



Buyamba News

Helping **Uganda**...one child at a time

THE U.S. BUYAMBA STORY

PART 2: GROWTH IN NEW YORK AND TEXAS

When Bethuel Dongo flew to Texas from Uganda on his first visit to the U.S. in 1998 he called Brother Jerry Lehmann who was now home from his missionary stay in Uganda and living back in New York. Dongo fearlessly

hopped on a train alone in Houston and made his way halfway across the country, to Kingston, New York to see him. Jerry introduced him to his Pastor at that time, Rev. G. Modele Clarke, and his wife Evelyn, who pastored New Progressive Baptist Church. The hub of church friends and co-laborers in Christ that Dongo met there, soon extended out to other pastors in that area of New York who wholeheartedly opened their doors to Pastor Dongo, their new friend from Africa.

That meeting led Rev. Modele to visit Kampala, Uganda for a couple of months in December of 1998. Modele shared, "The focus of that first team visit was 'soul winning' and I spent much time traveling to teach pastors how to evangelize." Modele also noted, "There was also a little school off the church property that had a few kids with a chalkboard that Pastor Dongo was involved with, which seemed to be gathering more kids in the area."



Rev G. Modele & Evelyn Clarke

The following year, Rev. Modele sent two other members from his church, the Rev. Paul Worthington, and Sister Jamila Reid. A year later, one of Modele's friends, the Rev. Jesse Bottoms, pastor of Beulah Baptist Church, Poughkeepsie, NY, sent two volunteers to assist in the construction of the church on Gaba Road which would be called Kabalagala Pentecostal Church (KPC). It was clear, God's vision for the children of Uganda was spreading to churches in New York. **Continued on Page 2 ...**



Kayla Schroder

Creative Giving

Divine Finds Resale

Kayla is the Founder/President of Pregnancy Help 4 U and *Divine Finds Resale Store*. She runs the store, which is located in Argyle, Texas, right next to the church her family attends called Cross Timbers Church. Kayla sends a monthly gift offering to Buyamba from the store profits. She remarked, "It is very fulfilling and brings me great joy to bless the beautiful people of Africa."

Kayla, a long time Buyamba partner, first visited God Cares School in 2010 when she served at God Cares annual bible camp with Cross Timbers Church.

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One of the new American friends, Kelly Clarke, gave Brother Jerry the first check to sponsor Dongo's oldest son, Thanks Dongo. This was the first sponsored child and the first U.S. sponsor. Buyamba (which means "help") was born. The original Buyamba organization birthed several initiatives that included books and clothing shipments, pupil sponsorships and fundraising campaigns for the school/housing complex. The new Buyamba Board of Directors in New York filed incorporation documents in 2002.

While all this was happening in New York, God was also working in Houston to create a hub of helpers who would also grow to be a mighty force. This effort was led by Robert and Nicole Cockburn who first met Pastor Dongo in late 2002 at a gathering held to introduce Bethuel, who now had a larger group of children back in Uganda under his care. God had already prepared this couple's hearts for Robert had just come from a church-planting trip in Kenya in which a pilot orphanage was starting to incorporate children living in a city dump into a home setting. As Robert shared the Lord with barely clothed children rummaging for food, he committed to the Lord that he would help any way the Lord willed. Six weeks later, Robert and Nicole found themselves at this gathering listening to Bethuel talk about his vision to empower the orphaned through education and discipleship.

They hosted Bethuel at their home that night, and by the next morning, the Cockburns had heard clearly from the Lord that Pastor Bethuel was a man after His heart and could be trusted. After a unanimous family vote, the Cockburn's decided to empty their ministry account balance to buy the property for the first school/orphanage.



Robert Cockburn

Over the next many years, Robert and Nicole traveled to Uganda three to four times annually, preaching and overseeing the construction of God Cares Nursery & Primary School. They continually shared the vision with their sphere of influence, bringing numerous pastors, school teachers and other interested people to Uganda, including a longtime friend of Robert's, Bill Shepherd, who gave approximately half the needed funds to build the school in memory of his wife, Sue Shepherd.

Creative Giving: Divine Finds Resale

She played soccer and games and shared Bible stories with the children from Uganda, but what she remembers most is that, "these children inspired her SO VERY MUCH with their joy. They had beautiful smiles and sang songs like I believe angels in Heaven will. The singing stays in my heart and mind and is something I hold dear." Over the years, Kayla has been blessed to have sponsored God Cares students and watched other children grow up between her bible camp visits, such as Rogers Wakefield and Joshua Mu, whom she met

on her first trip. They are now adults and great men of God. Her family also had the privilege of hosting Pastor Dongo and Florence in their home one year. She recalls that the couple prayed over her kids and family, and heard stories from Pastor Dongo of how he was raised and why he started God Cares. Kayla has loved her trips to Uganda and has known the great hospitality of the Dongo family, but most of all Kayla said, **"I love the way God Cares teaches the kids how great God is and how beautiful Jesus is when he lives in your heart."**



Dongo, Florence and Nicole Cockburn