



Bushikori

CHRISTIAN CENTRE Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2019

The Bushikori (Aust) Support 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.)
Registered with Australian
Charities and Not-for-Profit
Commission.
CAN A003857F
ABN 13001269757

PO BOX 42
Geelong
Victoria 3220
Australia

www.bushikori.org.au

Thank you to Stephen Davey at
Pagination for hosting our
website

Please advise our committee if
you prefer to receive this
newsletter by email. It is also
available to read at our website

Editor : Esther Cohen
Ph: 0439388856

25
years

....



On the Road together

Grace and Mary, the daughters of BCC Director Anne Wandendeya,
distributing welfare with Esther

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

25 Years Australian Support Committee

It was in 1994 that the late Pastor Sam Wandendeya visited Margery Hobbs in Geelong. The ensuing very busy three month period visiting churches, preaching and meeting a variety of people resulted in the embryonic Australian Support Committee (ASC). Sam never asked for money, he preached the Gospel, the love of Christ and told of the plight of children in his home town in Eastern Uganda, Mbale. So many of these children were orphaned, destitute and needing help. The call upon Sam's life was to care for these children, his mission to Australia was to seek help with educating the children and this remains the calling of BCC Uganda and the ASC. Education opens the door to future employment and the opportunity to rise out of poverty. As the saying goes, 'you can give a man a fish, he has a meal for a day, but if you teach him how to fish, he can sustain himself.'

This year, 2019, we celebrate 25 years of the ASC. With God's amazing grace and provision this committee although humble and small, has been able to achieve so much for the poor and needy in Mbale. The committee comprises dedicated Christians who live in the Geelong area, naturally over time membership has changed but has never wavered from the mission offering a variety of skills, all are volunteers working from home. Nothing would have been achieved without the support of the community primarily from Geelong and South Western Victoria.

We are constantly amazed and grateful for the generosity of sponsors and supporters. Whenever funds have been needed for various projects including sending over two containers filled with desks, hospital beds and other items, the money is in the bank on time. At the Bushikori Christian Centre there is a

hospital and a primary school, both projects have been primarily financed by Australian donors. The main objective of the ASC is sponsorship of children's education, from nursery through primary school, high school and uniquely through tertiary or vocational training. Other organisations tend to cease sponsorship at the end of high school but BCC found that students graduating from school without further training were unable to find work, hence our commitment to offer ongoing support.

So many children, so many students, approximately 1200 over the 25 years. Many of these children started life in abject poverty, living in dire circumstances without parents, without regular meals, in rags with little hope despite the best efforts of their guardians, frequently carers are grandparents looking after large numbers of grandchildren. Now, 25 years later many students have completed their education to tertiary level and are now employed, some married with their own families. There is a vibrant and active group of alumni who maintain contact with BCC and in turn try and support children in need.

25 years ago Uganda was still recovering from years of war and conflict, internal displacement and the scourge of HIV/Aids that left so many people especially children destitute. Sam Wandendeya, an Mbale business man was taken captive by Idi Amin's troops, his subsequent escape due to the grace of God gave him the guidance to start his ministry. It was the orphaned children that Sam met at the market at Mbale and took into his home that was the Ugandan beginning of the Bushikori Christian Centre. Stability in the country and 'free' primary education was welcome but the mandatory requirement for school uniforms and books made school out of reach for the poorest in the population. Children were sent home if they did not have the right uniform and books. Sponsorship has

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

changed the lives of so many as they have been able not just to go to school, but also receive emotional and moral support from BCC as well as free medical assistance from the hospital.

25 years later there has been a significant reduction in poverty in Uganda. According to 2016 World bank statistics Uganda has been one of the fastest countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to reduce the population living on approximately AUD2.50 per day from 53.2% to 34.6% in 2013. Readers may be aware of the increasing middle class and general improvement in the lives of the people of East Africa. However, progress has been slower in the Northern and Eastern parts of Uganda. Mbale is a rural city in the far East of the country. In this region the proportion of the total number of poor increased from 68% to 84% between 2006 and 2013 (World Bank Statistics).

The population in the catchment of the Bushikori Christian Centre comprises mostly subsistence farmers, peasants who depend on good rainfall and favourable food prices for their income. That is if they have enough of their crops left over to sell after feeding their ever-increasing families. High fertility rates have held back poverty reduction and this is evidenced by the fact that when the ASC was formed in 1994 the population of Uganda, approximately the same size as the state of Victoria, was 21 million and has now grown to 41 million. These statistics may answer the question whether sponsorship is as necessary in 2019 as it has been in the intervening years of the partnership between Uganda and Australia.

The Bushikori Christian Centre has always remained a Ugandan NGO. Founded by Sam Wandendeya himself a Ugandan, and after his untimely death in a vehicle accident in 1998 his wife, Mrs Anne Wandendeya has been the

director. She is ably supported by committed staff and a board of directors, all Ugandans. Many of the latter knew Sam and shared his vision for the poor and destitute. The fact that BCC is a Ugandan NGO meeting all the criteria of registration in that country is vitally important for the Australian Committee. Anne and her staff know the area, the issues and the nuances of culture in ways that Australians, however well-meaning, could never understand. The Australian Support Committee is just that, a support committee guided by the expertise of BCC Uganda with Jesus Christ as the bridge. This bridge is the wonderful level of trust between Uganda and Australia, the faith in the integrity of both parties that passionately share the calling of Jesus Christ to 'take care of widows, orphans and other vulnerable children.

Pamela Ferrar – Sponsorship Team

HONEY SALES

Thank you to Barbara for the years of volunteer service co-ordinating our Honey fundraising sales. This year we welcome our newest committee member Ashley as he takes on this role of honey co-ordinator.



Anne, BCC Director, visiting from Uganda in July 2018 met Barbara and received some sweet honey!

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

School Completion Results 2013- 2018

Since 2013 BCC has supported 64 students to complete various courses of study.

We owe this to the tireless efforts of the sponsors.

41% graduated with degrees

14% with diplomas

45% with certificates

Through the career guidance programme at BCC opportunities arise for each student as they prepare to join Tertiary or Vocational level training; equipping them to pursue their areas of talent and find employable skills for their future life choices.

All our sponsored students have unique troubled backgrounds that qualify them for sponsorship at BCC.

BCC is proud to support the student's education to its completion and to their graduation.

25 Years

Investment in Leadership and Healthcare

“Ugandan Hospitals –
My Urban Rural Experience”

by Dr David Wanendeya

February 2019

I have been fortunate for the last 6 months to be part of the internship program at the Mulago national referral hospital-Uganda. This is the biggest government facility in Uganda. You get to interact with some of the most qualified in this part of the continent of Africa. They have top doctors, professors, specialists trained in disciplines only heard of for an upcountry lad like me. Coming into the setup, I was nervous about how the reception would be, how I would perform in comparison to interns from other institutions and as always looking to get a good assessment from some top professor.

So six months into my internship – I have been to Neurology, Orthopaedic, GIT, Urology and Cardiothoracic surgery and learnt a lot of skills while there.

Our regular week would involve attending:
major ward rounds

2 operating theatre days

an outpatient specialty clinic

and then the day to day patient care

....nearly 80 hours of work!

One day I was fortunate to go to surgery with Dr Chung, a Korean GIT specialist for whom I had worked up the patient and scrubbed into the theatres at the new women's Hospital- the new facility I would say has facilities nearly like what I saw at the St John of God Hospital in Geelong. And just before surgery- Dr Chung said a prayer for the patient- a young Moslem girl- praying for the Lords guidance for his hands and the entire team involved.

First, I was blown away by his boldness at sharing his faith while being completely compassionate. (In Uganda, when a Christian prays for the healing of a Moslem, they very quickly throw out the walls of religion and agree to receive healing by the faith you have in Jesus)- they want the healing as much, even though they don't believe in Jesus. I think I was fortunate to have trained even for a few weeks under Mr. Chung.

I have 6 months remaining to finish the programme and I am looking forward to grow in the practice of medicine, to live, love and go somewhere and be a blessing to some place God will call me to.

It will be very different there. Reflecting on the near future, there will be no nice theatres like here in Kampala- there will not be any fancy labs or people being able to afford healthcare – Just great need.

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

In the outback, like at Bushikori Christian Health Centre, we would have a female/male and paediatric wards- large rooms with a few beds. We would have access to a few supplies and very little to use to help the sick. Patients and their families stay for the night to receive IV treatment.

The challenge of low education and lack of understanding of the basic disease prevention methods are much higher in the rural areas than the urban areas of Uganda. A lot of preventable illnesses still attributed to a bad omen, a curse.

The city is different - young parents, with a career come in and ask questions to help them better understand the illness, manage it better or perhaps prevent further episodes. The population are younger in the urban areas.

During this one year of internship training, I am expected to be equipped to respond to all medical and surgical emergencies. This takes up a large percentage of our training time over the one year, keeping me busy chasing the skills.

Operating theatres are few upcountry- and if you have access one, you are lucky to be able to respond to surgical emergencies. In Uganda- these kinds of places are a rare place of hope, a place where people run to and when possible are saved- somewhat like how we run to Jesus and are saved.

I am grateful that through the mission of Bushikori, I get to have an opportunity to be part of a place that represents the great hope that is found in Jesus. That through the mission here, I can dream of reaching out to the community and meeting their needs whenever its possible. That through the mission, I have an opportunity to train at a top hospital in the country and be able to

hopefully use those skills to invest right back into my community.

While our communities have great need, and attempts made to address those needs, the greatest need is mankind coming to know Jesus a love that has no end! So our hope is as we reach out to meet the physical needs of society - we will have an opportunity to share the gospel of the love of Jesus, our Great Physician in this part of the world.

(David Wanendeya was sponsored through Bushikori and graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery in 2018)

25 Years A Reflection on Christmas at Bushikori

I currently live and work in Oxford High School, Mbale, after completing my Bachelors in Education at Uganda Christian University. 2017 was my last year of sponsorship through the Bushikori Christian Centre.

I was taken care of at Bushikori from nursery. When I was young, Christmas was just one of those days we went to BCC to eat well and drink sodas and be happy. After attending a couple of gatherings and learning about Christmas through the Bushikori administration, the social workers and even external facilitators that came to speak to us, I learned that it was all about celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The speakers also talked to us about our careers, living a Christ life and how well to successfully study. We also received packages in different forms as Christmas packages or gifts or presents. At one time I got money and the Child Care department bought me a goat and good food. That was the best Christmas I had!

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

Christmas eventually became a day where we received all the love from Bushikori. Most of us being parentless and being on our own.



The gatherings were a place we would experience the love of Christ through Bushikori.

I hope this continues years after I have left because I know how much it means to have such a beautiful day. I

want to appreciate all who participated and made me feel loved and appreciate the birth of Christ at my age.

Nambozo Violet

Age: 27years

Village: Mafutu, Parish: Bumbobi

Sub-County: Bungokho

Christmas Gathering 2018 report from BCC

Its been a long day but worthwhile. We had the compound alive again- so many children all gathered in one place celebrating Jesus. We had an opportunity to share Christ and sing songs of worship together. The children were treated to a hearty meal of rice, meat, fish and a Soda! They each took home a gift hamper of cooking oil, sugar and rice to share with their families as we keep the Christmas spirit alive. It was exciting!



Thank you to all our sponsors who donated towards the Christmas Fund

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress



25 Years

Investment in Education

In December 2018 I sat for Primary Leaving Examinations at Joshua Primary School and I received a 6 aggregate (this means that I got 85% and above in four subjects). I am so so happy that God enabled me to pass the exams and I am excited to be going to a higher level. It feels so good to be successful and my dreams are to be a doctor in the future. I am also hoping that when I join High School I will be the best performer. I had hoped to join Mbale College and I am excited that I am going to this school after many months of waiting for the results.

I have fears as I approach the near future. I am worried that the cost of education is a bit expensive and I am worried that affording all I need to pursue my studies may be hard. It's a bit scary to meet and stay with new students in the school that I will join. There is also going to be new teachers and other people in the institution. I am however encouraged that I am joining Mbale College with other students from Joshua and so I will maintain some friendships.

My prayer is that the Lord gives me a gift of protection and knowledge and provision for school.

My family and I are very happy with Bushikori and the friends from Australia who have supported me immensely.

I finally want to thank my family and God for love and protection.

Shadrack Walubende

Age: 13 years,

Village: Nabikhomwa

Parish: Bumbobi

Sub-county: Bumbombi Mbale District Eastern Uganda



Photo of Shadrack with his guardian

The Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) is a mandatory written examination based on the national curriculum. It certifies the completion of Primary School, it provides the selection process to enter higher education and it is a requirement for entry into Secondary school. It is also an accountability measure of the Primary School and its educators in Uganda.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Bushikori received exciting news in January 2019 that 34 sponsored students have completed Primary school.

Congratulations to the students and teachers. We are thankful to all our Sponsors who have supported these young people and helped to provide the gift of education.

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

Urgent Request

We have an immediate need for 9 children to be re-sponsored. The sponsorship fees for these children are covered by the Australian Committee until we find new sponsors. The 9 students are in Secondary School and the annual rate is \$630. If you are able to help, please contact Pamela via email: sponsorship@bushikori.org.au



WORLD AIDS DAY Commemoration

Bushikori Health Centre has been commemorating World AIDS day each December since 2015. They celebrated on 10 December 2018 with guests from Australia representing the Pink Umbrella Foundation (Sue O'Neill, Norman O'Neill and Robert O'Neill). There were over 400 attendees who were mostly HIV/AIDS clients from across the sub counties, local leaders, members from surrounding Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) sites, BCC staff, entertainment dance groups and Joshua Primary school students.

In 2018 the Pink Umbrella Foundation has contributed to the support of the following activities at BCC Health Centre.

*Maternal and Child Health, through the facilitation of Traditional Birth Attendants who mainly refer mothers to the Health Centre as well as attend emergencies. The TBA's also participate in the promotion of community health.

*ASRH. Promotion of reusable sanitary pads for girls.

*Procurement of medical supplies and equipment

*HIV/AIDS management and support to ART clients and groups

In 2018 BCC Health Centre provided ART and regular support, counselling to 290 clients.



Mother and baby clinic BCC September 2018

25 Years

Service and Growing in Faith

I have worked in Bushikori since 2003. I joined Joshua Primary School while I was in teachers college. While I was at college, there was a plan to start a school in Bushikori. I was

staying around and I had a skill of drawing and writing charts. I did this for free as a volunteer and that's how I was identified. At that time I was about to finish my teaching studies. As I came to give support, I joined Joshua and was later retained as a teacher.

Working in a Christian organization worked in my favour on many fronts. It especially built my faith because of numerous sessions like Morning Glory (prayer, praise and Bible study before work), monthly fasting and organizing chapel for Joshua Primary and this has helped me build confidence as I participate and learn to organize spiritual events in Bushikori.

Through this job I have been able to go to school and attain my diploma because I only came into BCC with a Certificate in Teaching. This to me was a great improvement and there are numerous other refresher courses I have attained by being in Bushikori. I have also climbed ladders and at the moment I am the deputy head teacher and completely in control of the effective running of the school.

I wish to greatly appreciate the administration of the Bushikori Christian Centre and the Australian support team and stakeholders who have directly shown us love for now 25 years of support with the love and compassion of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all.

Lydia Watela
Deputy Head
Teacher,
Joshua Primary
School



25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

25 Years God's faithfulness on the Journey

EASTER 2019

Message received from Anne in Uganda.

Jesus undertook many journeys during his life. As an unborn child he went from Nazareth to Bethlehem. As a child refugee he went to Egypt. As a preacher he travelled the roads of Galilee. His seemingly final journey was to travel up Calvary carrying the heavy wooden beam of a cross.

But what appeared to be the end of Jesus' journey was really a beginning. By leaving the tomb, Christ shatters the boundaries of what we thought we knew. By rising from the dead, Christ invites us to roll away the stones that are blocking our own hearts and imagination and to share the journey with each other – in particular with the most vulnerable people.

Not long after his death, Jesus appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were full of fear following Jesus's death. They didn't recognize Jesus until they sat down for a meal together and he broke bread.

How many times in a day do we not recognize Jesus in the people who cross our paths? We may be busy or distracted, or we may be closed in the tomb of our own fears and misconceptions. But there are specific moments in our lives when we need to be reminded of a fundamental truth: we were given each other so that we would have someone with whom to share our journeys. A small gesture like reaching out with your arms to somebody else means a lot as it touches different levels of human existence. This is the gesture we are encouraging people to do as part of Sharing the Journey.

I reach out and if a person feels alone and isolated, my reaching out is a gesture of

25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

solidarity. If I reach out and that person is wounded, it could be a sign of healing. If I reach out and the person is lost, it could mean an offer of guidance. If I reach out and the person feels like nobody cares, then it will be a sign of friendship. That small gesture means different things in different stages of people's life journey.

Christ performed the ultimate gesture of reaching out to others on the cross. He opened his arms and emptied himself out to receive God's will.

We do not necessarily need to do extraordinary and extravagant things to make a difference in the lives of people. Small gestures, ordinary gestures, when done with sincerity, with the light of human understanding and compassion, can do extraordinary things.

We invite you all to join us in making small gestures of compassion towards those you know or don't know in your daily journeys.



James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress

If undeliverable please return to:
Bushikori Christian Centre Newsletter
PO BOX 42, GEELONG, VIC. 3220



25 years AUSTRALIANS SUPPORTING CHILDREN AT BUSHIKORI IN UGANDA

James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress