

Bushikori

Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc



September 2014

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

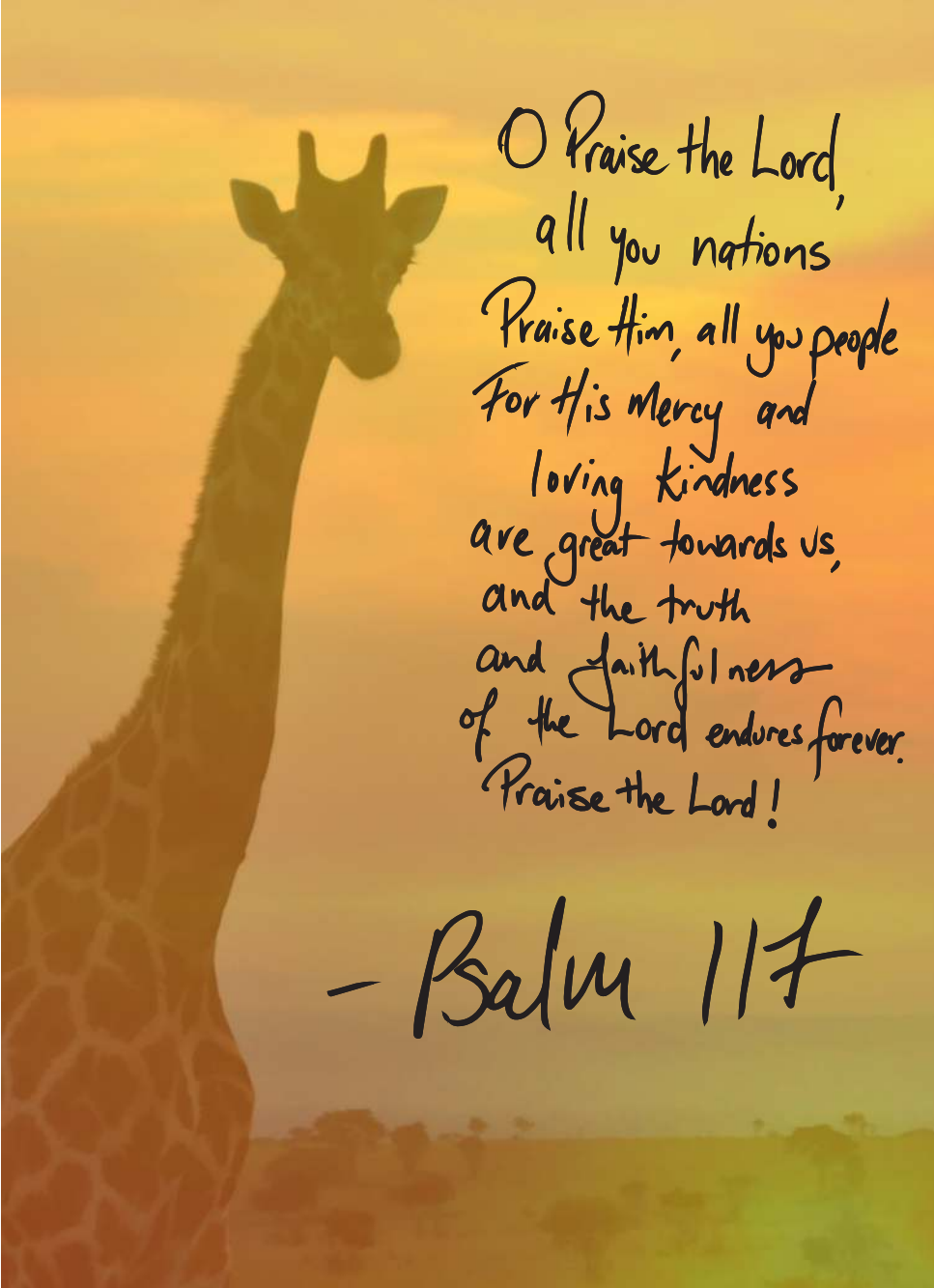
Bushikori Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc.
No. A0038574F

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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



O Praise the Lord,
all you nations
Praise Him, all you people
For His mercy and
loving kindness
are great towards us,
and the truth
and faithfulness
of the Lord endures forever.
Praise the Lord!

- Psalm 117

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 CHILDREN IN UGANDA

Joshua Primary on Show!

A few months ago my husband and I had the privilege of taking a group of people to visit Bushikori Christian Centre Uganda. The staff and children at BCC were so excited to have a team coming to visit and had much they wanted to show us. A full itinerary had been planned for us. The students at Joshua Primary School had been busy learning songs and dances and we were made to feel "most welcome". The Music Dance & Drama teacher helped the children write a song and poem especially for us!

The staff had organised an Open Day to show case all the different aspects of the school. The day opened with a welcoming speech from the new head teacher Mr Wilfred Okecho. The choir sang in beautiful harmony, the children performed local dances in colourful costumes and also played some local instruments – single string instruments played with a bow like a violin, multiple stringed instruments of various sizes similar to a harp, finger pianos with metal bars and various sized drums (of course!)

We watched as four children from each house (Wandendeya or Duffield) competed in a spelling competition and general knowledge quiz. Some of the questions had us scratching our heads. The children were amazingly confident as they competed in front of the whole school and the visitors.

The Literature club recited a poem about friendship. One part that I still remember - "A friend is someone who sings a song in your heart and then sings it back to you when you have forgotten how it goes." A student read us one of their local stories called "The Bull & the Calf" with beautiful expression

For Science, some P4 & P7 students demonstrated the water cycle, explained the digestive system and diseases of the digestive system (the facial expressions for constipation were hilarious). There was also a maths display with P5 students showing some work with clocks and demonstrating numbers in Base 5.

P4 & P5 students had drawn some pictures about kindness and cattle rearing. We were given the daunting task of selecting the best three!

The Social Studies display was outside where the P6 & P7 children showed us a wind vane, wind sock and rain gauge they had made from local materials. There were games for the younger students - a bottle filling relay, a rather unusual sack race, a tug of war and much cheering from the two sport houses.

After lunch it was a Sports Afternoon. Our group had raised some funds to have some soccer goals, netball rings and volley ball posts built as well as donating two suitcases full of sports equipment. It was very special to witness the first use of this equipment even though one of our group, who was an A grade netballer, tried to impress on the children that netball was a no contact sport! The competition was fierce as was the barracking from the spectators. The day concluded with speeches and the presentation of trophies by an honoured guest from another member of our team who was an Australian champion.

It was a day full of the "WOW" factor to everything we observed. As a retired teacher myself, I was so proud of the children and the staff and full of admiration for the well-rounded education the children were receiving.

Liane Foord





Thank you to all who attended the Footy Fun & Trivia Night in August, and a Big Thank you to all the Businesses that supported the event, including St Andrews Uniting Church, East Geelong.

Together we raised \$3817 for the Richard Stone - Tertiary Fund. This fund is used to give every sponsored child with Bushikori the opportunity to have further education beyond high school.

Save The Dates:

Thanksgiving Service:

Celebrating 20yrs of The Australian Support Committee.

Sunday November 16th commencing 2pm.
Belmont Uniting Church. Thomson Rd. Belmont.

Annual General Meeting:

Including Presentation of recent trip to BCC.
Tuesday October 21st commencing 7:30pm.
St John's Anglican Church. Roslyn Rd. Highton.
All Welcome.

Prayer Points:

For the P7 students who sit an exam at the beginning of November called the Primary Leaving Exam (PLE) which determines whether they can progress to further education or not.

For the secondary students to settle back into school after holidays.

For transport - due to an accident the Child Care Dept motorbike is needing repairs.

Children's Christmas Gathering and Youth Spiritual Conference will happen again first week in December. Pray it will be a time of joy and fellowship for the family of Bushikori!

Praise!

- For being able to fellowship with BCC Uganda with the recent visit, encouraging each other and growing in understanding.

Does Sponsorship Work?

I recently read a research article that found that child sponsorship has a measurable impact on the lives of children and the community in which they live. The results showed that the sponsored children stayed in school longer than their non-sponsored peers, were more likely to have white collar jobs and were more likely to be leaders in their communities and churches. In Uganda the impact on education was particularly striking. The sponsored children were 42% more likely to finish secondary education than those not part of a programme and 83% more likely to complete university. They also found that the spiritual aspect of sponsorship might be intrinsic to transforming children's lives. They scored better than their peers on happiness and hopefulness.

We should never underestimate the power of sponsorship in the lives of the children. In Uganda education is a huge privilege, something to be valued. Children are desperate to go to school and to learn. They are diligent in their studies because they know that with an education they can gain meaningful employment that will break the cycle of poverty that exists within their family and community.

Your sponsorship DOES WORK. It provides school fees, uniforms, scholastic materials, food, access to health care and discipleship and mentoring programs. 'Bringing hope' or 'making a difference' are often considered trite phrases, but this is what you do through child sponsorship.

Full Research Article can be found here:
Does International Child Sponsorship Work? A Six-Country Study of Impacts on Adult Life Outcomes
http://usf.usfca.edu/fac_staff/wydict/csp.pdf

I have a folder full of children waiting to be sponsored, several have been waiting a long time! I'd dearly love to see them all sponsored by the end of the year! Spread the word, talk to your friends and neighbours about sponsoring a child through Bushikori Christian Centre. Here are the details on two of them.

Liane Foord
Child Sponsorship Coordinator
sponsorship@bushikori.org.au

Sponsor A Child



#1430 Nathan is 13 years old and also has been on the sponsorship list for 5 years as he is classed as a vulnerable child. He lives with his parents and 5 siblings. They are peasant farmers and are only able to grow enough to sell and provide for their basic needs.



#1519 Mercy is 14 years old and has been on the sponsorship list for 3 years as she is classed as a vulnerable child. She lives with both parents and 4 siblings. They are peasant farmers and are only able to grow enough to sell and provide for their basic needs.



Thank you to the crafty sponsor who sewed a pile of fabric pencil cases and donated textas to put inside. The library is like a house of treasure for the people in this community as many children have never seen a book until they come to school. The children just love library time and one child was even inspired to write his own story. His book was published in aust and a copy is now in the library at BCC encouraging other children to also write!

You've Got Mail!



Have you thought about writing a Christmas message to your sponsored child either by sending a letter or card?

Share some words of love and encouragement with your sponsored child at this very special time of year. The children are always so excited to receive some mail and it makes it real to them, that someone is supporting them.

It only costs \$2.60 to send a letter up to 50g and takes about 10 days to arrive.

The children will be having their Christmas Party in early December so you will need to post your mail by mid November for them to receive it before Christmas.

Please address your correspondence to the address below and include your **child's name and ID Number**.

Bushikori Christian Centre,
PO Box 594,
Mbale,
Uganda, East Africa.

We ask that you **do not** put your own address anywhere on your correspondence.

Instead, please use our address as the return address:

BCC Australian Support Committee
PO Box 42,
Geelong, Victoria, Australia 3220

This is to safeguard you from the possibility of getting unwanted mail requesting monetary assistance.

Honey Ministry

Honey sales has been a fundraising effort for BCC since 1995. That's nearly 20 years of quality Edmond's Honey being sold to help BCC. We gratefully appreciate the Edmond's family support and sincerely thank them. Annually the honey ministry raises over \$2000 for BCC each year and helps get the word out about BCC.

The Australian President visits Uganda!

Kerry Peacock - The President BCC Australia, shares images of her first trip to Bushikori. July 2014.



Introducing the July visiting team.



The visiting team spent some of their funds on a "girls hygiene talk" - a valuable time for the P7 girls to ask all the questions young maturing girls need to ask.

The Australian President visits Uganda! (Continued..)



Visiting sponsored children was a major part of the trip. Using whatever seating was available everyone gathers under the tree to greet and meet. Everlyne introduces me to her mother and sisters. Dan and Steven from BCC help translate.



The Debate - "Ancient life was better than Modern life" was taken very seriously - including the dress code.



This is Stella; she has completed her course work and exams in hospitality. She was interning at Pretoria Hotel Mbale, when I met her. ALL courses in Uganda now have a practical component to be completed before a student can graduate.



Chairman Thomas Odoi welcomes the visiting team in the BCC hall. Only 'Stage One' has been completed but it is being used. All the students and staff can now meet together in one big covered space.



It is protocol in Uganda to give visitors a meal and if they cannot stay that long - you give a gift of food!



Our Farewell day started with a prayer breakfast at 8.30am, testimonies of past students, speeches, holy communion, thanksgiving prayers, more speeches, cake, more prayers, group photos, then lunch at 2pm. We had Gomesi's (done western style) made for Paul Tiboti's wedding - our farewell was another excuse to wear them!

From the Treasurer's Desk

At this time of the year, after completing the Annual Accounts and submitting them to our Auditors, I am able to reflect on the past year and to consider the challenges that lay ahead.

Challenges - The major challenge that we as a committee confront at this time is to raise the funds required to meet the Mission functions that are not covered under the sponsorship fees and allied payments.

Our generous and devoted sponsors provide the funds necessary for the basic care and education of the children of the Mission and we thank and praise God for their dedication.

However the Mission incurs administration and management costs in Uganda that are fundamental to its operation. *(Please note all work in Australia is volunteered, and BCC Uganda only has Ugandan Nationals as staff, ie locals who are providing for their own families by having a job)*

For a number of years, we have undertaken to provide these funds that currently amount to

\$36,000 annually.

In addition, after funding a much needed upgrade of the Health Clinic a few years back (and more recently the Maternity Wing), the Clinic was faced with curtailing activities through a lack of operating funds - the majority of operational funding of the clinic has been and continues to be provided by a grant from one of our supporting organisations. However a further \$12,000 annually was needed to fully maintain this important service to the surrounding community. Your committee made the commitment to provide these funds.

The result is that from that time we have a commitment to cover these two functions to a total level of \$48,000 per year - almost \$1,000 per week.

We have met this need with the support of our member churches, some individual donations and fundraising.

Please pray that God will guide us towards a solution that will enable this work to be adequately funded and maintained in the coming year and onwards into the future.

Thank you to all sponsors - Early this year, as you are all now aware, we found it necessary to increase Sponsorship and Hostel fees by 12.5%. As treasurer, I want to thank all sponsors for their ready acceptance of these increases - I could not have imagined that this would have been introduced and responded to as smoothly as it has - the transfers to Uganda are now reflecting your increase payments. Again, thank you so much.

Direct Deposits - for those that directly deposit into our bank account. Occasionally I find a deposit on our bank statement that has nothing that will identify the depositor. I can sometimes trace them down but can also fail. Please always identify your deposits with your orphan number so that I can identify you and properly receipt and record your donation.

God bless you all for your continued support

Ian Macaulay
Hon. Treasurer

Promoting the work of Bushikori

We have a selection of brochures about the BCC organisation, about sponsoring a child, ways you can help, and copies of newsletters that we would be delighted to post to you if you could use to spread the word!

president@bushikori.org.au

Fundraising Corner

Teatowels - Designed by the children at Joshua Primary. (4 styles \$10ea)

Christmas Cards .. coming soon.

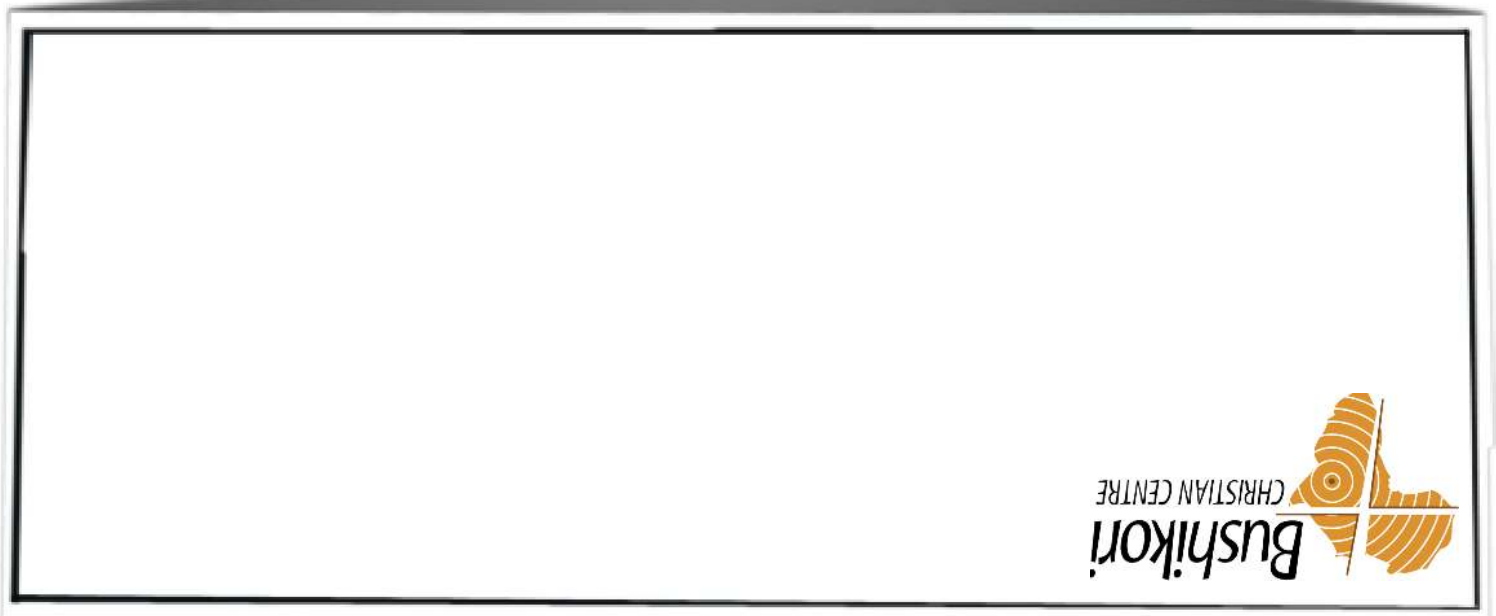
- Unique designs by Barbara Cake - Exclusive to BCC Geelong (packet of 5 for \$10)
- Other Christmas Cards (packet of 8 for \$5)

Prayer Email Tree.

We would like to begin a prayer group by email.

An email would be sent once a week on a Wednesday giving a prayer point to do with Bushikori that we would like you to pray about. If you would like to be sent the prayer email please send an email to president@bushikori.org saying you would like to be involved.

Thank you, Kerry



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Po Box 42 Geelong 3220