



November 2024 Newsletter

*Celebrating 30 Years of Bushikori Uganda | Thank you Jesus*





*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.

Editors: Esther Cohen & Pamela Ferrar  
Graphic support: Alysha Morrison

## Find us

Please advise our committee if you prefer to receive this newsletter by email or download from [www.bushikori.org.au](http://www.bushikori.org.au)

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Website: [www.bushikori.org.au](http://www.bushikori.org.au)  
Facebook: Bushikori Christian Centre

We would like to thank:

- Stephen Davey at Pagination for hosting our website
- Christian College Highton for printing services

## 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](mailto:president@bushikori.org.au)

# Prayer

*Guided by Pslam 33*

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Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous, Lord we know that our righteousness is in and through you, we can do nothing in our own strength. Therefore we will praise you as befits the upright, we will sing to you a new song and give thanks that you are our provider, guide and counsellor.

Author of Life, we thankyou.

For your Word is upright and all your work is done in faithfulness, this we witness in your care for the poor and needy through the Bushikori Christian Centre where so many come and receive assistance and find hope in you.

Author of Life, we thankyou.

Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. Lord we are in awe of you, in what you have and continue to do for us and through us in our partnership with Bushikori. May we never forget your Holiness or take your love for granted.

Author of Life, we thankyou.

Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. We who are the Body of Christ humbly rejoice as we journey with Christ Jesus and long for those around us to share the joy and deliverance that comes with believing in and knowing you. May we use the witness of the Bushikori Christian centre to reveal you to others.

Author of Life, we thankyou.

Our soul waits for the Lord, you are our help and shield, we will continue in faith prayerfully seeking your will for Bushikori trusting that as we wait on you, so our hearts will be glad in you. May your steadfast love O Lord be upon us, even as we hope in you.

Author of Life, we thankyou.

**Amen**

1994  
to  
2024

# Celebrating 30 YEARS



## ASC to Uganda

This year has been one of celebration, 30 years of the Lord's provision, the fulfilment of the vision given to the late Pastor Sam Wandendeya in 1979. Four members of the Australian Support Committee visited Uganda to celebrate and give thanks with them for these decades of partnership. We rejoice in the close relationship and collaboration between Uganda and Australia that blesses our work; sponsorship for education for needy children, the Joshua Primary School and boarding houses, the Medical Centre that is now a recognised local hospital that serves the community both as outpatients and inpatients, and importantly now has a surgical facility. All of this is evidence of answers to prayer, the commitment of the staff who are faithful to the Mission of Bushikori, and not least, the generosity of supporters and sponsors in Australia.

A tour around the BCC compound revealed all of God's work, the buildings are sound and well maintained. The staff who work in the various areas are diligent and proud of their work. A young primary school teacher volunteers her time taking on the role of chaplain to the children, teaching Christian education at weekly chapel that is held in the Geelong Hall. A Ugandan welcome is always gracious and effusive, a lesson in accepting grace for Australian visitors. The Thanksgiving Service was a great success, the Geelong Hall was full of enthusiastic students and staff, there was worship led by Matthew Wanendeya and his band, dancing and singing, prayer, a message and

## Rejoice

This visit to Uganda gave us an opportunity to spend time with BCC staff and the Wanendeya family, Samson, David, Grace, Mary and Mathew. They are committed to the vision of their late parents, Anne and Sam, using their skills and combining their professional careers with time spent at Bushikori. There was time to discuss future plans for BCC, current issues, build relationships, share meals and have some fun. Importantly Kerry Peacock, Chair of the ASC officially opened the new Anne Leah Surgical Unit, this facility is thanks to funding from doctors and supporters in Geelong in response to a need for emergency and elective surgery locally saving the community the effort and expense of travelling the distance to Mbale hospital. As we reflect on God's plan and provision, we are grateful for the surgical equipment that was donated for the surgical unit just two weeks before we left for Uganda giving us time to fill our extra luggage allowance! Staff at the Medical Centre were delighted to receive all these items!

finally the treat of a soda for each student and then lunch. This is quite special as soft drink is out of reach to poor children. We visitors ate a sumptuous lunch with board members and staff in the library, this is a cool, airy space that houses not only books but also used for meetings, teaching and special occasions. There is a donation box at the entrance encouraging staff and other visitors to give funds that will be used to buy new books. One of the Australian visitors recognised his childhood set of encyclopedias on the shelves, books are available in Uganda but finance is needed to buy them.

BCC has partnered with several schools and building relationships with these institutions has borne good fruit for all involved, the students receive a good education and the school knows that the fees will be reliable and regular. Bugisu High School is situated in Mbale, 41 sponsored students attend here, they have improved academically, in discipline and in their spiritual journey, it is a bustling place especially when all the boarders are going home for the holidays which was the situation when we visited. A boarder has to have their own mattress and linen, and a tin trunk for their possessions. Most of them go home on a motor bike boda boda, (this name is derived from the former bicycle taxis that brought passengers from the nearby border with Kenya). A student will fit on the back of the motor bike, with trunk and rolled up mattress on board for their journey home. BCC staff hold a Christian Camp at the school each year where all students in the school are welcomed.

Further away in Bududa village a school was founded by a parent trust one and a half years ago. The families saw a need for a local school so the children did not have to walk long distances for education. The Perfect Upright Primary school is still being developed but has a dedicated staff and the parent committee who all believe that God will continue to provide and the school will grow. When the students reach Primary 5 they go to Joshua Primary School at BCC where they receive an excellent education for their last 3 years at primary. An added advantage is that moving to a bigger school that is situated not far from a major city will broaden their life experience and help them in high school and beyond. Opportunities in their remote village are limited and access to the village is difficult despite the promise of a new, sealed road. Philip, the part time driver of the Bushikori van lives in this village, he commutes on a boda boda to BCC. He so loved the mission of BCC that he offered his services, he is a smiling, knowledgeable and friendly asset to the staff. He takes his turn to lead 'Morning Glory,' this is a short, devotional service that is held every weekday for all the staff before they begin work. Philip was given a bible by one of the visitors, he was so delighted that he skipped down the driveway to the gate! May we in Australia never take for granted our ability to buy a bible whenever we wish.

Nearer to Mbale is the town of Busiu, BCC has partnered with two schools here. Three sponsored students are doing vocational studies at the excellent facility at the Mbale School for the deaf, the vocational subjects are open to all students. The second school, the Heroes



Primary School has eleven newly sponsored children attending. It was a joy to meet them, take photos for the sponsors and give them each a small gift of soap and a flannel. Several parents came to meet the Australians, their gratitude for the opportunity for their children to attend school is very humbling.

Mr. Thomas Odoi, the 92 year old Chairman of the Bushikori Board of Directors spoke of Jesus' parable of the mustard seed: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' (Matthew 13: 31-32). We are experiencing this parable in action, and as we trust in God we look forward to the future of Bushikori Christian Centre.

## 30 Trees for 30 years

In our November 2022 edition we reported on Gabby Peacock using her 21st birthday donations as a gift towards buying trees to provide shade around the new girl's hostel. On our visit we got to see the trees are growing well.



# A story of Sponsorship

with Olive and Alice



Olive's family have sponsored Alice since 2017 when Olive was three years old. Here are a letter from Alice in Uganda and Olive's reply.

## Alice's Letter

How are you together with your family?  
I hope you are fine? I am fine together with my family. I am happy to hear from you olive. Thank you for your letter.

Straight to your questions, To be sponsored feels good. so many lucky admire me. I look very special and lucky among. It also gives me hope of being a successful person tomorrow.

I feel happy, excited and blessed when I receive a letter. I know some one cares and thinks about me.

During school, I stay in boarding. I leave home at the beginning of every term and go home at the end of the term.

While at school, we wake up at 5:00pm African time for morning preps, get break fast at 6:00am and be in class by 7:00am. Break time at 10:30am lunch at 1:00pm, classes end at 5:30pm then supper at 6:00pm Evening preps begin at 7:30pm to 9:00pm, then sleep.

While at home, I wake up at 6:00am, go to the garden, do house chores, play with friends. I enjoy playing round ball, skipping the rope and playing hide and seek.

I am 15 years old in primary six class at Joshua primary school. My best subject is English year. I like watching Television and singing. I want to become a teacher in future. My best colour is Green I enjoy watching athletics I hope this information answers your questions?

Thank you for paying my school fees. I love you all and God bless you. From

from your friend Namba Alice

## Olive's Response

My name is Olive and I am 10 years old and I live with my Mum and Dad, sister and brother. Since I was a little girl, we have sponsored children in Uganda. Through sponsoring I have learned to give more freely and generously. It has given me an understanding of how easy it is for me here and it makes me happy to think that we are helping others to learn and grow, making it easier for them as well.

Recently I wrote a letter to our sponsor child. It fills my heart to read her carefully written letters. I like learning more about what she likes and dislikes and seeing the pictures the children send to update us on how they are growing up!

I love to sponsor and help kids in Uganda, I hope that I can continue to sponsor for the rest of my life.



# Thanksgiving Service

*The Australian Support Committee*

## The Service

On July 21st this year the Australian Support Committee (ASC) celebrated 30 years of partnership with the Bushikori Christian Centre. This was an opportunity to honour God and worship Him together with sponsors and supporters. We are so grateful to all who have faithfully supported Bushikori for decades, this is such a powerful witness for us all.

The service included live music, hymns that were special to both Uganda and ourselves, a video message from BCC Director, Mary Wanendeya, a message of thanks and hope and stories of past ASC members. The service was held at St. John's Anglican Church, Highton, we are grateful to Rev. Will Orpwood for leading the service and the use of the church.

After the service there was fellowship and conversation with afternoon tea. The afternoon was a time of joy in the presence of the Holy Spirit.



# With Thanks

As the Australia Committee of Bushikori is celebrating our 30 year partnership with Bushikori Uganda, we are reflecting on some of the wonderful partnerships we have had with other organisations.

Today we celebrate that for over 20 years Christian College has printed our newsletter free of charge. Our newsletter is a very valuable outreach for us, spreading our news and helping us be accountable to you all. We especially thank Elke who takes our usb, does all the printing and then returns it along with a box of colourful newsletters!

We also celebrate that for over 27 years Edmonds honey has supplied us with their high quality local honey to sell. This has been such a success fundraiser, helping us to keep the Bushikori centre going. We especially thank John Edmonds, carrying on the family business started by his father Murray.

Thank you to Portarlinton Post Office for their generous donation of sports balls to the school. There was great excitement as soccer is very popular. Fun Fact - soccer balls are loved here so much that they are never "lost" and they wear out in two months!

Photo : Kerry Peacock presenting soccer balls from Portarlinton Post Office to students from Joshua Primary School, Bushikori.



## CHRISTMAS GIVING

Please help us give out bags of rice, oil, flour, sugar & soap for Christmas

For \$17 per child we can help them share and enjoy a meal at Christmas

Netbank Direct Deposit can be made to BSB 063 3858 Account 10077253 Reference: Christmas Fund



## AGM Invitation

Come and join us to hear what God has been doing through Bushikori Christian Centre over the last year.

**When:** Monday 25th November at 7.30pm

**Where:** St. John's Highton (269 Roslyn Rd, Highton VIC 3216)



# SPONSORSHIP

## Meet Our Students



**Nelvin Musamali**

Nelvin is a seven 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.



**Jabeth Solomon**

**Wambewo**

Jabeth Solomon is a five year old boy whose parents are separated. He lives with his mother in a relative's home. His mother has no source of income.



**Favour Namukisa**

Favour Namukisa is a ten year old girl. Her parents are separated and her mother tries to manage doing casual work to support her children.



**Vicky Esther Kakayi**

Vicky Esther is a ten year old girl. Her father earns very little and some of the children are not in school due to poverty.

If you would like to sponsor, email: [sponsorship@bushikori.org.au](mailto: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).



*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.

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

## If you would like to support Bushikori Christian Centre please:

Email your interest to:

[sponsorship@bushikori.org.au](mailto: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