



September 2023 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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Facebook: Bushikori Christian Centre

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

Prayer

LORD

*May we give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,
His steadfast love endures forever;*

Lord, we come to you with grateful thanks for the Bushikori Christian Centre, for your abundant provision and love for all who work faithfully in this mission.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, those he redeemed from trouble. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding a way to an inhabited town, hungry and thirsty their soul fainted within them;

Lord, we thankyou for the great blessing that is offered to all who come to Bushikori for help. Many who have been lost, desperate, poor, hungry and without hope have come to this place and found the love of Jesus Christ expressed through the care offered, for health, education, advice and other ministries.

Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble and he delivered them from their distress, he led them by a straight way until they reached an inhabited town;

Lord, this 'inhabited town' is the mission of BCC, where children are educated and receive good nutrition, where the sick receive medical assistance, where women with issues of pregnancy and childbirth receive the ongoing support they need, where all are accepted without stigma and the love of Christ abounds.

*May we all thank the Lord for His steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.
For He satisfies the thirsty, and the hungry He fills with good things.*

Lord, may we never cease to praise you, may we never forget your promise to your children that you will never leave or forsake us, may your love and example be evident to all who are involved with BCC, those who give and those who receive, in Uganda and in Australia.

Thankyou Jesus,

AMEN

From Psalm 107, NRSV



PAST STUDENTS BECOME PASTORS

A REFLECTION

Australian Support Committee

One of the most encouraging aspects of the Bushikori Christian Centre for those of us on the Australian Support Committee is the knowledge that a young child who often exists in dire circumstances can get an education. They and their families also receive health care support, advice and encouragement from BCC that is life transforming. Past students (alumni) often stay in touch with BCC after graduating from a tertiary/vocational course. Education and a career offer opportunities for secure employment and chance to leave a life of poverty. Three past students have been called by God to be Church Pastors, here are their testimonies, we thank the Lord for them and bless them in their calling.

Fred Onoke

I remember very well through all times I spent at Bushikori Christian Centre; we were always helped to know Christ through the Devotionals we attended. Coming back home, our mother was such an amazing woman who taught us how to pray and fast, I continued with that love for Christ as I grew up, in my primary, secondary and university and I was always appointed as a religious leader.

Continuing in my walk in the path of ministry at University, I was appointed as the youth leader in our church, and an opportunity was given to me to join a Bible School. After two years I graduated with a Diploma in Theology and Biblical outreach. From the university I started going for short term missions with a team working with my wife.

During that time we saw many people accept Christ and that's when I heard the urgency call for starting a church. Through prayer for two more years God confirmed this call and revealed to me that Entebbe was the place. To confirm this, my former Bible school instructors sent me to start teaching in one of the worship Centres they had opened in Entebbe. Our ministry is growing gradually in Entebbe church, we have an attendance of 67 adults and 70 children giving us a total of 137 members. Please pray for us as we continue with the call of ministering to God's saints faithfully.



“

PRAISE GOD SO
MUCH...

Daniel Kizza

Steven Wambi

When I was sponsored, I joined Joshua Primary School, being a Christian school Chapel time was on every Thursday and I participated actively. I joined the Sunday School choir and started serving in church. The passion and compassion of serving God kept on consuming me up, I always found myself at the altar seeking God. I can attest that my walk with God began from a tender age, I have grown up seeking and serving God.

My Ministry calling as an Evangelist: My mother once told me that when I was a baby one-year-old, I fell sick with a chronic illness that almost took my life, I was rushed to Bushikori Health Centre for treatment. Pastor Sam Wandendeya prayed for me and prophesied over my life that when I grow up, I would become a Pastor. I committed myself to serving in the church, preaching and teaching the word of God, mentoring and counselling the youth. I must say, Pastor Sam aligned my destiny to do with ministry. The calling over my life has compelled love in me and it is because of that, I found myself on streets, hospitals, schools and in communities preaching and ministering the word of God. I am an evangelist mentored under Bushikori Christian church. I have touched so many lives and on several occasions I have empowered so many youths in knowing and discovering their purpose in life. I have visited hospitals ministering and praying for the sick, instilling and building their faith in God.

Daniel Kizza

Praise God so much, I hope by the grace of God you are well. I want to take time to thank God for how far he has brought me. I also want to appreciate my sponsors through BCC who held me throughout my studies. I also want to bless the Almighty God for the opportunity he gave me to lead his people through Adonai Church Kampala, Uganda. The journey to my calling began the time I was in South Sudan where I had gone to teach, it was not easy because I did not think even a single hour that I will ever be a Pastor but God talked to me while in classroom teaching. The voice was, 'I brought you here to show you the need for my word' but for me I did not take it seriously because it had never been in my dream of achieving.

Later I went into prayer and fasting and heard the same voice. I started a fellowship in South Sudan at the school where I was teaching. From that day my heart settled. In one month God brought missionaries from Kenya, America and New Zealand, these were sent to establish churches in that village under Africa Inland Church so when I saw them I was very happy, God was faithful I teamed up with them and we served God together that was in 2013.

They encouraged me to go to Bible school, as I write now I am pursuing my Diploma in Theology at Glad Tidings Bible College, this has changed my life. Though there have been challenges along the way I am grateful to God for calling me in His service.



IN MEMORY

JPS Staffroom Renovations



Lasting Legacy

Ian Macaulay and John Watts, valued and long serving members of the Australian Support Committee (ASC) requested donations for Bushikori instead of flowers at their respective funerals. Kerry (Chair of the ASC) asked Uganda if they had a special project in mind. The reply came; 'we need to renovate the Joshua Primary School (JPS) staffroom.' We are grateful for the donations given in memory of Ian and John, and pleased to let all the generous donors know that the money has made a big difference at Joshua Primary School, BCC.

Following is the report from Director Mary Wanendeya, we thank God for His provision and the encouragement that this donation has brought to JPS staff.

Director's Report

On behalf of JPS I would like to thank you all for the support you render each and every time. We used the funds to renovate the teachers' staff room as you suggested Kerry. This was a timely gift for the school. We had earlier wondered how we could fix this space. We will honour it forever and remember Ian and John for the tremendous work they did to support the students and the community here.

The teachers now have a clean and beautiful space to sit, they are able to mark children's books and exams, and do their lesson planning in a more comfortable space.

The walls, windows and ceiling have been painted, the ten tables have been renewed, and the power sockets and lighting improved.

The Bushikori Christian Centre is situated just outside the large town of Mbale, it is a thriving community that includes the Joshua Primary School, the Health Centre, the Anne Leah Surgical Centre, and the Administration team. During the day there is a constant stream of people coming for assistance to the Health Centre. Here there are immunisation and pregnancy clinics including clinics for those living with HIV/Aids, there is also outpatient care as well as hospital inpatients and pathology available.

On the other side of the compound the school students can be seen getting their morning tea, or lunch time meals, playing sport or sitting quietly in class. They may be receiving lessons in the library or attending chapel in the Geelong Hall.

People also come to the Administration office asking for assistance or advice, there is always someone to listen and discern what support may be needed.

The gardener keeps the compound looking beautiful, grass mown, paths swept clean from dust and leaves. The cleaners keep the latrines pristine, and there is always a watchman at the gate.

Administration Staff

- Mary, Acting Executive Director (Bachelor in Social Work Social Administration)
- Moses, Human Resource Officer (Bachelor of Public Administration/Human Resource Management)
- David, Medical Officer (Bachelor of Medicine)
- Grace, Estates Manager (Bachelor of Management and Engineering)
- Florence, Finance Officer (Bachelor of Business Administration)
- Bessie, Sponsor Relations Officer (Bachelor of Business Administration).



Joshua Primary School Staff

- Robert, JPS Head Teacher (Diploma of Education)
- Lydia, Deputy JPS Head Teacher in charge of Administration
- John Bosco, Deputy Head Teacher and in charge of Academics

There are 24 teachers including four in the nursery classes. Covenant College Geelong generously donate towards the teachers' wages. Other support staff include four cooks, two watchmen, two cleaners and the compound cleaner, 5 staff in the Girls and Boys' Hostels. A total of 48 staff members who require their regular salaries. There is also ongoing need for maintenance.

As the Bible tells us, a worker is due his or her wages, the work at BCC needs to be funded, this is the Centre Fund. The Australian Support Committee (ASC) holds special fundraising events during the year to raise the finances to keep BCC running well. If we do not succeed in raising sufficient funds then the core mission to give children an education through sponsorship will not be achievable. We view the Centre Fund as an integral part of the big picture of the Bushikori Christian Centre and the services it offers, we welcome and are grateful for regular donations from our supporters.



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

Get to know...

Moses

Moses Nangwale, Human Resource Officer, is a key member of the Administration staff. Moses lives in Mbale with his family and worships at the Anglican Cathedral. We are grateful to God for his dedication to the Mission of BCC, here is his story:

Before joining the Bushikori Christian Centre, I had worked as an accountant for seven years with a local NGO whose mission was sponsoring children. I also worked for seven years as a Project Director for Compassion, in this role I assisted projects sponsoring children under the Mbale Diocese.

Since I had pursued a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration, specializing in Human Resources, I had an ambition of practicing as a Human Resource Officer. So in 2012 when BCC advertised for the post of Human Resources I applied. I sat for an interview and I was the second candidate in written interviews which qualified me for an oral interview. During this interview the panel was convinced with my reasoning and experience shared in working with sponsorship programs, which made them consider me as the best candidate for the job. Thereafter I was called by the Executive Director to discuss what the organization is offering and what their expectations from me were.

After a month of prayer, God had communicated to us as a family that this is not a job but a service in God's ministry. When I informed the then Bishop who was my employer, he also encouraged me. He said that "if it is God's will for you to serve, go and serve".

So in September 2012 I accepted the appointment letter from the Bushikori Christian Centre as a Human Resource Officer, resigned from the Compassion assisted project and reported for work on 1st October 2012.

And so I began work with the Late Anne. And we served together until 2021. Over the years we have served and seen the Lord carry us through a lot. We have together witnessed God transform lives through the work of Bushikori.

I thank God that I worked very well with the late Director to grow the organization and the current leadership. I am currently very involved with the Child Care Department (CCD), monitoring and coordinating activities. I also assist the Director, Mary Wanendeya in her day to day roles.

I am optimistic that with the new strength and the faith filled mind that the Lord can do, in fact is doing a new thing using the team that is here to serve. I thank you all for your work and dedication.



BOYS

and

GIRLS' HOSTEL

Completed Girls Hostel

In our May 2023 Newsletter was an article on the construction of the new Girls' hostel, this building is now complete and is a great addition to the facilities offered to students at BCC. The Boys' hostel has been in use for several years. The benefits for the students, to live onsite, have regular meals and not have to walk long distances between school and home are invaluable. BCC Girls Hostel matrons are Doreen and Rebecca (see photo).



“

The new girl's hostel is beautiful
and the children love it

”

The boys and girls in the hostels are doing okay. The hostels are more spacious now with better facilities in them compared to the old Girls' hostel that was very crowded. I am so happy to move to the new structure. First of all, it is beautiful and the children love it. We have enough space both in and out. This allows children to play whenever they are out of class. We have very beautiful bathrooms and toilets just besides the dormitory, this means that we don't have to be rained on like before when going out to take a shower. The safety of the children is very key, we have a fence and security so we are not worried in the night. We have a 24-hour power and water supply so that is not something we take for granted. The structure was very well planned with respect to function- provision for the sick kids, the disabled and the younger ones makes this a unique facility. I want to thank Bushikori for constructing this magnificent structure to house our girls. God bless you all.

Dorreen Watulo Testimony

Daily routine at JPS

The kitchen is a small building in the centre of the BCC compound. Huge pots of maize meal (ugali, posho) porridge are cooked over wood fires. This porridge requires constant stirring which is done with long, heavy paddles by the cooks who are very strong! Nearby is a hand washing facility with soap and a tap, and the children eat outside unless it is raining.

Lunch is a healthy combination of meat and vegetables, rice or maizemeal that is cooked more like polenta, as a solid rather than a porridge consistency. The provision of this excellent food helps the children grow, study and enjoy the best health possible and is a huge blessing for both students and staff.



Ugandan Report

The hostel students wake up very early at 5am, take a shower and head out to the kitchen to have breakfast. Usually, it is a cup of tea. At 6am, all the students are in for morning preps until 7am. Normal classes then start at 7:30am.

At 10:30am the entire school will be served with porridge. We usually have a 30-minute break and get back to class. Lunch time is at exactly 1pm to 2pm. We get back to class at exactly 2pm to 4pm. From P1 to P3, they go home. At 4:30pm P4-P7 return to class for remedial lessons and homework. 5:30pm-6:20pm is time to freshen up and rest for a bit. 7pm-9pm is prep for boarders. From 10pm is time for lights out and sleeping.

Joshua primary school has a kitchen which is shared by both the day and the boarding students. The hostel does not have its own kitchen. All the meals are prepared by the same cooks. Through the week, we will have the students eat Maize flour, beans, Rice, meat, green leafy vegetables, sweet potatoes and cabbage. Very special meals are served once in a while. We also provide tea in the morning before class and porridge during break time.



SPONSORSHIP

Meet Our Students



Nelvin Musamali

Nelvin is a five year old boy who lives with his parents who are living with HIV/ Aids. They have no secure income and struggle to support and educate their children. They have a brick home with an iron roof and have two meals a day.



Elizabeth Nakhabi

Elizabeth is a nine year old girl and in primary four. Her father left her family and is avoiding debt. They have no secure income for living expenses or education. Their home is made from mud and wattle with an iron roof.



Darius Mutama

Darius is a six year old boy in nursery school. His family have no income and are unable to provide regular meals, let alone education. They live in a mud brick home with an iron roof.



Teddy Jael Namataka

Teddy is a five year old girl, her family are poor peasants and do not have a secure income. They are unable to support Teddy's education.

If you would like to sponsor, please email sponsorship@bushikori.org.au

The construction of a home indicates the level of poverty of a family. A mud and wattle home is constructed using local soil and branches, with an iron roof that hopefully does not leak. A brick home is a more secure construction. All of these children do not have food security and education is an absolute necessity to change the circumstances of the family and their future. We thank God that with sponsorship lives are transformed, as testified by all the students who have completed their studies and are living well, with secure homes and food security assured. This is the hope we have for these children. The photos are from 2022.

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:

Email your interest to: sponsorship@bushikori.org.au

Or, call Sponsorship Coordinator, Pamela: **0407 576 441**

Or, write to us: **Bushikori Christian Centre, PO Box 42, Geelong, 3220**

For direct deposit:

BSB 063858. Account No. 10077253.

Cheques made payable to Bushikori Christian Centre



If undeliverable, please return to:
Bushikori Christian Centre
Newsletter
PO Box 42, Geelong, 3220
