



Bushikori

CHRISTIAN CENTRE Orphan Support (Aust.) Inc

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 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.

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

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Celebrating
25 Years
of
Rewarding Mission Achievements & Partnerships

Bushikori Christian Centre

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 and Looking Forward

A Message from Anne Wandendeya

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Bushikori Christian Centre community in Uganda permit me to sincerely thank you for the consistent and enduring support to us. 25 years of mobilizing resources, prayer and support to us cannot easily be measured with a simple thank you; we therefore commit the whole team in Australia and all individual sponsors who have inspired the survival and growth of the mission to God for befitting rewards. We thank and praise the Lord as the key enabler. As we take a leap into the future beyond the 25 year mark of partnership; we at BCC Uganda would wish discussions on the future of the mission be part of our prayer points for the Lord's guidance. The growth of this mission is also constrained by the following:

Joshua Primary School: The role of Joshua Primary School (JPS) as a major provider of not only quality education to needy community children; but also as a home and place for the promotion of Christian values, remains very vital into the future. The school has majorly depended on sponsorship funds towards education of children at primary school level and the generous support from Covenant College, Geelong, towards teachers expenses.

The sponsorship budget to JPS is however dependent on the number of sponsored children enrolled in the school. This has significantly reduced over the years. JPS currently has under 100 sponsored children on a population of over 400 children in the school. The rest of the children (300) make a school fee contribution in fees. We are unable to raise these fees much as our target group is children from very poor backgrounds. The financing of Joshua Primary School is one key area we continue to

prayerfully engage with the Australian Support Committee (ASC) and other partners to ensure continuity in providing the most needed quality education to the children in this community.

Child Care and Development: Childcare and Development (Sponsorship Programme) is the backbone of BCC Uganda operations. All our activities are hinged to sponsorship. We have made tremendous strides in achieving completion for sponsored children. As fewer numbers of children are enrolled into the programme, a greater percentage is in secondary school and Post-secondary. These two require more resources.

A plan to engage with sponsors and the family of students needs to be discussed to chat out a way forward. We need to provide a future for these children, a future that puts them in a path of success. This however needs to be thoughtfully prayed about so we can guide next decisions. Increasing cost of education at Post-secondary school level is a point of concern.

Non-tuition costs are often more than what we can afford. The challenge is if we are unable; then the risk of children failing to complete or breaking courses gets higher. A carefully guided plan to enable us to achieve by engaging parents/guardians early in the sponsorship program to improve household incomes would be useful for those in primary and lower secondary school; however for children in post-secondary institutions the challenge of financing the courses remain.

Bushikori Health Centre III:

Bushikori Health Centre main support line is from ASC and the Pink Umbrella Foundation. Similar to JPS, the health centre serves a vital need – Health. The community of over 23000 depends on subsidized health care services provided here. Government of Uganda

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support is mainly restricted to Primary Health Care which is a small but welcome contribution.

BCC struggles to sustain the level of services currently provided. We therefore wish to commit the Health Centre also into prayer for guidance in planning a future that will guarantee continuity of vital health care to our community. The growth plan would include upgrading the Health Centre to a Hospital. This will enable for pay services to be included e.g. surgical, specialized care and diagnostic services. These among others will generate resources to further the mission.

Administratively, the cost of utilities, and transport remain high. The alternative power and water source for the facility (JPS & HC) is one area we shall persistently pray for so the utility bills can be lowered. Once lowered, those resources shall be channelled to other programme areas.

I just thought as we are all in a thankful and celebratory spirit; the above points would conform our view into the future. We at BCC Uganda will be spending time to pray over the mission as well as document thoughts to share with you as our major partners in this mission.

Once again on behalf of my family and my own; I wish to thank God for making us come into contact with all the great people of Australia whom we regard as family. We will forever remain grateful unto the Lord for this opportunity.

Thank you so much for standing with us. We pray that this makes a fresh beginning of a new engagement as the need for the mission continuity is more needed than before.

Be Blessed
Anne L. Wandendeya

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Thanksgiving Service

It was with great joy that we gathered in Geelong for our 25th Anniversary thanksgiving service on Sunday 23rd June

Belmont Uniting Church holds such a cherished place in Bushikori history as this was the first place Pastor Sam Wandendeya spoke in when he came to Australia in 1994. The people showed him such love then and to this day we still appreciate deeply the support and prayers that come from the church.



The ASC members are thankful to Belmont Uniting for opening their church for us and for all who attended and encouraged us by their love and support.

Please join with us in giving thanks to God for the service of the Australian Support Committee for the past 25 years. We pray that God will direct and lead new members to our Committee. We pray for Bushikori, Uganda - for our friends who we partner with to be God's hands helping those we can.

Committee members past and present (in order of joining) Margery Hobbs, Ella Matheson, Lance Matheson, Charles Rockefeller, Brian Ellis, Heather Ellis, Pamela Ferrar (Bregman), Lois Dean, Nola Noble, Alan Morgan, John Duffield, Lyn Duffield, Kerry Peacock, Margaret Bennett, Phillip Bennett, Andrew Davies, Gary Kalbitzer, Doug Rolfe, Richard Stone, Libby McLean, Esther Cohen, Tegwen Vella, Merrin Wood, Elsie Brown (OAM), John Watts, Kitty Illingworth, Glenda Salmon, Katelyn Ramsay (Etcher), Ian Macaulay, Liane Foord, Lucy Stone, Marg Ryan, Raelene Holton, Layla Peacock, Mathew Sayle, Rex Foord, Rick Peacock, Ashley Warren.

own morning service, worshipping God, singing, dancing, praying and hearing from the Word of God.

The month of July is set aside by the team in Uganda to focus more on prayer as they fast and seek God for their ongoing mission to their community – sharing the saving gospel of Jesus Christ especially by demonstrating acts of mercy such as the Jesus Market and seeking to share with those in need.

We are grateful for your prayers and encouraging support.

And we give thanks and praise to our Almighty God for His love and providence.

Let us Pray

Almighty God we give you thanks for the past 25 years where many have faithfully served you on the Australian Support Committee. Thank you for our founding members and their example of prayer and seeking you in every aspect of this mission.

Teach us to be responsive to Your leading, trusting in what you are asking us to do.

When you give us an opportunity, may we always be

willing to share with others the good news of who You are and what You have done.

AGM for the Bushikori Christian Centre Australian Support Committee will be held Tuesday 19th November 2019, 7.30pm at St Johns Anglican Church, Roslyn Rd, Highton. The meeting will be followed by a short presentation by Pamela Ferrar of her recent visit to Uganda. Supper provided.

The Australian Support Committee would like to encourage anyone interested in Bushikori to consider becoming a general member. A General Member must agree with the statement of Beliefs and Objectives as stated in the constitution. A general member will be informed of the Annual General Meeting so they have the opportunity to attend. Receive reports that are tabled at the Annual General Meeting. Have the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting. If you are interested please contact our secretary John Watts email: jwatts@datafast.net.au phone: 0407 468 594

25th Anniversary Thanksgiving Prayers

Prayer and hearing from the word of God is central for our Australian Support Committee at our monthly meetings and in our work. In Uganda at the Bushikori Christian Centre the staff meet each morning before commencing work to read and study the Bible, Pray and Sing – they call this “Morning Glory”. The children at Joshua Primary School gather for a chapel service each week, where they learn to lead others in prayer and praise to God. Every Sunday 80 -90 children meet in the Geelong Hall at the centre and have their

As the psalmist wrote “ We will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders” (*Psalms 78:4*)

We give thanks for the vision and ministry of the late Pastor Sam Wandendeya

For Margery and Rex Hobbs who travelled from Geelong to Uganda in 1989 and by a chance encounter met Pastor Sam and there the beginnings took seed for the ongoing support towards the orphaned children in Mbale.

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God of all you are not a God of chance or coincidence, we can firmly trust in your sovereign grace.

“The faithful love of the LORD never ends!
His mercies never cease,
Great is his faithfulness;
His mercies begin afresh each morning”.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

We pray for Anne Wandendeya and her family as they have served and directed the Bushikori mission. We pray for the team of Ugandans supporting and working at the centre.

Lord God you alone are their firm foundation. As they place their trust in You, help them to daily find the living Lord Jesus in all their circumstances of life.

We pray for the many children, young adults, families, communities that have been touched by your love through the merciful care of the Bushikori Christian Centre. Thank you for the message of hope that comes to a young child who is offered the gift of education. Lord God you know each by name. Help them to trust you for their daily needs. Thank you for caring for them. Guide each one to follow you all the days of their life and to lead others to know your merciful love.

We are thankful for all Sponsors and donors who have partnered with this work and have supported the efforts of fundraising and sponsorship.

Heavenly Father help each one of us to share with others, knowing that ultimately everything we have comes from You.

25 Years Celebrations in Uganda

In July 2019, Pamela Ferrar our child-sponsorship co-ordinator travelled to Uganda and was able to join in a service and a very full day of thanksgiving and celebrations at the Bushikori Christian Centre.

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There was a communion service and time of



speeches, presentations with involvement from many of the community. Several Alumni (Past students) came, bringing encouraging stories of their personal testimonies and how sponsorship through BCC has impacted them.

One lady, Harriet, who was one of the very first orphans shared how she and others were rescued by Sam Wandendeya and his brother in 1981. She was from a war zone (in Lowero) As she told her story she cried with the emotions of memories and thankfulness acknowledging Sam and his brother. She also told everyone present that you don't have to be rich to help others and that Ugandans, instead of putting their hand out, can also help themselves and others.



Pamela Ferrar, Anne Wandendeya, Laurel Ling

I know is there was a sudden change of events in my life

By Jane Wambi

Growing up in the village, attending village schools, lacking basics, having one meal a day, swallowing pain killers to cure fevers and malaria are some of the things that characterized my childhood. You see in the village, education is not a priority, we had a bunch of chores to do before you could head out to school, such included digging in the gardens, fetching water from the far away wells among others. By the time one goes to school they are tired and could hardly concentrate. During dry seasons, we could go to fetch water in the night and return in the wee hours of the morning due to long queues, we still had to do the standard chores before we went to school and this greatly affected my performance.

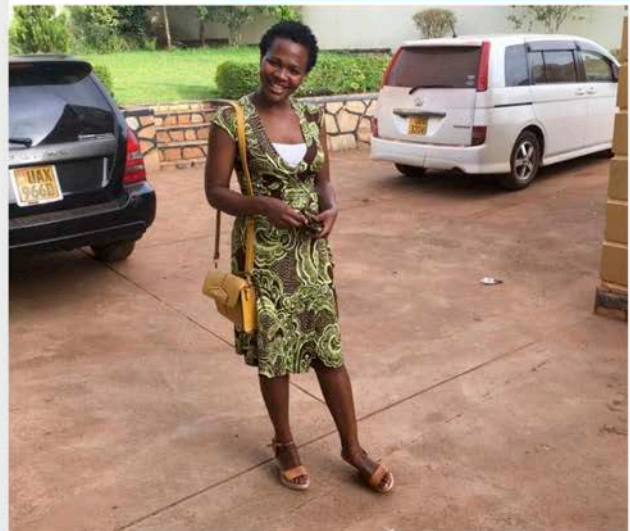
In 1995, My dad passed away, it was rumored all over the village that my dad had died of HIV and being the last born, it was possible that I had contracted the disease, Amidst mourning, also came stigma, segregation from other children and stares from crowds whenever I passed by. But I am glad that I still held on tight and stayed in school, however, life became hard with my dad gone, Mum could not successfully take care of the 6 of us, being the last of 6, I had become the least priority. One year later, Bushikori came into my life,

I do not quite remember how this happened, but what I know is there was a sudden change of events in my life, from writing at school in old books that belonged to my older siblings but had some free papers to use, to reporting back to school with two dozens of books, enough to cover me for the whole term. It was unbelievable and also scary because I did not know how long this would last, the fear of returning to scarcity was high, I had not known any one for gifting us, it was strange that some one was taking interest in my life and choosing to support me. That was scary. Many years down the road, BCC continued tirelessly supporting me to pursue my education, I am so grateful to mama Anne who did not give up on me when teenage years came and I was struggling to focus on school, She increased her school visits, she talked to me as a mother counseled me like a counsellor, listened to me like a friend and continued to encourage me to stay in school. The talks and career guidance are what kept me in check, when you encounter a community where education is not valued, that is when you will understand the importance of the many activities and career guidance sessions to just to change the children's mindsets about the advantages of education. When I reached university and the requirements almost tripled, BCC increased their support towards me, I was able to complete a degree in Development Studies, I graduated in January 2010 and in March 2011.

I got a job as a customer service representative in Orange Uganda a telecom company, I served for 1 year and I was promoted to Retail Manager, While working with Orange, I met the love of my life, Mr. Onyait Odeke, we have been together for close to 8 years now and we have been blessed with two beautiful daughters, Genesis Palmer Odeke, 5 years old and Taleni Elsa Odeke, 3 years old. I also pursued and completed a post graduate diploma in Project Planning and management from Uganda Technology and Management University. I am currently working as a Global Human Resource Associate at Fenix international an energy company while pursuing an online Course in HR for people managers from University of Minnesota.

I always tell myself that, whatever I have achieved in life is because of BCC, its directly connected to the mentorship and the financial support that I received from BCC that led me to accomplish my studies, got a job where I met my husband and father to my children. and that is why I my dream is still to support other children who were in my situation to be able to rise and soar like I did.

Thank you BCC,



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF CCD

By Pamela Ferrar

The Child Care Department (CCD) at the Bushikori Christian Centre is staffed by Bessie, Mary and Esther. Their office is at rear of the Administration block. Their duties are to look after all the students, their families, and communicate with Child Sponsorship Australia, they are very busy and dedicated and do a wonderful job.

On my recent visit to Uganda I spent most of my time with them, hence this story to share a 'picture' of what their work entails. The day starts at 8am with 'Morning Glory,' a shared prayer time with singing and a Bible reflection with all BCC staff who are free to attend, this takes place in the library, a wonderfully cool, breezy building near the BCC gate. The library is a multi-purpose space used not only for students, their study and housing books, but also for meetings, for luncheons with dignitaries, prayer times. With luck CCD have lunch at 1pm with the other staff, if they are at BCC, they may be out on the road. Similarly they may be able to finish work at 6.30pm but they could still be visiting people in the village, or busy at work or called out to come and support someone in need.

Duties include:

Computer work: this sounds standard, straight forward data processing, letter writing etc but remember this is Uganda and the internet can be an issue. Nowadays they have a 'hotspot' that works when the network MTN is functioning, otherwise Anne, Director has a dongle with Airtel, a more reliable network. From our Australian perspective communication has improved tremendously.

Students: Are expected to bring their exam results to BCC at the end of every term when the holidays begin, this is not only to

encourage them but also for a record of attendance over the term.

School fees have to be paid, this is a direct payment to the school from the bank. The parent/guardian receives a bank slip as well, funds are not given directly to the student.

If a student has received a **welfare gift** from their sponsor, they are contacted mostly by phone, to come to BCC to collect it. If the gift is money, the student, (the older ones) is asked to bring a budget of their expenses/needs so that the funds can be spent sensibly for study materials, clothing, food for their home families. BCC staff see themselves as 'parents' hence this procedure, they want the best for the student and to respect the sponsor and their gift and prevent wanton waste of money. Not all the students are happy with this arrangement but the policy is in place for good reason.

Letters to Australia: BCC aims to have each student write at least one letter a year to their sponsor, this is easy to arrange if they attend Joshua Primary School or another school in the neighbourhood. However many of the secondary schools are quite far, so a visit is required, this is an opportunity to monitor the students' progress at school and check if there are any issues or support required.

Many of the students will come to BCC over the long Christmas holidays and write their letters. They may need help with a bus fare to make the distance.

Families: Most students have family members/guardians with whom they live if not in hostel at Senior School. CCD visit homes if they are called or if there are concerns. The latter may be that a student has not been attending school, is not doing

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well at school or has 'disappeared.' This may sound strange to Australian ears but occasionally the situation at home can be one of abuse, neglect, or other problems and the student see no other way out but to leave. If this happens CCD do their best to find the student and offer counselling and support and try and help them to resume and complete their education.

Families that are able are encouraged to contribute to BCC if they can. This may be with cash, food items or labour for students who are sponsored. Most families are grateful for the support they receive through sponsorship for their child's education.

Some are less appreciative, they may have very high expectations of continuous funding and they don't really understand the concept of sponsorship. Occasionally guardians do not come to BCC when invited to discuss any issues, and at times CCD are called to intervene in domestic disputes.

Perhaps as BCC becomes a trusted organisation of 'helpers' in their view. The



CCD staff said that on very rare occasions they are abused when they come to a home, they always travel with two and have the driver of the vehicle on hand as a safety measure.

Wonderful work is achieved, long lasting and fruitful relationships with students and their families are achieved, long distances travelled and long days put in with no guarantee of a 'weekend' break.



Above: Mary counselling a student
Left: Esther, Mary and Bessie (CCD Team)

INDUSTRIAL POSHO

By Pamela Ferrar

Posho: porridge, runny or firm made from maize meal, like polenta but white and coarse. Also called Ugali.

Suferia: a big pot for cooking.

Maharagwe: the dried beans that are soaked and cooked a long time, similar to kidney beans.

Joshua Primary School: 600 students receive runny posho for morning break, and firm posho with maharagwe for lunch every day.

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Boarders: students who live at school all week, they number 140 and require all meals. **Staff:** 60 each day requiring lunch.

The setting is the kitchen that is situated between the administration block and the primary school at the Bushikori Christian Centre. There is a mango tree nearby. The structure is a shed built from iron sheeting, divided into two sections. Each has a fire place that is covered by a concrete bench. The student kitchen



they make the process look easy. If they are cooking rice for the students they use 100kg rice that has been picked clean removing stones and any other foreign bodies, the rice is also cooked in the suferia. This

preparation takes place in the shade under the tree.

The other part of the kitchen has a smaller fireplace, smaller bench with two open holes that accommodate much smaller suferias, one for 10kg of posho for the staff and the other for the maharagwe. This kitchen is the one used for weekend food preparation.



bench has a large open hole that accommodates the huge suferia used for cooking the posho.

It is one metre in diameter and a metre high. 85 kg of maize meal is cooked with water and stirred constantly. The agile and fit cooks use huge hardwood paddles about 1.5 metres long to stir, they stand on the bench in their gumboots both stirring the posho in the suferia, this becomes more and more solid as it firms into the consistency required for lunchtime.

An observer would think that this is not such hard work, but it is! The cooks are so strong

The hardwood used for the fire is chopped by a very fit, muscular young man who uses an axe. He does not have boots to wear but when we met him he was wearing sandals. An OHS nightmare, needless to say he probably wears his boots now. The wood store is behind the Geelong Hall, which is a magnificent building and well utilised.

Why write this short story on industrial posho? The kitchen area is a hive of activity all the Bushikori day, with food preparation, fire, stirring, at morning tea the children queue with their plastic mugs for a decent portion of runny posho, giggling and happy to be out of class for a while.

School starts at 7 am and finishes at 4 pm so it's a long day. Nursery students, there are 3 classes, baby nursery for the 3 year olds, middle for the 4 year olds and top when they are 5 also start early, their classes finish at

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12md. They all have to have uniforms just like the primary school students. The little ones in the baby class are so small and cute, African children love to be photographed so visitors are inundated when a camera comes out of the bag.

The children wash their own cups with older students and teachers monitoring. Lunch time is similar, with hundreds of students receiving their plate of posho and maharagwe which they eat with their hands. There is a handwashing facility with a tank, tap and soap where they can clean their hands before and after eating. There is order and rhythm, joy and good, nutritious food for children who may only eat once a day.

Bushikori is unique as a day school with few boarders that provides morning tea and lunch, we are all blessed with God's provision.



How Sponsorship has impacted lives

My life turned around from then on.

By Mabonga Mercy Providence

I am a lawyer by profession trained from **KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY** for four years. I currently volunteer at a law firm (**SERYAZI MUGABI COMPANY ADVOCATES**) and undertaking a leadership course at Watoto Church. I am a born again Christian from a background and foundation of a Christian family and still serving God up to date planted in Watoto Church. I am also a product of conferences that I attended organized by the **BUSHIKORI CHRISTIAN CENTER** management and these planted good spiritual seed in me. I am born in a family of five of which I am the fourth child with three lovely sisters and an amazing brother. I and my siblings are born to **MRS MABONGA ELIZABETH NAFUNA MAFABI** a strong willed and amazing lady who loves God passionately. She has nature us even in the hardest moments that she faced as a single mother raising five children. My father past away in 1998 leaving my mother pregnant with our last born my brother and life was so hard for my family especially financially because mum had to balance among all of us at home to ensure that we had something for the day .My little brother and i joined Bushkori Christian center in 2009 when I was in my senior 2 and my life turned around from then on. I received school fees every term with scholastic material which reduced financial pressure from my family. I received financial and health support whenever there was a need throughout my high school. Later when I joined university, the project supported me by paying my tuitions and providing me with facilitation for buying school materials like statutes and this made it easy for me to

do school with minimum lack. I was later awarded with a laptop from the project and this helped me a lot during my years in school because I got to do all my assignments on time and at a lesser cost. I managed to do my end of course dissertation and excelled. I am more than grateful for Bushkori Christian center for supporting me through this journey and I stand today, the lawyer that I am because the project has responded to the need in the society and supporting me and my family. I am a product of Bushikori Christian center. All my thanks go to the management and staff of the project but above all my mother **MRS ANNA WANENDEYA** for nurturing and praying for me and the other students supported by the project. God bless Bushkori Christian center.



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Local news and thanksgiving

September 2019

Downton Abbey Film Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported this event we raised just over \$2,500 for our BCC Centre Fund.

October 2019

Friends of Bushikori Fundraiser “The Cup”

It was a wonderful night listening to Ian Cover, watching the film The Cup, a great time of fellowship and fantastic supper! Thank you to Ian for donating his time and entertaining us with many stories. Also to IGA North Valley Rd Highton and to St Johns Highton and all who provided to make this a successful evening, give thanks as we raised \$2,600 for the Richard Stone Post-Secondary Fund, supporting students in vocational and tertiary courses.

Bloom Womens Conference held at One Hope Church Barrabool Hills Campus on 12th October 2019.

Thank you for the invitation and opportunity for Bushikori to be the Justice Cause at the 2019 Bloom Conference. We gave a brief presentation to over 400 women and we were so blessed by the encouragement and support received. Praise the Lord!

Coming up:

The **Christmas Gathering at Bushikori** is in early December. The budget this year is \$4,500. In addition to the community meal and celebrations, each child will receive a gift of Rice 4Kgs and Cooking oil 1litre. We are always grateful for your support towards the Christmas Fund. This gathering is the highlight of the year where everyone comes together and hears the good news about God’s love for each one of us through the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Above: Ian Cover and Bill Jennings at supper at The Cup



Childhood memories before sponsorship...leads to great hope and joy in sponsorship and education.

Growing up in the village, attending village schools, lacking basics, having one meal a day, swallowing pain killers to cure fevers and malaria are some of the things that characterized my childhood. You see in the village, education is not a priority, we had a bunch of chores to do before you could head out to school, such included digging in the gardens, fetching water from the far away wells among others. By the time one goes to school they are tired and could hardly concentrate. During dry seasons, we could go to fetch water in the night and return in the wee hours of the morning due to long queues, we still had to do the standard chores before we went to school and this greatly affected my performance.

We have children in need of sponsorship,
Please contact Pamela if interested.
sponsorship@bushikori.org.au

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



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