



November 2022 Newsletter

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Over 25 years of Australians supporting children at Bushikori in Uganda

About us

The Bushikori Christian Centre (BCC) is located in a rural village near Mbale, Uganda, East Africa. The centre is not an orphanage but a registered non-government organisation.

Bushikori is a child sponsorship program, empowering children in poverty to be educated, growing up to become an agent of change in their own community. Care is taken that the sponsored children live with suitable guardians.

Bushikori's Director is Mary Wanendeya, the daughter of the late Pastor Sam and Mrs Anne Wandendeya, the founders of BCC. The main source of financial help comes from generous sponsors and supporters in Australia, facilitated by the Australian Support Committee, a Christian group of volunteers based in Geelong, Victoria.

Committee members are volunteers of all ages and denominations. We facilitate donations for child sponsorship, the Bushikori Health Centre, Joshua Primary School, the centre fund supporting the day to day running costs and special projects in Uganda. One hundred percent of specified donations are transferred to Bushikori Uganda.

Bushikori Christian Centre Orphan Support (Aust.) is registered with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.

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Find us

Please advise our committee if you prefer to receive this newsletter by email or download from www.bushikori.org.au

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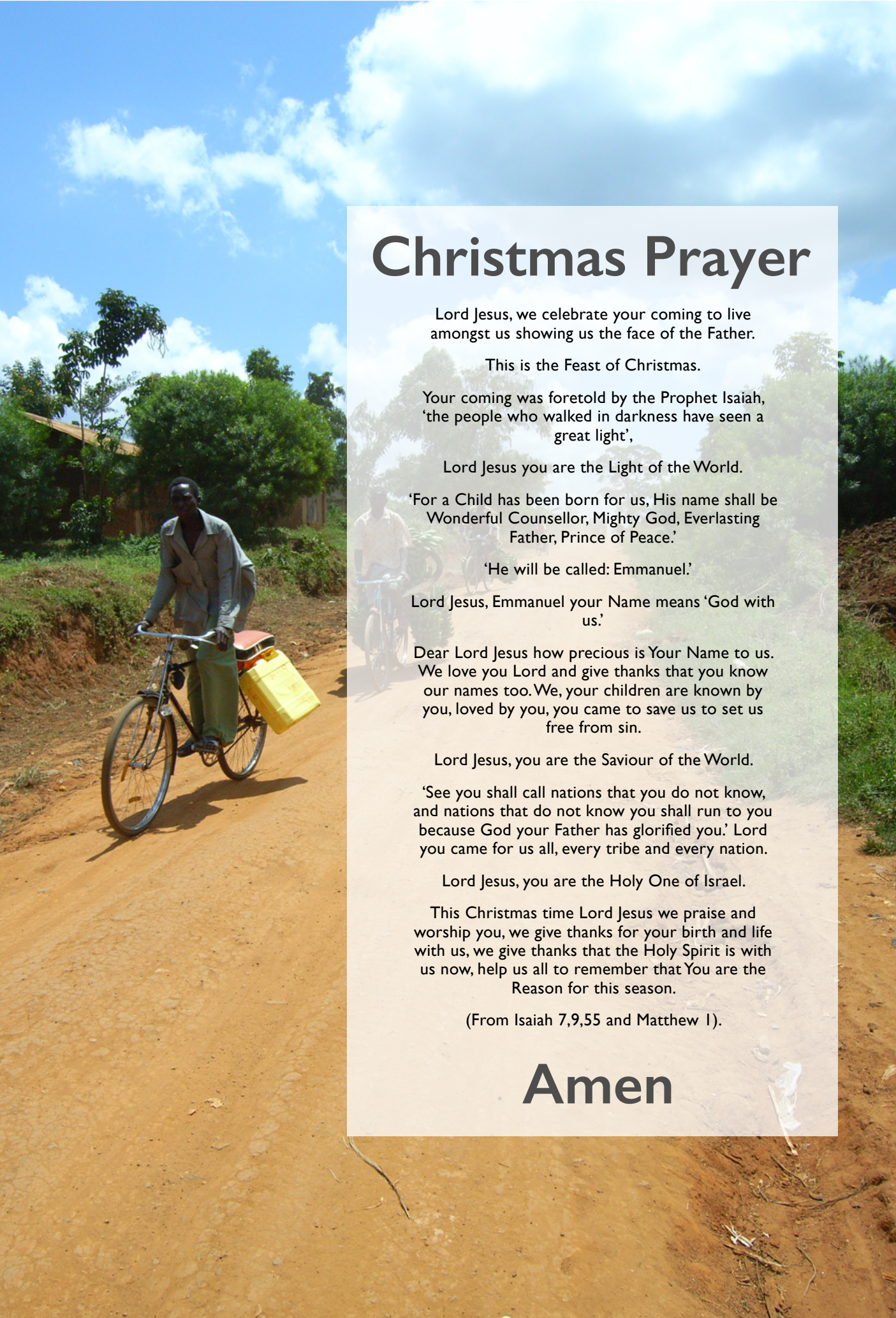
We would like to thank:

- Stephen Davey at Pagation for hosting our website.
- Christian College, Highton, for printing the newsletter.

Spreading the News

We would be delighted to provide information and a speaker for any churches, small groups and schools who are interested in receiving updates or would like to find out more about our mission and child sponsorship in Uganda.

Contact: president@bushikori.org.au

A photograph of a man riding a bicycle on a dirt road. He is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. Two yellow plastic jugs are attached to the back of the bicycle. The background shows a dirt road, some greenery, and a blue sky with white clouds.

Christmas Prayer

Lord Jesus, we celebrate your coming to live amongst us showing us the face of the Father.

This is the Feast of Christmas.

Your coming was foretold by the Prophet Isaiah, 'the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light',

Lord Jesus you are the Light of the World.

'For a Child has been born for us, His name shall be Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

'He will be called: Emmanuel.'

Lord Jesus, Emmanuel your Name means 'God with us.'

Dear Lord Jesus how precious is Your Name to us. We love you Lord and give thanks that you know our names too. We, your children are known by you, loved by you, you came to save us to set us free from sin.

Lord Jesus, you are the Saviour of the World.

'See you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you because God your Father has glorified you.' Lord you came for us all, every tribe and every nation.

Lord Jesus, you are the Holy One of Israel.

This Christmas time Lord Jesus we praise and worship you, we give thanks for your birth and life with us, we give thanks that the Holy Spirit is with us now, help us all to remember that You are the Reason for this season.

(From Isaiah 7,9,55 and Matthew 1).

Amen



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING: JULY



A MONTH OF THANKS

Mary Wanendeya

Today I am sharing how
our month of July is going.

It's our thanksgiving month.

It's good to have an emphasis on our mission and vision to the staff and children as well. Every Friday, we will meet in the Geelong Hall, 3-4:30pm to pray for BCC and all the activities, we will have a visiting preacher coming each Friday and we will try to have some children participate with us. We will later crown it off with a Jesus Market and this time around we would like to give to the people with disabilities from our community. We are all looking forward to meeting a need and putting a smile on the faces of these individuals. We will share pictures and a brief report on what will happen throughout the month.

God be with you.

Serving Our Community

Bushikori Christian Centre (BCC) exists to fulfil the great commission of Jesus Christ through word and deed.

Religion that God our father accepts as pure and faultless is to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

James 1:27 (NIV)

This month of July we chose to give to and support the people with disabilities in our community. We supported girls and boys, women and men from the ages of three to thirty.

We took off time to pray together as a family of BCC. Meeting every morning from 8-9 am and each Friday we met from 3-4:30pm. We heard from different people both invited and our own staff. It was a wonderful time reflecting on the word of God and reminding ourselves about the mission and vision of BCC.

July Activities

1. Praise and Worship
2. Prayer
3. Bible study
4. Mission outreach to Bugisu High School
5. The Jesus Market.

It was a wonderful time leading praise and worship, prayer and Bible study by different departments at Bushikori. The Joshua Primary School (JPS), the Health Centre, Administration and Childcare Department, the sponsored children, both at JPS and other schools near the Centre. Our emphasis was on who we are and why we exist (James 1:27).

Mission at Bugisu High School

On the 16th of July we had a mission at Bugisu High School. The BCC Staff together with a number of friends of Bushikori headed out to Bugisu. This is one of the schools that our sponsored children go to and we have over 68 children there. Other students also had the opportunity to be a part of the mission. Our target was to spread the good news about Jesus Christ to the young generation. The students were very excited to be a part of the celebration which was a blessing to us, we got to share with about 700 teenagers.

Dr David Wanendeya shared about the goodness of knowing Christ as a young Christian. Being a youth, there are many temptations that keep coming your way, and knowing Christ helps you to resist the temptations, grow spiritually, concentrate and achieve your goals.

He encouraged them to stay focused. You can only achieve this when you have Christ in you. By the end of his sermon, 14 students responded and started a lifegiving relationship with Jesus, of which, one student is a sponsored child.

By the end of the mission, students had gotten an opportunity to use their talents, talk to God, share their experiences with others through testimonies, to know about having a personal relationship with Jesus. Thereafter, we shared a meal with the students while having words of encouragement and counselling those who needed a one on one time. The school has requested Bushikori to visit again.

The Jesus Market

Finally, we crowned off the month of July with a Jesus Market – Come Shop For Free. We had a variety of items ranging from shoes, clothes for all categories, baby clothes, children, teenagers, women and men. We gave out a bar of soap, one tin of Vaseline, one kilogram of sugar, four kilograms of maize flour, and five kilograms of Irish potatoes.

The Jesus Market was a concept our late director, Anne Wandendeya, picked from Op Shops at the churches in Australia. So we are happy to carry on this little act of kindness as we reach out to the community being mindful to meet the physical needs alongside the Spiritual ones.

Thanks

Special thanks to the Australian Support Committee which has tirelessly prayed for the July month for us, the staff at Bushikori who have supported the programme in many ways, the sponsored children who participated and learnt from this, all our friends who came to share the word and encourage us. We look forward to supporting more vulnerable people in our communities here at BCC whenever the Lord makes it possible.

Shalom!

PROJECT UPDATE

Girls Hostel

The Girls Hostel rose out of the need to house girls and improve their accommodation while at JPS. The construction project for the girl's hostel has progressed and this afternoon, the contractor will hand over phase one which was involving the foundation, ground floor pillars and walling. We have had a great progress in this area despite the inflation. The prices have been sky rocketing but we are managing well.

We are hoping to be able to get this big project completed before the end of the year. We are excited that a good number of the children will have a better place to stay as they pursue the potential they have through education. For now, we share progress pictures – they are aerial and help to create a better imagination of the progress of the entire work.

30 trees for 30 years

September 2022 BCC received a donation of \$ 400 towards planting 30 trees for 30 years at Bushikori. Kerry and Rick Peacock's daughter Gabby turned 21 on August 7th and she had a party. She said to her friends and family if they were stuck for an idea of a gift they could donate towards trees at Bushikori. To put up the girls hostel David had remarked they had to cut down all the trees in that area and would plant more later. Gabby really appreciates trees so this seemed like a good idea. Her grandfather (who died long before she was born) had grown up in a bark miners hut in the forest.

We are thrilled by the thoughts and love over this by Gabby Peacock, we think besides BCC being a beautiful place, the impact on the environment will last a life time.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING: BEYOND JULY

The Anne Leah Wandendeya Surgical Centre

Phase 1 – Equipment

Our primary installation was a Surgical Bed and Surgical Lighting, patient trolleys, basic operating theatre furniture, oxygen source via cylinders and concentrators. These will provide the basic framework to any Operating Theatre. We also purchased two Caesarean Section surgical instrument sets, General set, two Herniorrhaphy sets and surgical linen.

Phase 2 – Equipment

This phase has been focussing on equipping the anaesthetic aspects of the surgical programme. We procured a Mindray (brand) anaesthesia machine and had it installed. This will go a long way in making the surgeries safer with more options to assisted breathing intraoperatively. The new anaesthetic machine is equipped with breathing circuits.

In addition to this, we procured and installed a 50 litre autoclave, which will be a wonderful upgrade from our 5 litre, 1998 autoclave! This new autoclave will enable us to sterilize more instruments for less power consumed.

A flexible patient trolley was added to enhance sterility and patient transition in the operating theatre. Our clinician in charge, Risper Nabwire writes:

"We shall be able to use the highly efficient automated steam autoclave not just for theatre but all other aspects of medical work where sterile sundries are needed."

We have also installed within the surgical centre a 100 litre cold chain solar powered fridge capable of sustaining -10 degrees. In the context of the power challenges, this is a blessing as we will now be a Vaccine hub in our area and we shall be able to store more for longer periods.

Patient Feedback: NS from Nashikhaso Village

I would like to thank the management of Bushikori medical centre for the vision to help our community through provision of health services. I attended my antenatal and subsequently had a safe delivery at the centre. I unfortunately developed hypertension in my late pregnancy and would like to thank the team for responding in a timely manner and I was able to have an emergency C-Section late in the night – that was unheard of. Ordinarily, I would have to travel about 7km to wait in a queue. It is very easy to find yourself in a situation that literally endangers your life. I very quickly became anaemic and was unconscious. I needed a transfusion which was possible to receive at the Bushikori centre. I am in good health right now, a proud mother of a healthy baby boy. I think that mothers bring life and that is a wonderful thing. Unfortunately, some mothers in our community die in this process. It is very unfortunate to die while bringing life to the world. I think it is a blessing for us to be able to do something about this – by helping to make the birth process safer. I thank Bushikori for this effort because I am now able to return to work and carry on with a normal life.

Joshua Primary School

Joshua Primary School recently hosted World DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Day for Eastern Uganda: an initiative to build a reading culture amongst students. Joshua Primary School students were encouraged to take reading seriously.

Among the officials we hosted were the President of Rotary Club Mbale and the Co-ordinator of Red Cross. Rotary visited and shared books and the kids had to read a book wherever they were for one hour.

August 2022

We have had a lot of rain here in Mbale since Saturday. It was so bad, there were floods and many families lost lives and property, electrical poles were destroyed and water supply. I have never seen such rain in town. It is always in the mountains. This time the floods were more in town than the hilly areas. We thank God that we are all safe. Everything is coming back to normal.

In response to this news one of our link supporters Church by the Bay Portarlington donated \$1000 towards flood relief for the community

September 2022

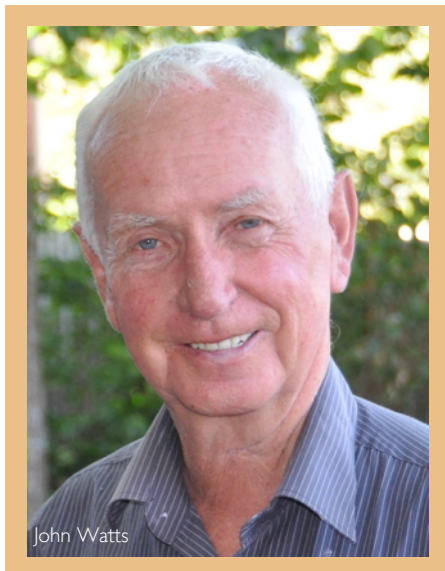
Child Care Department

School has just reopened and over the next few weeks be engaged with ensuring that they all return for their 3rd and final term of the year. We are praying that they can be promoted to the next class. We find our own lives quite often deeply engaged with these boys and girls. While this calls us to give up our own personal lives, it is a blessing to be able to impact these lives and hope for a better future life.

Surgical Centre

Our surgical department got a good boost from the previous procurement toward equipment. Good progress has been made on this end. As we press on, we shall be focusing on accreditation with the authorities specifically the blood cold chain services as these will complement the surgeries. We are beginning to see a lot of support from the local government here. They will support the medical programme with four staff whose salaries they will pay. Praise the Lord for that.





Vale John Watts

Secretary of the Australian
Support Committee (2005-22)

It is with great sadness that we share the news that John Watts our Secretary and greatly loved member of the Australian Support Committee passed away on the 8th October 2022.

John faithfully served on the committee and the *Friends of Bushikori* group for 17 years. John first heard about Bushikori through friends in his church Study Group. The late Richard Stone, who was on the Bushikori committee and also a member of John's Rotary Club, would often talk about Bushikori to John.

John joined the committee in 2005 and when the secretary's position became vacant that year John volunteered. At the time he felt he was equipped to meet the need. Our committee certainly agree he was a blessing and John faithfully and capably served not only as the secretary but was greatly appreciated for his wisdom and thoughtful contributions to so many of our committee discussions and planning.

In a recent interview John was asked the question what have been your highlights on the committee? He answered;

The highlight for me in the time that I have been on the committee is to be able to witness the growth of Bushikori through God's work into a sustainable ongoing organisation that never forgets its mission. To fulfil the great commission of Jesus Christ in word and deed by spreading the word of God, taking care of widows, orphans and other vulnerable children.

The other highlight is to me is that we are a support committee based on trust and prayer. There have been many enjoyable experiences in serving on the committee and in particular being part of Friends of Bushikori, a support group that raises funds for Bushikori. My communication with Anne Wandendeya through sending summaries of our meetings and other correspondence and her gracious God filled responses is something that I will always value. Her legacy will continue to expand and grow.

John's involvement with the Kardinia Rotary Club led to a Scholarship Fund commencing in 2011. This has enabled four of our Bushikori students to be assisted with their University degrees in clinical medicine, veterinary science and pharmacy.

In 2012 John responded to a need to deliver a donated ultrasound to Bushikori. This was his first and only visit to Uganda, however it deepened his understanding and built lasting relationships with those he met at the Bushikori Christian Centre.

John's past working life as a teacher and school principal has been invaluable with communication and reaching out to schools. He has always assisted with keeping contact with local schools especially with Covenant College. This school in Geelong provides support for Christian Education and sponsorship of students at Bushikori. Many of the staff also donate towards the salaries of Ugandan teachers at Bushikori's Joshua Primary School. We will miss John's knowledge and understanding in this area.

The day before John's funeral there was a memorial service held at the Bushikori Christian Centre in Uganda. They expressed great love and honoured John. They also recalled his support and encouragement for Anne Wandendeya due to their regular communication until her passing last year. John will be greatly missed and his legacy will continue.



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



Local Events

BUSHIKORI AUSTRALIA The Trading Table

By Helen McLean

From my first encounter with Bushikori Christian Centre founder Sam Wandendaya in 1995, I had this strong image of a seed being planted in his heart and him allowing it to take root and grow. Over the years I've had this image come to me again as I've seen Bushikori develop in amazing ways because person after person has acted on an idea sown in their heart.

Earlier this year a seed of an idea came to me as I was lifting my Dahlias after they'd finished flowering! Perhaps I could sell them for BCC, but how? If only we had a Trading Table at the church, maybe other people would have things they'd like to contribute? Would it actually be appropriate to be selling things at our church? Well, perhaps we could run the idea past The Powers That Be, so we did and the rest, as they say, is history!

In May, we got a little table set up in the foyer and dipped our toes in the water. We encouraged people to contribute anything they could from their plenty to help our friends at Bushikori with so little. Some things had suggested prices, others were just left to people's good judgement. In the past six months we've had such a variety of offerings (e.g. vegetables, flowers, preserves, beautifully crafted jewellery, woodwork, etc.) .You never know what is going to turn up each week and the people of St John's have embraced the concept with such enthusiasm and generosity. It's heartwarming to see so many people gathering around each week to see what's on offer. Despite initial misgivings about whether it was actually an appropriate activity to be happening at our church I now feel confident that God is pleased with the initiative as our efforts have been well and truly blessed. It has been a bit like the loaves and the fishes; somehow our little offerings each week have steadily averaged more than \$100 and as we approach six months of operation we are amazed to see that our little Trading Table has raised in excess of \$3000!

When I was asked to write about this initiative at St John's Highton, I thought, well perhaps this idea might float like a seed into some other people's hearts and minds, take root and grow into something wonderful in some other places. Wouldn't that be lovely?

Film Night Fundraiser

On Saturday 29th October the Australian Support Committee hosted a successful film fundraiser. Ian Cover (founding member of the ABC Radio team *The Coodabeen Champions*) together with his wife Lydia and daughter Olympia were our guest speakers. Ian has generously volunteered his time and attended our events over recent years. There was a short pre-film talk where Ian and Olympia shared insight into working on the film set and without failure Ian brought laughter with Aussie Rules Footy references. Lydia provided an informal judging of *Fashions on the Field* during supper. The Friends of Bushikori group hosted a very happy and successful gathering. Thank you to all who supported and attended this event.

Church Connections

How lovely it is to be invited to share about Bushikori. In July we shared with the Anglican Parish of Lara and Little River during their mission month. In October we shared about the history of Bushikori and current activities to Trinity Uniting Church in Anglesea. Our committee is very thankful for the prayers, encouragement and support we receive from churches.

THE JOURNEY OF SPONSORSHIP

To all our sponsors who have made sacrifices to support a child thank you for helping to provide hope and to break the cycle of poverty.

One of our sponsors recently received this final letter from their sponsored student, Gift who has completed her education through the Bushikori programme. The sponsor asked if we could publish this encouraging letter. It is one of many significant completion letters that our sponsors receive after a lengthy sponsorship. Many sponsors have journeyed with the child for over 10 years and it is such a blessing when a child has received hope and is able to complete education well.



“

Thankyou for moving with me on this journey

”

How are you over there? I hope you and your family members are fine and the almighty God has kept you well and healthy. I take this opportunity to inform you that I have completed my course. I pursued a certificate in midwifery for two years at Aquila School of Nursing and Midwifery. I am now waiting for my graduation in December this year. My plan is to upgrade in my course to a diploma level. I am planning to get practice for two years and gain experience so that I qualify to upgrade. I have a dream of having a maternity home where I will always take care of pregnant mothers from time of their conception to time of delivery. I want to thank you for your support throughout my studies. You have changed my life through the empowerment. Thank you for moving with me on this journey. May God bless you abundantly and may He give you good health and long life.

A letter from Gift

What's in a name?

We know that our Lord knows us all by name, but we have found it hard to understand the naming system in Uganda. You may have noticed that children within one family frequently have a different surname to their siblings. Here is the explanation from Uganda to help us understand!

In Uganda very few families will have a family name. This is because in the past, our society focused more on the clan rather than the smaller unit that is the immediate family. This means that the clan name was more important as all people belonged to a clan. There were several names by which an individual's clan could easily be identified. The names had a common suffix or pattern. For example, Wambi, Wambede, Wamono, Waniale... This pattern could be traced to a certain clan.

Within the clans, the heads of family were given the privilege to give names according to a natural event such as the weather pattern, an epidemic, a disastrous flood, planting

season, harvest or a drought. Essentially, the name carries the literal meaning of the prevailing circumstances. An example would be 'Nakhumitsa,' that's a surname for a girl born during planting season. 'Watsala' is a surname for a boy born during the drought.

The people of the past did live in fear. Often fear of the unknown with many believing that if they revered a certain situation through naming, the 'gods' would be happy and look favourably upon them. This situation is certainly changing as people become enlightened and have a better understanding of life and how we can live better.

More and more, names are taken from a person that the parents respect and look up to or a situation that they went through and would like to remember. In a way, names are reflective of the constantly changing society that we all live in.





Christmas letters received by students 2021

SPONSORSHIP

Meet Our Students



Alice Nandutu

Alice is seven years old and lives with her uncle who has no source of income.



Jonah Nabunda

Jonah is five years old and there is no secure source of income for his family.



Peace Namalwa

Peace is nine years old and her single mother struggles to care for the family.



Jeremiah Wakinya

Jeremiah is six years old and there is no secure source of income for his family.



Everine Kakayi

Everine's dream is to be a nurse. She is in senior 6 and requires support for post secondary subjects.

Monthly Sponsorship Rates

Options for three instalments yearly or once off annual payments

Primary Student **\$30**

Secondary Student **\$53**

Tertiary Student **TBA**

OUR WORK

Bushikori is a Child Sponsorship Program, empowering children in poverty to be educated, growing up to become an agent of change in their own country. Care is taken to ensure sponsored children live with suitable guardians. The committed Ugandan staff at Bushikori provide a much-needed service to the impoverished farming community; particularly the vulnerable children (regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, tribe). From nursery to tertiary/vocational, sponsorship covers school fees, uniform, scholastic materials, medical care and welfare. All of the sponsorship fees go directly to Uganda.

Bushikori is Joshua Primary School, providing quality education to students from Nursery to Primary Seven. Classes are taught in English. Every Student at Joshua Primary receives two meals a day, which for some is the only food that they eat each day.

Bushikori is a Community Library, established through a support group from the United States of America providing much needed textbooks, recreational reading books and a space for training.

Bushikori is a Health Centre, providing a 24 hour service to a population of 23,000. The healthcare service includes maternal health, HIV/AIDS clinic, adolescent health, immunisations, diagnostic services and the training of traditional birth attendants.

Donate to a fund

Bushikori Centre Fund: Each month the Australian Support Committee must send funds to keep the Ugandan Centre running (i.e. power, fuel, Ugandan staff wages).

Joshua Primary School: Support for infrastructure and to employ teachers.

Health Centre Fund: Support to employ staff at the medical centre which serves the surrounding population of approximately 23,000 people.

AnneLeah Fund: Support the Surgical Services Operating Theatre project

Richard Stone Memorial Fund: Helps to support the payment of tertiary/vocational education of sponsored children. Funds are distributed at the Australian Support Committee's discretion.

Welfare Pool: Used at the discretion of Ugandan staff for children who have a special need (i.e. roofs, goats, bedding, seeds, food).

Christmas Fund: Helps to support the annual Christmas gathering and gifts of rice, cooking oil, flour, sugar for the sponsored children and families

If you would like to support Bushikori Christian Centre please fill out this form and mail to:

Bushikori Christian Centre, PO Box 42, Geelong, 3220
Or, email your interest to: sponsorship@bushikori.org.au

For direct deposit: BSB 063858. Account No. 10077253.
Cheques made payable to Bushikori Christian Centre

Sponsorship Form

Name: _____ Post Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

☐ I would like to commit to sponsoring a child

☐ I would like to make a once-off donation



PRIMARY

\$ _____



SECONDARY

\$ _____



TERTIARY

\$ _____



HEALTH

\$ _____

Clinic

\$ _____

AnneLeah Fund



WELFARE

\$ _____

Centre Fund

\$ _____

Christmas Fund



SCHOOL

\$ _____

Richard Stone

\$ _____

Joshua Primary School



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