. In addition to their generous funding they have also donated equipment including a patient monitor that measures blood pressure and pulse oximetry, a portable ultrasound for obstetric use, an oxygen concentrator, battery operated lamps charged by sunlight and beds for the traditional birth attendants to use in their village while delivering babies. Funding was provided this year for a portable haemoglobin (Hb) analyser to complement the laboratory equipment at the Health Centre. Each year the directors of The Pink Umbrella Foundation visit BCC to review the progress of the health programme.

An overview by Esther Cohen

Sue O'Neil on their visit in November 2013

"We had a much more relaxed trip to Bushikori this time and spent some quality time with Levert. It was good to see that the ultrasound machine, donated earlier, has become an integral part of the clinic's pre-natal care.

During this trip we were able to donate an oxygen concentrator to the clinic and we expect this will also become an important part of the clinic's treatment programs.

As usual we visited the rural communities and in particular the traditional birth attendants to see if the solar lights we recently donated have been beneficial. We were pleased to hear they have made a significant difference and we received some very nice letters and some "interesting" gifts thanking us for the assistance. We continue to be inspired by the TBA's and their dedication to helping their local community with very minimal resources. In conjunction with Levert we identified a need for some simple beds in the TBA rooms that will not only make it more comfortable for the expectant mothers but also make it easier for the TBA's to perform their work"



This is Zeporah a 73 yr old traditional birth attendant with Levert (Clinic Officer) demonstrating a solar light in the birthing hut.

What is an oxygen concentrator?

It is a machine that plugs into a wall electrical outlet and then takes room air through a filtering system and converts it to more pure oxygen. Regular room air has 21% oxygen and this machine removes nitrogen and can produce around 87-95% oxygen that is ready to be administered to a patient via a face mask or nasal prongs.

Why do we need an oxygen supply at Bushikori Health Centre?

Having a reliable oxygen supply is an important goal to especially manage cases of acute respiratory infection mainly severe pneumonia. This is the leading cause of death in young children worldwide. Medical oxygen is in limited supply in the developing world. The health centre requires an oxygen concentrator and if possible oxygen cylinders for backup and provision of a reliable oxygen supply. The new oxygen concentrator is a huge step in the history of the health centre it will assist with treatment for patients who present with life-threatening hypoxaemia and these same patients can now be monitored with the pulse oximeter that was also donated by the Pink Umbrella Foundation.

Spiritual Conference

The three-day residential conference with a theme "ADDING VIRTUE TO YOUR YOUTH" was held on 6th-8th December for students aged 14-19 yrs old. The overall objective of the conference was to equip students with the knowledge of Christian values/principles/attributes they have to continuously embrace in order to be fruitful in future with God's blessings. The conference provided a great opportunity for students to interact with each other and receive much needed counselling and mentorship, through group therapy and one-on-one communication with social workers. A report by Uganda



In our December newsletter we mentioned the **Dining Hall Project** - an extension on the existing Staffroom.

Uganda is now calling it the Multi-purpose Hall. Building has begun - and again we gratefully thank the **Make a Difference Auction Night**, and some special private donors who have made this versatile asset to the school possible.



P7 Celebrations

The Australian Committee each year sends a postcard of an Australian animal or flower to each Primary 7 child. We have P7 sponsored children at Joshua Primary School (JPS), as well as P7 sponsored children at other schools. Joshua Primary School also has non-sponsored (fee paying) children from the community who also get a card.

We congratulate them on completing Primary school, and to let them know we pray that they do well in their National Examinations, and wish them well in senior school.

This year the committee was delighted to receive thank you letters from the non-sponsored children for their card. To the left we have enclosed one for you to enjoy also.

Written by Kerry Peacock

BUSHIKORI CHRISTIAN CENTRE P.O. BOX 594 MBALE UGANDA, EAST AFRICA TEL: +256 045 4 680 547 - OFFICE			
LETTER TO THE SPONSOR			
SPONSOR'S NAME:	AUSTRALIAN SUPPORT COMMITTEE	SPONSOR COUNTRY:	-
CHILD'S NAME:	MASAWI GERALD	ID NUMBER:	-
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL:	SECONDARY CLASS: S-1	AGE:	13
HEALTH STATUS:	Good	DATE OF WRITING:	7/2/2014
<p>Dear members of the Australian support committee I thank you for the success card and your wishes of success in my secondary education. I also thank for the scriptures that you have written for me. I am a paying child. In my primary Primary Leaving Examinations I got English 3, Mathematics 4, Science 4 and Social studies 2. I passed in division two. You have loved really loved me and shown me the true concern through the card that you sent for me. I wish will be praying for you always. may God bless you with great love from Masawi Gerald.</p>			
<p>THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN BY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPONSORED CHILD <input type="checkbox"/> FACILITATOR/ GUARDIAN/PARENT/SIBLING <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>CHILD CARE DEPT OFFICER, COMMENTS.</p> <p>Hallo members. Greetings to you in the name of Jesus Christ. We are writing to thank you for the success card you sent for Masawi Gerald. To him it is a sign of love as he is not sponsored. We thank you for the time you set aside to offer prayers to God on behalf of this child. May God bless you in everything you are doing for us. Have a great year 2014.</p>			
CHILD DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:	Debra Basco	COORDINATOR:	Debra Basco
Signature:	<i>[Signature]</i>	Signature:	<i>[Signature]</i>
Matthew 28:19 - 20 & 25:31-40			

Annual Highlights

Recently we received the Annual Report from Uganda so we would like to share some of the highlights with you.

Child sponsorship - 23 new sponsors. 575 letters written and sent to sponsors, 222 letters and parcels received from Australia. Social workers made 747 home visits and 48 school visits in the year. Gifts disbursed to students included 52 mattresses, 55 pairs of shoes, 56 blankets, 48 pairs of bedsheets, 51 suitcases, 42 mozzie nets, 57 outfits of clothes.

Joshua Primary – 306 pupils are at the school. An AGM was held on 15th Oct attended by children and 200 guardians/parents. They try to provide a hot meal every day to help with children's concentration. Pupils participate in debates, sport, music and drama. Music, dance and drama helps young children to retain their culture, to enjoy school life and also develop their talent.

Clinic - Outpatients is open to the surrounding 32,000 local

community members 24 hrs a day. They treated 2896 people. A further 1200 patients were admitted to the 22 bed Health centre. 1500 children were immunised. 2028 lab screenings of blood for malaria/TB, and 182 patients had ultrasound scans. The maternity unit had 214 admissions. BCC supports 9 traditional birth attendants who work out in the field in outposts. In total they delivered 121 babies, and provided ante & post natal care.

Sustainable Environmental Management – BCC raised and distributed 86,862 seedlings. A District Forest Officer has trained members on proper tree planting.

Community Library – has approx 6,000 books and is working hard to promote reading. All JPS students and all BCC staff spend time in the library. Community members are very welcome. There is a need for books suitable for adult readers.

By Kerry Peacock



Children guided by a Social worker to write letters to sponsors

Child receives a parcel from the sponsor

Children Excited after receiving Bibles

Pupils Participate in Praise and Worship Sessions



A Van and Motorcycles support field work Activities. There is however urgent need for a second van to match overwhelming transportation needs

Prayer Requests from BCC Uganda

- * Pray against bad cultural practises which deter development ie. high dropout rate for girls for early marriage and prostitution.
- * Pray that staff acquire a bigger vehicle to solve transport issues of staff and students.
- * For Uganda – peace, stability, good governance and less corruption
- * Thanksgiving – for how far the Lord has brought us, for friends/partners in this work, Thanks for the day to day Grace.