



# Bushikori

Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc

December 2016

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(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

FRONT COVER: a gift from Joyce Rodwell to her sponsored child Esther.



*He will be our peace*  
- Micah 5:5

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

# Twenty Years on..

## The story of Humphrey, Stephen, Derick and Beth.

Their father died in 1994, then the mother in 1997 of HIV. They became one of Bushikori's first "child headed families".

The children were chased off their parents land as other family members wanted to inherit it. Stephen turned to the streets trying to earn small amounts of money in the town by mending shoes and brooms, whatever he could do. This meant they barely managed to have one meal a day. When they could stay with friends they slept on the floor in mud huts but they were not always able to stay together. Humphrey met Ps Sam Wandendeya and the children were put up for sponsorship. Their lives changed instantly they had regular meals, and they could be together. Bushikori purchased land and built a small house of mud for the children (it collapsed in the rains of 2010). Eventually all the children were sponsored.

Humphrey completed his diploma in business studies and he says God blessed him with a good job and then a family as he married Miriam Kinconco on 26th September 2009 and they have had children. Derik completed a course in carpentry and joinery. Beth graduated from Ugandan Christian University Kampala with a Bachelor in Social Work. She is a counselor at Legal Action for Persons with Disabilities Uganda. Stephen went to Busitema National College and became a qualified plumber.

Stephen also wanted to do something to contribute to Bushikori; the organisation that has played an integral part in turning Stephen's life around from the streets. He volunteered as a Field Officer for 6 months. He felt proud to be able to do something for the organisation that provided such excellent support to him. He also successfully applied for a job at Bushikori. Whilst in employment Stephen's thirst for knowledge, and drive to improve his skills does not cease; he has continually studied alongside his work. First obtaining a certificate in Advanced Plumbing which helped lead to a promotion to a maintenance position at Bushikori, and he is now at college studying for a Diploma in Water Engineering. After this course Stephen is hoping to save enough money to study Civil Engineering at university.

Stephen is overwhelmingly grateful to Bushikori for helping him through a dark time. He would have not survived the ordeal without Bushikori and his unrelenting faith. When he comes to work at Bushikori he says it feels more like he is coming to see his family.

*BOTTOM: Director Anne with Beth and Humphrey.*

*TOP: Stephen and his wife Esther. Director Anne and Bushikori take the parent role for Stephen's introduction ceremony, and then for his church wedding.*



# Vale.

## Liane Foord

(16.4.1956-25.10.2016)

On the 3rd November at Liane's service I was able to wear my Ugandan outfit to represent those half a world away in Uganda who hold Liane in their hearts. Uganda claimed a piece of Liane's heart. She travelled there three times and thought about the country and its people daily.

In 2014 I went to Uganda on a trip I did with Liane and Rex. I was there because Liane thought I should go – and after years of chipping away she had finally outmanoeuvred me – it was one of the best decisions I never made.

Liane joined the Bushikori Committee in August 2007. She took on the task of co-ordinating our Film Night fundraisers. Then in November 2011 Liane became the Child co-ordinator, handling 380 + sponsorships and the 250+ sponsors. Liane grabbed the Child Co-ordinator role with both hands, redesigning and enriching the role. Liane always made full use of technology with constant emails seeking information from Bushikori, scanning of the child documents, filing and maintaining incredibly diligent, meticulous details about a sponsored child in the database. This has seen increased communication with sponsors all of whom she enjoyed getting to know better.

Liane always had so much delight when a package of letters came from Uganda and she read them all, picking up little details she added to the database. It amazed me how we could be discussing one child and Liane would go - I think she is so and so sister. Considering they all use different surnames that was no easy task! Her day brightened beyond sunshine if it was a day someone had agreed to sponsor a child. Liane kept every Bushikori child in her heart – all 380- plus those on the waiting list-and prayed for them all.

I remember on our visit in Uganda one very hot day – when had been out in the bus visiting the Traditional birth attendants – we had nearly got the bus bogged in a rice field, we had been bounced and jolted around, and were just about over it all when we found ourselves sitting waiting waiting and waiting as the person we were there to see was off delivering a baby. As usual we were surrounded by children. One very small dusty boy edged closer. Then he sat on the bench. Then he edged closer to Liane. Tentatively he reached up and touched her blonde hair, and Liane scooped him up into a big hug. They grinned at each other with delight and when released he ran off giggling. Liane looked at us with puppy dog eyes and said "isn't he just adorable? Don't you just want to put him in your suitcase and take him home?" Both Rex and I thought the same thing "Um No". But that impulse to love a child, is what we loved about her.

Liane enjoyed getting to know the children and she was proud of all of them in their efforts to be educated. Liane is deeply loved by all at Bushikori – Dan- (formerly child coordinator at Bushikori Uganda)

wrote this week – "Liane, has been such an inspiration to me. She worked tirelessly on the child sponsorship and as I was corresponding with her, I could get the impression of the passion she has for this voluntary work. She worked all time even when she has been unwell. God bless you Liane and sustain the work you have been passionate about."

On 30th October the Bushikori board members, the Bushikori staff, the teachers and the children of the primary school, two of Liane and Rex's sponsored children and the Bushikori church family held a service to celebrate the life of "sister" Liane. Director Anne wrote they reflected on the richness of her love, and the selfless life that sister Liane lived. We thank God that we were honored to be associated with such a great woman of God.

We too here, thank God for Liane. To all of us involved -Bushikori is a story of love. Of how we love our neighbour as ourselves, of God's love for us – and of our love of each other. We will always love and cherish our dear friend Liane.

- By Kerry Peacock



Rex, Liane and Kerry in our outfits that were farewell gifts from Bushikori in 2014

## Ways people help.

Invitations to Bushikori to take part: Waurn Ponds Community Church held a Missions Dinner night on 28th October.

Bushikori was invited to have a table in their hall to display our brochures, and sell our fundraising items. We really enjoyed being a part of a night that celebrated other cultures and countries by sampling their food, and also hearing people speak on mission work.

Belmont Uniting Church fair - held their annual event on 12th of November and Bushikori was invited to have a table for display and selling items. Edmonds Honey for Bushikori had a whole table of its own! (Its is rumoured our Patron Margery popped in to check it all out and had a wonderful time...)

Make for a difference group organised another Truffleduck Dinner on 26th August. A beautiful meal, lovely surroundings and heartfelt words by the French family on why they sponsor seven children. The French children delighted us all with their singing. The dinner raised \$11,822 towards finishing the Multipurpose Hall.

Also in August one of our sponsors (and MC extraordinaire) Lindsay White was a speaker at a conference in Sydney and asked that his fee be donated to Bushikori. Not only helping financially but also spreading the word 'Bushikori' that little bit further!

Retirees Cement Works Museum in winding up its organisation decided to ask for suggestions for beneficiaries. Thank you Evert Van Dreven for suggesting Bushikori.

Readings Waurn Ponds – for helping us with our film fundraisers – especially for the 9th December Queen of Katwe, set in Uganda !

## From the President.

When we talk about the role of the Australian Support committee – we say “we have always partnered with Uganda, right from the beginning, as a Ugandan National has always been the Director”.

Historically, partner is an alteration of Middle English parcener, which means joint heir. Now that captures what I believe Bushikori is. “Joint Heir” leads us straight to Romans 8: 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. (NRSV)

Bushikori has had some incredibly hard times and some miraculously good times, but in all times we are in it together. Equal heirs in God’s love, partnering together to do His work caring for children and each other. It means Bushikori is a story of love. Of how we love our neighbour as ourselves, of how we love each other, of Gods love and how He has provided. It also includes your love – you, the sponsors and the supporters - and we are deeply grateful for all that you do. Thank you! May joy be your gift this Christmas and may faith hope and love be your treasures in the New Year.



Triplets with family and Anne at Bushikori in July 2016. The very first triplets born at Bushikori in March 2016. First born is Nahia Mukhwana second born is Nabia Namono and the third born is Shisa Nasimu. They are out of danger and growing well!

Our **AGM** was held on Wednesday Nov 2nd at 7.30pm. Clips were shown of the HIV outreach day held at Bushikori Centre, and of the triplets journey so far. A power point presentation showed the history of the infrastructure at Bushikori. **Thank you** to **St John’s Highton** for allowing us the use of rooms and equipment, to **Doug Rolfe** for his AV skills, to **Church by the Bay** for the printing of the AGM report booklet, and to **Esther Cohen** for the gift of a lovely supper.

# Multipurpose Hall Update.



The hall being used for the Christmas Gathering. 2015.



The hall being used for Sunday School Lessons by Director Anne.



The hall being used for Joshua Primary School examinations. 2016.

The **Footy Fun and Trivia Night** held at St Johns Highton on 6th August raised nearly \$5000 for the Richard Stone Tertiary Fund. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the comper of the evening - Ian Cover from the Coodabeen champions.

A big **Thank you** to Ian, and to the Friends of Bushikori team who organised it all. We would also like to thank the businesses who supported us by donating prizes for the silent auction. The effort by all involved in the evening is greatly appreciated.

# Van Update.

Dear Sister Kerry,  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, praise the Lord! We are extremely excited and overjoyed to finally have the van ! We received it on Friday 15th July and oh.. What a great thing the Lord has done! It's been many months of praying and waiting. Thank you so much for praying with us, thank you for supporting, thank you for waiting.. **THANK YOU!** Please pass on my regards and hugs to everyone who has graciously supported us.  
Blessings! Anne.

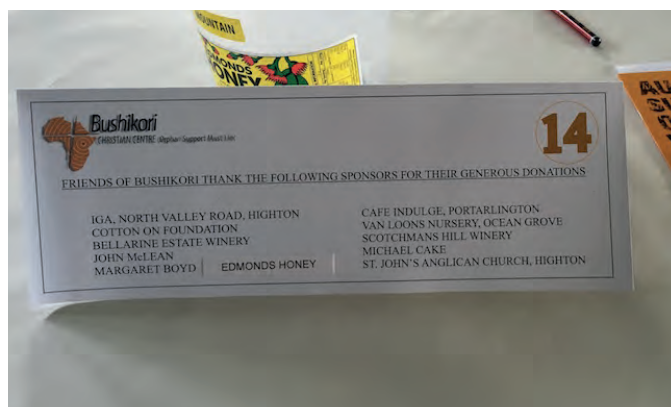
Then on the 18 July we received by email pictures of the van actually on Bushikori soil. What joy!



This year the **prayer email** group was boosted by new additions raising our number to 22. Most Wednesdays a short email is sent asking for prayer on a specific topic, relating to either Uganda or Australian committee- or both.

If you wish to receive these emails please send **president@bushikori.org.au** an email requesting to be put on the list. Emails are sent using bcc so as to retain privacy.

I sincerely **thank all who help in this way** – and also to all of you who pray for Bushikori without receiving these emails.



# A Report from the Child Care Department in Uganda.

The **annual Christmas Gathering** for the 450 sponsored children will occur over 12th and 13th December, 2016. Cooking for over 400 children has been a huge undertaking so we have decided to buy the food stuffs and the children will share with their families in their homes during Christmas. We will visit the different areas Bunamulunyi, Bungokho, Busiu, and have those children surrounding gather for fellowship, and deliver the gifts of rice, sugar, soap and Vaseline.

In December we will hold a **Tertiary and Vocational Students Peer Workshop** for the 50 sponsored young adults. Instead of having one big youth conference a year, we have decided to have many smaller meetings throughout the year. We have already had such smaller workshops with the primary and secondary school children. We believe these will be more effective and manageable. They will enable us to provide better counselling and attention to each youth more often. We will transport the children and share a meal together.

The first Peer workshop was held on 7th September in the Multi purpose hall for the children aged 12 to 22. The Child Care Department's major objective is to impact Bushikori Christian Centre's sponsored children with knowledge to handle life's challenges wholly through education, spiritual guidance, career guidance and counseling as well as welfare support.

This one day event was started early and run as per our program as a way of teaching our children that time keeping and following schedules is very important for anyone to succeed in life. As a matter of fact, those who arrived late found the event underway and got a wakeup call. We spent time Praising, worshipping and praying to God as we started and all attendees participated.

We understand that most of our children do not attend church in their homes so whenever we gather, we make it a point to guide them towards the Lord for without him, we all can achieve nothing.

## **Sponsorship Policy Guidelines.**

We make it a point to remind the children of their responsibilities towards the sponsorship privilege whenever we have audience with them. The Department coordinator therefore started off the morning session with a talk to this regard, gave a printed out copy of the children's roles in the sponsorship program and together with the children, reminded them of their responsibilities towards sponsorship i.e. Stay in school, Write a letter to your sponsor at least once a year, Bring a report Card at the end of the school term which is a prerequisite for one to get the next terms fees paid.

**Pursuing a Life of Purpose** by *Pastor Muwanguzi Richard, of Child Evangelical fellowship.* He is a favorite at JPS as he spends every Thursday with the children during chapel time. He shared about living a purpose driven life. He cited his life testimony of 'rags to riches' as a motivation to the attendants. The talk centered on 'finding Gold in the junk' as many of our children live within very poor support systems in the homes Ps. Richard stressed the fact that whatever you put your mind to can be achieved. The children were encouraged to write down their dreams and work towards achieving them with God's help and above all, stay in school. Scripture reading was taken for Ephesians 3:20 and proverbs 19:21.

**Success is not by Accident** by *Apostle Emma.* He spoke about how to succeed in life. Emphasis was put on the fact that the future is not dependent on anyone's terrible beginning or background one has to make a decision to succeed through

hard work, avoiding wrong company and determining to become the best that God intended for them. He read from Jeremiah 29:11 'for I know the plans I have for you, to prosper you and give you an expected end' and the resounding Statement during this session was "Success attracts success" He spoke about how God can change one's life as our past should never be an excuse.

**Pursuing Purity** by *Gideon Nyomorosu Of Scripture Union Uganda.* This talk revolved around pursuing purity through abstinence. Basing on psalms 139:13/14, the children learnt that they have to value our bodies as the temple of God. They have to know their identity and as a result they will know their responsibility. This was the highlight of the morning as his presentation involved vivid descriptions, short skits and dramas demonstrating how early sex and unwanted pregnancies can mess with a young person's life. As 1st Corinthians 6:12 says, all is permissible but we should not be mastered by everything. There was a lot of excitement as the session went on and we hope that the call to pursue purity through abstinence will not be erased from the participant's minds.

We then shared a meal with the children after a power packed morning session and returned for the afternoon session focusing on reproductive health centered on prevention.

The **Reproductive Health Talk** by *Levert Wafula (Cinic Officer at Bushikori) and Florence Busikwa.* Having Levert's assistant - Florence Busikwa (a BCC alumni who now works in the health center) facilitate a session was encouraging to the children as she is an example of determination leading to success.

This talk focused on puberty, hygiene, good feeding habits and seemingly

This talk focused on puberty, hygiene, good feeding habits and seemingly obvious but overlooked important habits like hand washing, using a toilet, drinking enough water, sleeping under a mosquito net etc. It was very interactive and the children asked many questions to which the facilitators responded. The earlier talks about abstinence and success were given more emphasis. It was crowned with 98 girls receiving a pack of sanitary material each.

The Child Care Department team appreciates God for enabling us hold this workshop; it was mind opening to hear from the children firsthand the challenges they face. We believe we achieved our objectives as we have already seen a positive response in enthusiasm to write letters to their sponsors and keep us updated on what is going on in their lives. Through this experience, we will be better prepared to keep inspiring and motivating them as we steer them towards success.

Many thanks to the leadership of the director – Mama Anne Wandendeya through whom all we do is possible. Above all, we thank the friends and supporters of Bushikori all over the world, most especially in Australia for continuously supporting the children and making a huge difference in their lives. It is not in vain. To you we pray Numbers 24.

God Bless you  
Grace Olowo, Sponsor Relations Co-Ordinator

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## Changes in Bushikori Staff.

Earlier this year Dan Wambi (Child Coordinator at Bushikori) left to pursue a Masters degree at Makerere University in Kampala.

Director Anne wrote to us: "Initially we are looking at a temporal replacement, as we pray for someone who will not be at target worker but a servant. In the proposed arrangement we will not need a coordinator, rather an experienced social worker. Temporarily we shall assign each of us particular children to handle in this period. Moses (Human Resource Officer) and I (Anne) will directly handle students in Tertiary and Vocational, Mary & Stephen (workers in the Child care Dept) will handle Secondary school students, and all of us will handle Primary and pre primary.

During this time Anne's daughter, Grace Olowo has been spending two weeks of the month in Mbale (the other two in her home in Kampala) at Bushikori overseeing the finish of the multipurpose hall and helping in the Child Care department.

Please join Bushikori in praying for the right person to fill the position



## BCC Aust Committee Member

**Pamela Ferrar**

In 1994 I knew Margery and Rex Hobbs, they had shared the story of their safari to Uganda in 1989 with me. After Rex died, I met Margery one day in the office of St Matthews East Geelong with an African gentleman, it was Sam Wandendeya! I was able to involve myself with his mission to Victoria with offerings of food including ugali (polenta) and trip along the Ocean Road to Lorne. After Sam left Margery was inundated with donations and asked her friend and retired banker and his wife, Lance and Ella Matheson to help. The fledgling BCC support committee was formed with these three and included John Duffield, Alan Morgan, Charles Rockefeller and myself. That was in 1994 and the rest is history...

During 1997 I packed a container with donated goods for BCC including Geelong hospital beds together with Laurel Ling. The container stood in a paddock at Staughton Vale and I painted 'Jesus Loves You' in huge white letters on one side of it, passing drivers commented! After overcoming many hurdles and including miracles the container was finally safely deposited on BCC ground on 12.01.1998 by our beloved brother Sam Wandendeya. For reasons only known to God, this was to be his last and fatal journey as the matatu (local mini bus) he climbed into to return to Kampala to pick up his vehicle, it rolled and he was killed. As you know Anne his wife became Director and has excelled in steering BCC to what it has become.

Since the beginning I have spent time on and off the committee, but my love and respect for BCC and the wonderful work that has been achieved supporting so many people in Eastern Uganda has never left me!

In 1998 Pamela was secretary until 2000, then Chairperson from 2001-2003. In 2003 Pamela left the committee to return as Orphan Admin from 2008 till 2011 when Pamela handed over the role to Liane. We are blessed that Pamela has returned to the role of Child sponsorship Coordinator (formally called Orphan Admin)

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