



Bushikori

Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

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

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

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The Power of LOVE



A happy reunion for Margery Hobbs when Anne and David Wandendeya visited in June 2018.

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

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO BUSHIKORI

This phrase has been coined in honour of Margery Hobbs. She is the founder and life member of the Australian Support Committee for Bushikori, for decades, since 1994 Margery has witnessed to the wonders of our Lord Jesus Christ as she tells people, all who will listen, about Bushikori. She relates with passion the story of their safari to Uganda (Margery and her late husband Rex) in 1989 and all that has followed. Such a witness, and this continues for those of us involved with Bushikori.

When we are called upon to explain Bushikori to someone who has never heard of it, I hear myself saying it is a Geelong based group that partners with a mission in Mbale Uganda. The Ugandans are in charge and have been since the beginning, we partner with them and support them. It all began when Margery at 60 years of age, met Sam Wandendeya who was already caring for children orphaned not only as a result of the atrocities carried out by Idi Amin and his army but also from the ravages of HIV/AIDS. Now Sam's wife Anne is the director. Bushikori Uganda has a health clinic, which focuses on HIV, malaria, child and maternal health. There is a primary school and a child sponsorship program.

Importantly especially in light of present day concerns regarding 'mission' and 'orphan support' where organisations are reviewing short term visits to majority world countries. There is evidence that well-meaning as they are, this form of 'tourism' results in further exploitation of children with no long-lasting benefits, we thank God for our partnership with Bushikori and our close relationship with them.

I do ponder what do people think I mean by the term partner? In its dictionary form it

means "one associated with another in some action or endeavour." The Bushikori Christian Centre is certainly a place of action and people helping each other in many ways. I believe that we are deeper than that. "Colleagues in a venture with shared risks and profits." Hmmm perhaps. If by profit you think making a difference, then we all pray for that. Uganda uses the term stakeholders. Bushikori is blessed to have quite a few of them. But we are deeper than that.

Historically, partner is an alteration of Middle English *parcener*, which means joint heir. This definition captures what I believe Bushikori is. "Joint Heir" leads us straight to Romans 8: 14-17:

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. 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!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 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 is a story of love. Of how we love our neighbour as ourselves, of how we love each other, of God's love and how He has provided.

Sometimes I wonder why Here when there is so much need all around? But I have come to have a deeper Faith in God that he directs our steps and that for all of us he has a plan:

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which

**God prepared in advance for us to do.”
Ephesians 2:8-10**

We are privileged to partner with Bushikori in its work of: **“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” James 1:27**

Rex Foord and his son Nick visited Uganda in October 2017. Returning from Bushikori Rex reflected on the students he met who have completed their education all made possible by Australian Sponsorship:

It has been wonderful to see the transformation in these young adults coming from poor backgrounds and now being productive members of their society. This is I believe one of the reasons for Bushikori. Educational sponsorship of a child gives them a pathway out of poverty by empowering and transforming them and giving them hope! Seeing the students grow and come to be confident and mature adults who can bring about change in their country for good.

Poverty to success. This is not a slogan but reality! We see this in the many students who come back to Bushikori as Alumni to help out in many ways.

What a wonderful witness to God, He must be in this! He has always provided when the need presents itself through our many generous sponsors and supporters. The workers at BCC in Uganda dedicate every day to God with a short service called "Morning Glory." This is a wonderful way to start the day with worship singing and prayer. I am also amazed at how good they are at getting things done with God's help, their faith inspires and encourages us all.

By Rex & Pamela,
The Child Sponsorship Team.

Spreading the News

Our Australian Support Committee are happy to provide information and a speaker for any churches, small groups, schools who are interested to receive updates or would like to find out more about our mission and child sponsorship in Uganda.

Contact us at
president@bushikori.org.au

or via our website **www.bushikori.org.au**

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

To
Levert Wafula and Elizabeth Asimwe
March 2018

For a number of years Levert has been working at Bushikori as our Clinical Officer in the Health Centre. He is originally from Kitale, Kenya. Elizabeth is from Kampala and works as a travel consultant. Levert was recently farewelled at Bushikori after finding an opportunity of work in another project. We wish them both well in their future work and ministry.



Recent Graduates!

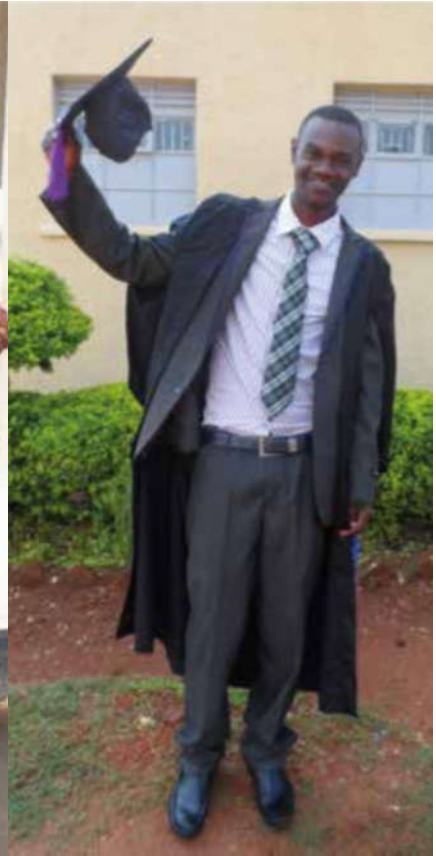
At the end of child sponsorship comes the happy news and photos of graduations. The childcare department at Bushikori reported it was a great time to have 3 young adults graduate in different fields of study. We wish them success in finding employment and ways to contribute to their community.



VIOLET
Bachelor of Arts with Education



JANET
Certificate of Child
Development & Children's
Ministry



JOREM
Diploma of Entrepreneurship &
Information Technology

Sponsorship feedback

Sometimes our children are not able to succeed academically but in such instances we trust that they have encountered an eternal hope far greater than success, a love that is powerful to change circumstances and the provision of an education that equips and sustains them in their daily life.

One of our sponsored children has complex disabilities and we recently needed to share with the sponsor the following news.

“Bushikori had recently notified us that Amina did not wish to do Tailoring anymore. She was finding it too hard. Uganda had hoped to get a specialist teacher to help Amina in class. We were waiting to hear how this idea would go. Despite this offer, and further counselling sessions by Bushikori, Amina has steadily refused to go back to tailoring, or any other course. In the Annual Report they said Amina works the small plot of land with her Grandma – my guess is Amina doesn’t want to be away from Grandma. They probably understand each other well. Amina probably feels safe with Grandma and working with her, she also probably feels she protects and cares for Grandma. Dear sponsor, thank you so much for supporting Amina. You have really helped her become a young woman with skills in reading and maths. Her schooling would have given her confidence to participate in life – and not to hide away.”

Bushikori makes a difference in all children’s lives but I feel that in this case it would have been a huge and significant difference.

Thank you to all our sponsors!

Unknown deposits to our bank account!

Please remember to use your child’s ID number and/or your Surname so we can track your deposits for Receipts. When you pay over the counter at a bank, we do not receive any information about you or the intended purpose of your payment. The bank will also not release this information to our treasurer. If you have made a payment and have not received a receipt from us, please contact us.

Email: treasurer@bushikori.org.au
or phone our treasurer Rick Peacock 5259 3718

Prayer Email

Prayer points are emailed from our committee. If you would like to receive this short prayer email please contact us at:

president@bushikori.org.au

FROM THE ARCHIVES!

10 years ago...

Bushikori Newsletter 2008!

Psalm 127 “Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labour in vain”

Margery Hobbs wrote: *“Joshua Primary School is almost finished up to Grade 7 and we hope to have the children sponsored who are waiting to attend. Anne (BCC Director) has been able to attend a course in Tanzania (East Africa) to help with the leadership of BCC.*

When my late husband was retiring we prayed about doing some Christian work as he did not want to travel unless for the benefit of helping others. We were invited to visit Mbale, Uganda, in 1989. When we arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, we could not contact our host, but we met Pastor Sam Wandendeya who was staying at the same guest house. Coincidentally, our host was a friend of his and Pastor Sam was able to make contact with him.

Pastor Sam was able to help us travel the many hours on the bus to Mbale.

Meeting Pastor Sam was a miracle as we didn't know how we were going to get to our destination in Mbale, Uganda.

While staying in Mbale we met Sam's family and visited Bushikori, meeting some of the children who were orphans being cared for by Sam. I saw how few clothes they had, so my friends and I sewed and sent clothes over to them.

Years later Pastor Wandendeya wrote to me and asked if he could come and visit Geelong. He stayed with me (1994) and visited many churches and schools telling people about Jesus. Many people also heard of the work he was doing in Uganda. At the end of his stay, some friends and I got together to form a Committee to support the work he was doing.

Bushikori was then very small but now the children live with guardians and extended families. How Bushikori has grown! We now have Joshua Primary School, Administration building, new playgrounds for the children and a refurbished medical clinic.

How I look back at the wonderful blessings of God we have seen on this small mission. I reflect with tremendous thanksgiving and humility on what God has done since my first visit to Uganda. There is always sufficient when the need arises. What a simple and yet profound reason to continue doing what we are called to do."

Margery Hobbs, April 2008

JUNE 2018

This year the Australian Support Committee invited Anne Wandendeya together with her son David to visit Geelong. Anne our director has only visited twice before and the last occasion was in 2004 as guest of honour at the Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this visit such a wonderful success during the month of June.

This trip was funded by generous private donations. Our support committee are very grateful for the gifts of hospitality and care extended to Anne and David.

We give thanks to God for the timing of this trip and especially for the opportunity that Anne and David were given to reunite with Margery Hobbs after many years of letter writing and praying for each other. It was also a valuable time for renewing contacts with our sponsors and supporters, meeting new people interested in sponsorship, attending churches, schools and strengthening our fellowship between the committee and our Ugandan director Anne.



David completed his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at the beginning of this year. His Graduation Ceremony at the International University of Kampala, Uganda, coincided with the already planned and booked trip to Australia. Instead, David was given a very special Australian celebration in honour of his Graduation.

David's story begins with Bushikori and he is one that can testify to the hope and blessing that sponsorship provides.



In the future, David plans to work at the Bushikori Health Centre. He is currently working for his Residency Year at the Mulago National Referral Hospital in Kampala.

Some of the places they visited were:
 Geelong College Junior school
 Covenant College
 Belmont Uniting Church
 Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Lara
 St Johns Anglican Church, Highton
 Church by the Bay, Portarlington
 St James, Drysdale
 City on a Hill, Geelong
 St Pauls in St Leonards
 Music Café, Portarlington,
 Portland Baptist Church
 Brimbank Anglican Church, Melbourne
 Buninyong Anglican Church
 York Street Church of Christ, Ballarat
 Kardinia Church, Geelong
 Kardinia Rotary Club
 St John of God Hospital, Geelong
 University Hospital, Geelong
 Epworth Hospital, Geelong



Anne and David were kept very busy with a full itinerary including school visits, appointments, Church services and meetings with the Australian Support Committee.



What a week in the Mission of Bushikori!

By Director Anne

The last week of February.

We are thankful for the gift of life everyday, it is such a blessing! David Wanendeya recently returned home to Bushikori from completing his university studies, he is delightfully blessing us each day stretching across all departments he has new energy and enthusiasm

An update from David:

“Hullo there, Praise the Lord. I hope the Lord has kept you all well. This week was exciting at Bushikori. We got to have our end of month prayer, because the month ends middle of next week, we made use of Friday. We had a day well spent in prayer for the children and the leadership of Bushikori.

This month of March, we shall be reading through ‘The purpose driven life’ by Rick Warren. We shall have the different departments (ie Joshua Primary School, Health Clinic and Child Care Department) take turns to share.

An update from the Child Care Department:

This week we had the parents and guardians of the children who just had their Senior 4 National Results out. Most of the children had a good success. Meeting up with their guardians to discuss a way forward for the youngsters and giving the much-needed guidance to try to set them up for a bright future.

An update from the Clinic:

This week was up and busy as always. We had the Immunisation Clinic at its best!



250 babies were seen on Tuesday, all got a lifesaving vaccine.

The mothers refer to us as “the place that is run by Christians”.

The Maternity area is experiencing a surge in numbers we have not seen in the past few years. Last week, we conducted 15 deliveries, we sadly had one

mother come in with a fresh stillbirth, we had to refer her to the Regional Hospital in Mbale.

On the brighter side, 62 mothers attended antenatal clinic so hopefully we can reduce the Maternal Mortality Rates in this country.

[Reference here: from the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (2016 UDHS) The estimate of the maternal mortality ratio for the 7-year period preceding the 2016 UDHS is 336 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.... That is, for every 1,000 births in Uganda, there are just over 3 maternal deaths.]



Our HIV/AIDS Clinic did run well on Wednesday, we currently have 73 people living with HIV/AIDS, they pick their monthly supplies (anti-retroviral therapy) and have basic follow-up care.

The government gives us drugs and we are the patients point of contact.



An update from Joshua Primary School:

The children had an election, where they got to participate in choosing new student leaders. The pupils register for a particular role and they each write and share what they will do in office and are voted in or out. The teachers think they are developing certain aspects of leadership this way – giving some responsibility to them.



The ministry of education recommended that the Nursery and Primary School had to be in the same location. They attached a deadline to this so we had to attach an extension to the temporal structure, its wooden with a concrete floor. It should be ready for this week.

We had the children play at the volley ball ground this evening. The sight of this was refreshing.

CHRISTMAS

Posting Mail to Bushikori Uganda

In the old days when we had to post documents to Uganda we were frequently sending a package so it was easy to slip your letters and cards to children in these packages. We do not post Committee business now as we use email. So if you send anything to us to forward it usually requires a committee member to personally pay the postage on your behalf.

We do encourage you to write to your sponsored child, and even to Anne and all the staff at Bushikori. Please use this address:

BUSHIKORI CHRISTIAN CENTRE,
PO BOX 594,
MBALE,
UGANDA, EAST AFRICA

Inside the envelope write your sponsored child's name and the personal ID number. Please do not use your personal address but you can use as sender address PO BOX 42, GEELONG, VIC, 3220, AUSTRALIA.

Ways people help....

Our 2017 Christmas cards were designed by Barbara Cake (Friends of Bushikori) Thank you to Barbara for the creative and unique designs and the support raised by these cards.



Carols in the Park fundraising Sausage Sizzle!



Thank you to the Lions Club of Geelong South Barwon Members

who catered to a crowd of almost 2000 with a Sausage Sizzle at the St John's Highton, "Carols in the Park", December 2017. They raised just over \$700. These Lions have been catering at the Carols over the past few years and have raised almost \$3,000 towards Bushikori Uganda. A great effort.



Sunday 16th December 2018 at 6.30pm the Lions will be supporting Bushikori at the Carols in the Park, Highton Reserve.

Celebrate Bushikori, 2nd February 2018

Thank you to City on a Hill, Geelong, for providing your kitchen and hall for our celebration. What a wonderful evening of sharing news from a recent trip to Bushikori. Rex and Nick Foord shared highlights of their visit in October 2017. They took us on a virtual tour of the Centre via movie and photos of The Geelong Hall commissioning.

We were blessed to taste a generous Ugandan supper that was planned, prepared and served by Christine, Trudy and their mother Janet (who was visiting from Uganda) and extra help from Aussie volunteers feeling privileged to learn about the recipes. **A big thank you** to these ladies who spent many hours in the kitchen.

Thank you to everyone who came and joined in our celebration. It was especially good to catch up with sponsors who we don't normally have a chance to talk with. Our committee was encouraged by your presence as we gave thanks to God for the mission in Uganda.

Footy Fun Trivia! The Friends of Bushikori successfully organised another fun filled Trivia night with Silent Auction. Continuing their reputation of providing an entertaining night raising \$5,000 for the Richard Stone Tertiary Fund.

Thank you St Johns Highton for the use of the Church Hall and all your support.



September Movie Night – “Ladies in Black”

Thank you to everyone who came along to Reading Cinema, Waurin Ponds. We raised just over \$2,000 towards our general funds.

Coming up!

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Support Committee of the Bushikori Christian Centre in Uganda
Saturday 17th November 2018
St John's Anglican Church Highton,
269 Roslyn Road, Highton.
Meeting commences at 11am

There will be a brief presentation by Esther Cohen about her recent visit to Bushikori (September 2018)

QUESTION?

Would you consider joining as a Bushikori Member of the Association? Or would you be interested in finding out what it means to be on our Support Committee? Please pray. Contact John Watts our Secretary via
Email: jwatts@datafast.net.au
Phone: 0407 468 594

Wedding Congratulations!
Dr David Wanendeya and Noel Linda
Married on 22nd September 2018



Christmas in Uganda

For many in Uganda and across East Africa food is a very special gift at Christmas. Most children would not know about Father Christmas/ Santa Claus and certainly don't expect gifts from him. But children will look forward to a special meal with family or a small bottle of soda (usually Sprite or Coke). A gift of Sugar, Meat, Rice and Salt means so much when you live in poverty.

Our Bushikori family reaches out to all the sponsored children and their guardians especially at Christmas.

If you want to share a gift please consider donating to the **Christmas and Youth Development Fund**. This fund exists to provide for the annual gathering of sponsored children at Christmas. It also supports youth seminars at Bushikori, where the gospel is shared and senior students mentored in Godly living.

You may prefer to make a **gift of Sponsorship** this Christmas. As so many testify at Bushikori, sponsorship provides hope for a child, education is the start of breaking the poverty cycle, graduation from school brings change and development within the child's community and at the centre of this mission is the Lord Jesus Christ. As we approach the Advent season, we can pray – *Maranatha: even so come, Lord Jesus.*



“Our heavenly Father, as once again we prepare for Christmas, help us to find time in our busy lives for quiet and thought and prayer; that we may reflect upon the wonder of your love and allow the story of the Saviour's birth to fill our hearts and minds...

Keep us mindful of the poverty-stricken people of the world, the vast multitude who at this very time lack the bare necessities of life....

Through the gifts we offer for their relief may we show something of our gratitude for all that you have given us; and may our gifts be acceptable through him who for our sake became poor and was born in a manger, Jesus our Saviour. Amen”

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